

ANDD First Annual Meeting
Panel Discussion Suggested Scenario (1h15min)
**“Research, Innovation & Collaboration to Advance
the SDGs during Crisis and Post-Crisis Times”**

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31-3-2021

- How to strengthen national and international multi stakeholders' cooperation and collaboration to help address the crisis, mitigate long-term impacts, lead the way towards sustainable recovery, and prepare resilience for future challenges or against what could threaten the 2030 agenda?

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25
September 2015**

***Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda
for
Sustainable Development***

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity.

- It seeks to strengthen **universal peace** in larger freedom.
- We recognize that **eradicating poverty** in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for **sustainable development**.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan.

***The 17 Sustainable Development Goals
169 targets***

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
development

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

- ***People***
- ***Planet***
- ***Prosperity***
- ***Peace***
- ***Partnership***

Build bridges



Most collaboration efforts involve a generic set of components, which are :

- Stakeholder analysis**
- Process design**
- Development of a shared agenda**
- Constituency building**
- Implementation.**

A number of researchers have examined partnerships and collaborative arrangements using a chronological approach

Table 1. Initial phases of partnership development [24].

Stage	Key Attributes
Scoping	Purpose and orientation Composition Articulation
Initiating	Agreements and decision-making Partners expansion
Implementing	Launching Operation Scaling up strategies

From an academic point of view, the collaboration between stakeholders must:

- 1- Be a political decision
- 2- Concern all sectors
- 3- **Collaborate with universities, engines of research and society**
- 4- **Based on Innovation and have useful societal benefits**
- 5- Participate or support the costs generated by research to find solutions to economics issues

Encourage sustainable development projects at university level:

- Preferentially support projects that meet one of the objectives of sustainable development
- Preferentially support projects in collaboration with industries and companies
- **Preferentially support projects innovative projects**

Advantage and Limits of Multi-stakeholder Collaboration

(Source: Brouwer et al. 2016)

Advantages

- Can address a more complex issue than you can tackle alone
- Partners can access complementary skills and resources from each other
- Results will have broader ownership (more sustainable)
- Learning and collaboration increases chance of systemic change

LIMITS

- Requires time and resources to design and implement properly
- Can only work if there is sufficient representation from stakeholders
- Will often not deliver short-term success: patience is required
- Not easy to find funding for processes that are relatively open-ended and the topics of which may evolve over time
- Success is never guaranteed

This is critical in order to develop:

- A shared understanding and agreement of the problems that need to be addressed, supported by credible data;
- A common vision and purpose;
- A joint farmer support implementation plan that brings value to all as it ensures coherent thinking and coordinated action, avoiding gaps and overlaps;
- Shared responsibility and commitment for budget to support smallholders – efficiency gains through collaborative investment;
- Greater insight and understanding of what the full range of stakeholders need and how they perceive value from sustainable production;
- An expanded network and better relationships with organisations that work on issues of mutual concern;
- International and domestic public visibility on how farmer support systems for sustainable commodity production are addressed at a national and systemic level

What decisions need to be made differently to improve universities' resilience and financial sustainability in the wake of the pandemic?

At university level, we have to consider :

- The Academic side**
- The economic side**

- The pandemic opened our eyes to many new problem concerning the academic side
- *The post COVID 19: an opportunity for universities to:*
 - Rethink,
 - Reassess and
 - Re Adapt their strategies.

- The Remote working, artificial intelligence and robotics have also been accelerated by the pandemic.
- The relevance, viability and sustainability of educational models, practices and operating systems of universities : are called into question
- *If they are to survive and thrive after the pandemic, universities must reassess and adapt their strategies.*

- Despite these challenges, the pandemic has highlighted the need for a hybrid or coeducational education strategy that is in line with the reality of the country.
- Universities must also seek bold responses to improve their sustainability, relevance and contribution to the socio-economic progress of the country.
- ***Effective institutional leadership is essential to realize the envisioned future-oriented university system.***

The bright side. :

- The pandemic has positive aspects. It can serve as a springboard for rethinking the future of higher education.
- ***It can also help strengthen the pact between universities, government, businesses, society and communities.***
- By pursuing research that can have an impact on areas where society and regions have great needs, universities can also demonstrate that they are interconnected with society.
- ***Overall, rethinking their system should aim to create a forward-looking system***

The pandemic is an inflection point :

- Universities have a responsibility to reinvent new teaching and learning opportunities.
- She calls on universities to reconsider the how they do research and training.
- She calls on the sector to review its operation.
- Higher education needs to reconsider the rigid bureaucracies that hamper the system.

These include :

- disruption of academic programs and research, - financial challenges,
- and the health and well-being of staff and students.
- Graduates also face a tight labor market due to the poor performance of the economy which has been made worse by the pandemic.
- All of these factors will have consequences long after the pandemic has been contained.

- - These include poverty and deep and lasting social inequalities.
- - The pandemic is a reason for pause.
- - We need to make sense of its impact.
- - Most importantly, we need to seize the moment to be innovative, proactive and adapt to a post COVID-19 world.
- - Higher education needs to rethink what its future would look like and take steps in that direction.

COVID-19 and Higher Education: The Way Forward

- After the Pandemic UNESCO estimates that more than 1.5 billion pupils and students in 165 countries are out of school due to COVID-19.
- The pandemic has forced the academic community around the world to explore new methods of teaching and learning, including through distance and online education.
- This has proven difficult for both students and teachers, who must not only cope with the emotional, physical and economic hardships posed by the pandemic but also do their best to curb the spread of the virus.
- The future is uncertain for all, and especially for the millions of students who are due to graduate this year and who will face a world economically crippled by the coronavirus pandemic.

At USJ level:

➤ distance education was implemented quickly.

An evaluation will be done soon

➤ the internship problem has been partially resolved but much remains to be done

➤ the economic problem remains unresolved

➤ collaborations with manufacturers are not sufficient over all Lebanon and its universities

➤ **Innovation Innovation Innovation**

Important information shows that at regional level research and collaborations are on the decline and it may be necessary that we try to build new research collaborations with a level of excellence and research that is especially useful for society and which boost the country's economy

Thank you