



Members of the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Network

Your ref

Our ref

Date

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The Norwegian Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The universal SDG were adopted in 2015 in an effort to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. These goals beg the input from universities. We need to discuss how the Goals should guide research, teaching, curricula development and other relations to society. The SDGs thus also provide an urgent opportunity for universities to show their relevance in society.

With “Global Challenges” as one of three (interrelated) priorities for research at UiB, we have been in close dialog with the Ministry of Education and Science; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; NORAD; and the Directorate of Health about how the sector can contribute.

In a letter to all the institutions in the sector dated February 9, 2017, the Ministry of Education and Science reminded us of the importance of Goal 4 and asked for engagement from the sector. In its answer to the Ministry, UiB emphasized its commitment to mobilize the sector for a national conference in Bergen early 2018, to discuss precisely how we best can address the SDG.

We aim to establish a working process with academic representatives from all the universities, to organize this conference, but also to secure a continuity of work within the sector. We are of course aware that initiatives already have been taken, for example a conference at NTNU (October 2017) and through a variety of networks of universities. To this goal UiB organized two preparatory planning meetings held in Bergen and Oslo (February 1 and March 9, 2017). These meetings resulted in a committee at UiB responsible for organizing the conference, and an agreement with the involved government institutions to appoint **reference and resource persons** to work with this committee.

It was also agreed that we should, as early and as broadly as possible, try to involve the whole sector into this process. As the conference is an attempt to mobilize the sector to

respond to the SDG, it is important to secure a close cooperation and links to person with a focused responsibility within each institution. We therefore wish to invite your institutions to appoint a person from the academic staff to take part in this work. Such a person will be involved in the ongoing networking and possible meetings between us all, for planning and implementing.

All correspondence should go to Kristin Svartveit, UiB Division of Research Administration:
Kristin.Svartveit@uib.no / Tel. 5558 4995.

Further contact will be made as soon as a person is identified.

On behalf of UiB,

Anne Christine Johannessen (Vice-Rector for International Affairs)

Bente Moen, Center for International Health and The Faculty of Medicine and Odontology;
coordinating the UiB focus on global challenges

Tor Halvorsen, Leader of the SDG Committee at UiB, UiBGlobal/SIH