INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES BUREAU

Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

International Association of Universities (IAU)

and

Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe

regarding

UDUALC's sponsorship of and collaboration on the

IAU Global Survey on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development

The **International Association of Universities (IAU)** and the **Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (UDUALC)** share a strong interest in how higher education understands and acts for sustainable development and the UN SDGs, including the mapping current and future developments. The two organizations are regarded as important contributors to the discussion around sustainable development and higher education more broadly.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to set out the parameters of the collaboration between the two organizations in the preparation, and later dissemination of results of the ***4th IAU Global Survey on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD).***

The HESD Survey reports are flagship research publications and resources produced by the IAU. They are based on regular international surveys of higher education institutions worldwide (data collection followed by reporting every 4 years). To date, three HESD Survey reports have been produced by IAU; the last one was published in 2023.

This IAU – UDUALC collaboration builds on complementarities of the two organizations' strengths and mutuality of interests in the field of higher education and sustainable development.

IAU

- IAU is a global, non-governmental organization, bringing together higher education institutions (HEIs) and university organizations in about 130 countries, that is widely recognized for its contribution to research and policy development for key themes of interest for higher education, including HESD (one of IAU's 4 thematic priorities).
- The HESD Surveys have been widely cited and reach readers well beyond the IAU Membership. The 4th IAU HESD Survey represents the most geographically representative collection of data on engagement with sustainable development and the UN SDGs ever produced. To receive a balanced and representative data sample, IAU's aim is to increase the response rate compared to previous surveys (2022 n= 460).

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UDUALC

- UDUALC is an organization of universities and institutions of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean, established in 1949 and aimed at building strong ties of cooperation, within a framework of respect and plurality, with a clear commitment to the social linkage of higher education.
- UDUALC currently has more than 236 affiliated institutions across 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a non-governmental, non-profit organization recognized by UNESCO as a regional advisory and consultative body.

The following sections of the MoU seek to articulate the terms of the agreement between IAU and UDUALC, outline each organization's responsibilities, resource commitment and the timelines involved. Signing of this MoU indicates a commitment to fulfill the terms laid out in this document.

A) **The objectives and expected benefits of the IAU/UDUALC collaboration include:**

1. To strengthen the collaboration between IAU and UDUALC;
2. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the 4th IAU HESD Survey;
3. To increase the visibility of the 4th IAU HESD Survey, relevance of data collected and access to its results;
4. To improve the 4th IAU HESD Survey sample size by increasing the number, and geographical spread, of HEIs that complete the questionnaire;
5. For IAU, the partnership with UDUALC will make the Association more visible in Latin-American and Caribbean region and more help generate responses from leadership of HEIs and staff members in coordinating positions for HESD in LAC;
6. For UDUALC, the partnership provides an opportunity to collaborate on a high quality, renown research project leading to a publication with global outreach;
7. By participating in the 4th IAU HESD Survey Advisory Group, UDUALC will have the possibility to shape the survey instrument used to collect data.

B) **IAU responsibilities and benefits:**

1. The overall coordination, management and decision-making related to the 4th IAU HESD Survey, including questionnaire development, testing, implementation, and data collection;
2. Establishing the HESD Survey Advisory Group, which will include a representative from UDUALC;
3. Developing the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group and coordinating its meetings;
4. Determining the incentives and information tools to use to publicize the survey and to stimulate responses;
5. Drafting, designing, and managing the development of the 4th IAU HESD Survey final reports;
6. Recognizing fully UDUALC's contribution in the overall process according to this MoU, including by the inclusion of UDUALC's logo as a supporting partner in the publication, presented in a fashion consistent with other sponsors;
7. Citing the UDUALC support and contribution in IAU presentations of the 4th IAU HESD Survey.

C) **UDUALC responsibilities and benefits:**

1. Identifying a representative as a Member of the HESD Survey Advisory Group who will provide comments during revisions of the questionnaire;
2. Using UDUALC's communication resources to publicize the 4th IAU HESD Survey questionnaire and encouraging UDUALC's members to complete the questionnaire and/or encourage their institution to do so;

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3. Commenting in a timely manner on the penultimate draft of the Global Report and on the press release that may be used to publicize it. It is understood that IAU has final editorial control of the 4th IAU HESD Survey questionnaire, related press releases, and report.
4. Disseminating information about the 4th IAU HESD Survey.

D) **Commitment of resources**

1. UDUALC commits to provide the sum of **€ 1000** for the preparation, implementation, and dissemination of the 4th IAU HESD Survey and its results.
2. UDUALC commits to nominate a staff member who will serve on the 4th IAU HESD Survey Advisory Group; and time resources for such meetings to be attended.

E) **Timelines**

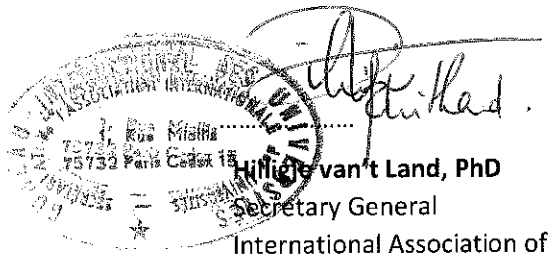
1. The present agreement covers the overall period of the preparation, implementation and dissemination of the 4th IAU HESD Survey and its results.
2. The questionnaire to collect data for the 4th IAU HESD Survey will be launched in early 2026. It is estimated that the completed report will be published at the beginning of 2027.

F) **Limitations**

1. It should be recognized that the data collected in the HESD Survey remains the sole property of the IAU. Data (beyond that which is publicly available online) can only be used by UDUALC following written approval from IAU, and such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. The report will be open-access online and licensed using the Creative Commons CC-BY, and sources must always be cited in full.
2. Throughout the project, regular and open assessments of the parameters of the partnership will be undertaken, and changes made as required.

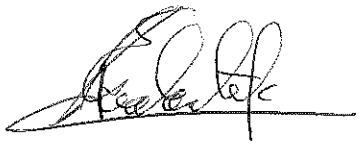
Signed and Dated
Paris, 25/09/2025

Location, day month year



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Hilligje van't Land, PhD
Secretary General
International Association of Universities (IAU)
Executive Director,International Universities Bureau



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Roberto Escalante Semerena
Secretary-General
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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES
INTERNATIONALE DES UNIVERSITES

Paris, 01/10/2025

Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (UDUALC)
c/o Roberto Escalante Semerena
Secretario General

México

Request for Payment N°20250010879*

Description	EURO
Sponsorship 4th IAU HESD Survey - Sponsoring Partner	1000.00
	EURO 1 000.00

IAU is VAT exempt / L'AIU n'est pas assujettie à la TVA -Art. 293 B du CGI

Payment method

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