4TH EDITION
UNITAR International Research Conference

unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Educating for Futures | 18–19 November 2026 · UN House Brussels - Belgium and Online

Agenda Overview

DAY 1 · Wednesday, 18 November 2026

09h00 – 09h20
Arrival & Check-in

09h20 – 09h25
Welcome & Logistics Note

09h25 – 10h15
Opening Remarks & Keynotes

10h15 – 10h45
Coffee Break & Networking

10h45 – 12h00
Parallel Sessions: Panels, Presentations, Roundtables

12h00 – 13h00
Light Lunch

13h00 – 14h15
Parallel Sessions: Panels, Presentations, Roundtables

14h15 – 14h30
Short Coffee Break

14h30 – 15h45
Parallel Sessions: Panels, Presentations, Roundtables

15h45 – 16h15
Coffee Break & Group Photo

16h15 – 17h30
Parallel Sessions: Panels, Presentations, Roundtables

17h45 – 18h15
Keynotes & Closing Remarks · Main Room

DAY 1 · Wednesday, 18 November 2026

09h00 – 09h20 · Arrival of Participants

09h20 – 09h25 · Welcome and Logistics Keynote · Main Room (7th Floor)

09h25 – 09h45 · Opening Remarks · Main Room (7th Floor)

- Mr Evariste Karambizi, United Nations Institute for Training And Research (UNITAR)
- Ms. Silke Weinlich, United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) | Recorded Message

09h45 – 10h15 · Keynotes · Main Room (7th Floor)

- Dr Richard Hodgkins (In-Person)
  – Loughborough University / Centre for Sustainable Transitions: Energy, Environment and Resilience (STEER)
- Dr Farah Mihlar (In-Person)
  – Oxford Brookes University / Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP)

10h15 – 10h45 · Coffee Break and Networking

10h45 – 12h00 · Parallel Sessions

Session A – Presentations & Discussion:
Inclusive Communication and Humanitarian Practice: Perspectives from the Field

- Dr Brigitte Piquard (In-Person Chair)
- Ms. Svitlana Wahle (In-Person) – University of Cologne
  From Access to Participation: Why Inclusive Communication Matters for International Organisations
- Dr Annabelle Boulay (Online) – University of Winchester
  Evaluating the Role and Multi-Dimensional Impacts of Mobile Health Teams in Conflict Zones: A Case Study of Afghanistan

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Session B – Presentations & Discussion:
Leadership and Professional Education for Future-Ready Practice

- Dr Nicolai Due-Gundersen (In-Person Chair)
- Ms Catherine Hamel (In-Person)
  – University of Calgary, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape
  Leadership In Architecture: Authoring Futures from Unequal Ground
- Dr Olesya Meskina (In-Person)
  – Swiss School of Business and Management Geneva SSBM
  Embedding UN Human Rights Mechanisms in Business Education as a Pathway to SDG-Aligned Management Practice.Experiential learning method.
- Dr Alexandra Ribeiro (Online)
  – National Institute of Public Administration (INA, I.P.)
  Transparency and Integrity as Institutional Capacities for Sustainable Development Governance and SDG Implementation

10h45 – 12h00 · Parallel Sessions (Continuation)

Session C – Roundtable:
Education as Protection: Children, Civilians and Community Resilience

- Dr Grazvydas Jasutis (In-Person Chair) – Geneva Graduate Institute / UNITAR
  Reconsidering Peacekeeping and Education: Building Social Resilience and Human Security
- Dr Rumbidzai Nyanhoto (In-Person) – ACAP University College
  Can Education End Child Marriage? From School-Based Prevention to Systems-Level Protection

12h00 – 13h00 · Light Lunch

13h00 – 14h15 · Parallel Sessions

Session D – Panel Discussion:
Navigating the Double-Edged Sword: Authentic Learning, Ethical Sovereignty and Collaborative AI Governance in African Higher Education

- Ms Marybelle Cherfan (In-Person Chair)
- Mr Momen Waly (In-Person) – Nova Southeastern University
- Dr Crystal Chavis (In-Person) – Nova Southeastern University
- Kadianne Pinard (In-Person) – Nova Southeastern University
- Ms Nezia Munezero Kubwayo (Online) – Nova Southeastern University

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Session E – Presentations & Discussion:
Ethical Competencies, Design and Curricula for Future-Ready Education

- Mr Enzo Martino (In-Person Chair)
- Ms Sumaiya Noor Sanda (Online) – Central Queensland University
  Educating for Ethical Digital Competencies: An Examination of Alignment Between UNESCO's 2023 Recommendation and the Australian Curriculum
- Mr Kasun Abeynayaka (In-Person) – Ecole Hotelier de Lausanne, Switzerland
  A Strategic Framework for Future-Ready Secondary Hospitality Education in the European Union

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Session F – Presentations & Discussion:
Philosophy, the Humanities and Human Agency in the Age of AI

- Mr Jon Mark Walls (In-Person Chair)
- Mr Barry Cooper (In-Person) – The Global College
  In the Library of Borges, Philosophy and AI
- Dr Venkat Lakshmi Charakapu (In-Person) – AP Model School Govt Junior College
  Beyond Digital Adoption: Reimagining AI in Education Through Human Agency, Ethical Judgement and Inclusive Learning

14h15 – 14h30 · Coffee Break

14h30 – 15h45 · Parallel Sessions

Session G – Panel Discussion:
Immersive Futures: Aligning VR and Metaverse Ecosystems with Asynchronous Learning and Micro-Credentials for SDG 4

- Prof. Murat Gülmez (In-Person) – Çağ University
- Ms Çağla Solak (In-Person) – Çağ University
- Dr Lucia Morales (Online) – Technological University Dublin
- Mr John O'Connor (Online) – Technological University Dublin
- Dr Abrar Alzankawi (Online) – Technological University Dublin

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Session H – Panel Discussion:
Student Voice: The Future of Education from the Front Line – The Global College (In-Person)

- Mr Barry Cooper (Chair)
- Ms Sofia Zoido
- Ms Claudia Junco
- Ms Mariola Tome
- Ms Martina Álvarez de Toledo

Session I – Presentations & Discussion:
Climate Policy, Sustainability Assessment and Resilient Livelihoods

- Mr Mael Jambou (In-Person & Chair) – University of Technology of Troyes
  Co-Designing Sustainability Assessment as a Lever for Institutional Learning
- Ms Lamia Mohsin (In-Person) – Wageningen University & Research
  From Climate Policy to Resilient Livelihoods: Bridging Implementation and Capacity Gaps in Coastal Bangladesh

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15h45 – 16h15 · Coffee Break and Group Photo

16h15 – 17h30 · Parallel Sessions

Session J – Workshop (STEER-led):
Shortfall: Learning to Navigate Energy Transitions through Strategy and Uncertainty

- Dr Leigh Martindale (In-Person Chair)
- Dr Leigh Martindale (In-Person) and Dr Richard Hodgkins (In-Person)
  – Loughborough University / Centre for Sustainable Transitions: Energy, Environment and Resilience (STEER)

16h15 – 17h30 · Parallel Sessions (Continuation)

Session K – Presentations & Discussion:
Peace, Governance and Human Security: Leadership and Impact

- Mrs. Karin Tag (In-Person & Chair) – Council of World Elders
  Educating for Peace Capability: A Corpus-Based Framework for Human Security, Social Resilience and Institutional Learning
- Dr Ricardo Lozano (In-Person) – Texas A&M International University
  Endemic Leadership: Building Adaptive Frameworks for Sustainable Local Action
- Dr Ahmed Moneus (Online) – University of Science and Technology
  Rebuilding Peace through Academic Innovation: A Framework for Empowering Institutions and Individuals in Yemen toward Sustainable Higher Education

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Session L – Presentations & Discussion:
Youth, Creativity and Resilient Futures

- Ms. Süreyya Yılmaz Özekenci (In-Person) – Çağ University
  Educating for Financially Resilient Futures: The Role of Financial Education in University Students' Financial Well-Being
- Dr Smitha Bhandare Kamat (Online with Ms. Kamakshi A Kamat) – *Srinivasa Sinai Dempo College (Autonomous) / Goa University*
  Weaving Cartoons Together: Women's Visual Heritage as a Catalyst for Intergenerational Creativity and Futures Learning

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17h30 – 17h45 · Short Break and Transition to Closing Session

17h45 – 18h05 · Keynote in Conversation · Main Room (7th Floor)

Leading Through the AI Shift: Responsible Leadership, Assessment and Institutional Change across Borders

- Dr Ricardo Lozano (In-Person) – Texas A&M International University
- Dr Peter Bannister (In-Person) – University of Cambridge / Universidad Internacional de La Rioja

18h05 – 18h15 · 3UIRC Special Volume Launch

- Dr Ivaylo Peev (In-Person) – Technological University of Sofia
- Dr Jon-Hans Coetzer (In-Person) – United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

18h15 – 18h30 · Taking Stock and Networking

Agenda Overview
DAY 2 · Thursday, 19 November 2026

08h40 – 09h00
Arrival & Check-in

09h00 – 09h05
Welcome & Logistics Note

09h05 – 09h45
Keynote

09h45 – 10h15
Coffee Break & Networking

10h15 – 13h30
Parallel Sessions: Panels, Presentations, Roundtables

13h30 – 14h30
Light Lunch

14h30 –16h00
Parallel Sessions: Panels, Presentations, Roundtables

16h00 – 16h15
Short Coffee Break & Group Photo

16h15 – 17h45
Parallel Sessions: Panels, Presentations, Roundtables

17h45 – 18h05
Short Break & Transition to Closing Session

16h15 – 17h45
Closing Remarks

18h05 – 18h30
Farewell & Networking

DAY 2 · Thursday, 19 November 2026

08h40 – 09h00 · Arrival of Participants

09h00 – 09h05 · Welcome and Logistics Keynote · Main Room (7th Floor)

09h05 – 09h45 · Keynote & Remarks · Main Room (7th Floor)

- Ms. Marybelle Cherfan (In-Person) – Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
- Dr Redouane El Majdouli (Online) – Vice-Rector of Ibn Zohr University - Agadir, Morocco

09h45 – 10h15 · Coffee Break and Networking

10h15 – 11h45 · Parallel Sessions

Session A – Presentations & Discussion:
Ecological Learning: Communities, Peatlands and Relational Eco-Resilience

- Dr Leigh Martindale and Dr Farah Mihlar (In-Person Chairs)
- Dr Janbee Shaik Mopidevi (In-Person) – ITRAC Global
  From Climate Knowledge to Relational Eco-Resilience: Eco-Storying and Intergenerational Co-Creation of Ecological Futures
- Dr Mariya Riekkinen (Online) – Atlantic Technological University
  From Classroom to Community: Education, Intergenerational Exchange and Peatland Restoration

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Session B – Panel Discussion:
Shared Responsibility in the Use of Artificial Intelligence in 21st-Century University Education

- Ms Marybelle Cherfan (In-Person Chair)
- Dr Nicolai Due-Gundersen (In-Person) – Oxford International
  Do Universities Need A Global AI Code of Conduct?
- Dr Ivaylo Peev (In-Person) and Mr Todor Todorov (In-Person) – Technical University of Sofia
  Shared Responsibility in the Use of Artificial Intelligence in 21st-Century University Education - a Pathway Towards Inclusive Digital Transformation

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Session C – Presentations & Discussion:
Human Security and Education: Schools, Agency and Disarmament

- Dr Venkat Lakshmi Charakapu (In-Person & Chair) – AP Model School Govt Junior College
  From Education to Human Security: Reimagining Schools as Ecosystems of Agency, Social Cohesion and Resilience
- Ms. Martyna Szoja (Online) – Univerity of Duisburg-Essen
  The Future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime: Expectations, Institutional Deadlock, and the Role of Education
- Dr Isabelle Duquesne (In-Person)
  – University of Innsbruck / CEDS (Paris) / Neoma Business School
  Educating for Peace Agency: A Literature-Based Conceptual Framework of Individual Competences for Human Security and Social Resilience

11h45 – 12h00 · Short Break

12h00 – 13h30 · Parallel Sessions

Session D – Panel Discussion:
Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP): University–UN Community Partnerships

- Dr Brigitte Piquard and Dr Jon-Hans Coetzer (In-Person Co-Chairs)
- Dr Brigitte Piquard (In-Person) – Oxford Brookes University / CENDEP
- Dr Farah Mihlar (In-Person) – Oxford Brookes University / CENDEP
- Dr Zoe Jordan (In-Person) – Oxford Brookes University / CENDEP

Session E – Presentations & Discussion:
Responsible Innovation and Institutional Change in Higher Education

- Dr Florinda Matos (In-Person & Chair) – ISCTE, University Institute of Lisbon
  Linking Intangible Asset Management to Responsible Innovation for the Common Good
- Mr Kasun Abeynayaka (In-Person) – Ecole Hotelier de Lausanne, Switzerland
  Knowledge Governance and the European Union Hospitality Vocational Education Agenda

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Session F – Panel Discussion:
Educating Future Leaders in Higher Education: Perspectives from Çağ University

- Prof. Dr Sevgi Balkan Şahin (In-Person & Chair) – Çağ University
  Educating Future Leaders in Higher Education: Perspectives from Çağ University
- Mr Emre Kadir Özekenci (In-Person) – Çağ University
  Training Future Climate Leaders: A Qualitative Assessment of the Climate Ambassadors Academy Based on University Students' Experiences
- Dr Özge Çetiner (In-Person) – Çağ University
  Teaching Climate Change and Human Security through Role-Playing
- Ms. Çağla Solak (In-Person) – Çağ UniversityÇağ University
  Digital Humanities in Higher Education
- Mrs. Beste Zorlular (In-Person) – Çağ University
  Responsible, Ethical, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in Education: A Bibliometric Analysis

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13h30 – 14h30 · Light Lunch

14h30 –16h00 · Parallel Sessions

Session G – Panel Discussion:
Narrating Ecological Justice Otherwise: Art and Community Engaged Methodologies

- Dr Manisha Desai (In-Person & Chair) – Stony Brook University
- Dr Linda O'Keeffe (Online) – Stony Brook University
- Dr Christopher Sellers (Online) – Stony Brook University
- Dr Peggy Ann Spitzer (Online) – Stony Brook University

14h30 – 16h00 · Parallel Sessions (Continuation)

Session G – Presentations & Discussion:
Sustainability Science Education, Assessment and Design

- Dr Richard Hodgkins and Dr Zoe Jordan (In-Person Co-Chairs)
- Dr Ariel Toh (Online)
  – Marcharh Sustainability Science Excellence Centre / Kedge Business School
  Advancement of the Sustainability Science Education Reference Notes (SSERN): Global Ecosystem and Possible Pathways
- Dr Paul Hayes (Online)
  – Technological University Dublin
  Building Narrative Hospitality and Virtue Ethics into Ethical Impact Assessment and Design Methodologies

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Session I – Presentations & Discussion:
Inclusion, Local Impact and Social Resilience

- Mr Shane Roberts (In-Person & Chair) – De Montfort University
  Enhancing the Societal Impact of the Sustainable Development Goals at Local level by adopting a Clear-Hold-Build approach to tackle Organised Crime within Communities
- Ms. Sirine Bensator (In-Person) – Grenoble École de Management
  Long-Term Educational and Professional Outcomes Following Early Identification of Specific Learning Disorders in Morocco

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16h00 – 16h15 · Coffee Break and Group Photo

16h15 – 17h45 · Parallel Sessions

Session J – Panel Discussion:
AI, Epistemic Rights and Higher Education

- Dr Jon-Hans Coetzer (In-Person Chair)
- Dr Peter Bannister (In-Person)
  – University of Cambridge
- Prof. Ann Kristin Glenster (In-Person)
  – PI and Founder, LOGOS, University of Cambridge / Executive Director, The Glenlead Centre

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Session K – Presentations & Discussion:
Pathways for Learners: Youth Leadership, Assessment and Global Opportunity

- Mr Jon Mark Walls (In-Person & Chair) – Jackson Grown Group / UNITAR
  Models for Developing Local to Global Youth Leadership
- Hon. Prof. Dr Naresh Seetharam (In-Person) – TOMA BAṚRE EDUCATION Vice President
  Turning Learning into Global Contribution: Lessons from Toma Barre Education (provisional title)
- Ms. Kabira Eminova (Online)– Agstafa Qıraq Kesemen Secondary School
  Improving Secondary School Teachers' Formative Assessment Practices Through Video-Stimulated Recall

16h15 – 17h45 · Parallel Sessions (Continuation)

Session J – Presentations & Discussion:
Youth Agency, Learning Ecosystems and Entrepreneurship

- Mr Newbin Santhosh (In-Person & Chair) – Independent Consultant / Practitioner-Researcher
  From Educational Access to Agency:
  Lessons from a Community-Based Learning Ecosystem in Rural India
- Dr Mahmoud Abdulwahed (Online) – Qatar University
  Advancing Sustainable Development through Technology Entrepreneurship Education

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17h45 – 18h05 · Closing Remarks

- Prof. Ann Kristin Glenster (In-Person)
  – PI and Founder, LOGOS,University of Cambridge / Executive Director, The Glenlead Centre

18h05 – 18h30 · Taking Stock and Farewell

Social Media

Join the conversation online:

- Hashtag: **#4UIRC**
- UNITAR LinkedIn, Twitter/X, Instagram, Facebook
- We encourage participants to share insights and experiences respectfully and professionally.

Partners

- Çağ University
- Technical University of Sofia
- Loughborough University
- The Global College
- CENDEP - Centre for Development and Emergency Practice
- Oxford Brookes University
- Ssistema Fiep - SESI
- TOMA BAṚRE EDUCATION
- Ibadan City Polytechnic
- Center for Changing Systems of Power - Stony Brook University