

Queen's University, Principal's Advisory Council on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
Terms of Reference
Approved by Council August 2, 2023

Background:

As one of Canada's leading research-intensive academic institutions, Queen's understands its role in helping to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Through research, teaching, outreach, and stewardship activities, the Queen's community is contributing to the fight against climate change, helping to build inclusive societies, and ensuring equal access to health care and quality education to advance social impact. We also recognize that innovation, ingenuity, and collaboration are needed if we want to achieve these goals, which have united us all in a common global purpose. From 2021-2023, Queen's has consistently ranked in the global top 10 in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which assess how universities are advancing the UN SDGs within and beyond their local communities. In 2023, the rankings measured more than 1,700 post-secondary institutions from over 110 countries worldwide, showcasing the role that higher education institutions can play in addressing critical global challenges.

In April, 2023, the Queen's Principal appointed a Special Advisor on the UN SDGs to foster intentional collaboration on UN SDG work and to coordinate this collaboration in a meaningful way across the university. Central to this coordination will be to bring together a diverse array of university representatives to inform, collaborate, and innovate on the development of UN SDG operational frameworks for the university and build a community of practice around UN SDGs at Queen's. This Council will work with the Special Advisor to identify and recommend key strategic directions and actions in support of integrating UN SDG-focused work into all aspects of our university community, support the development of UN SDG operational frameworks, and advise on framework application and implementation.

Purpose:

- Share information and coordinate SDG-related initiatives across the university, with a target to connect and amplify ongoing work;
- Advise on communication strategy for elevating existing and ongoing work related to SDGs at Queen's;
- Suggest institutional priorities for action on the SDGs and support the development of UN SDG operational frameworks;
- Support strategies for the application and implementation of SDG operational frameworks;
- Identify opportunities for ways to work together cohesively and collectively to achieve the goals;
- Develop and support incentivization initiatives for student, faculty, and staff engagement with SDGs;
- Identify and participate in external strategic and leadership opportunities to elevate Queen's as a model for impact locally and globally (e.g., learning opportunities, partnerships, leadership/deeper engagement at UGC, SDSN, UNESCO, and elsewhere).

Membership:

- Vice Provost, Global Engagement (or delegate)
- Vice-Principal, Culture, Equity, and Inclusion (or delegate)
- Vice Principal, Research (or delegate)

- Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning (or delegate)
- Vice-Principal, Advancement (or delegate)
- Director, Queen's Investments
- Two representatives from Queen's Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, and Engineering and Applied Sciences, as well as the VP Finance and Administration portfolio
- One representative from the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Education, and the Smith School of Business
- One representative from the Dean of Student Affairs
- One undergraduate student
- One graduate student
- One post-doctoral trainee
- Two staff representatives
- Two Community partner representatives from organizations/offices currently collaborating with Queen's in SDG-linked work

Chair: Special Advisor to the Principal on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Secretary: Business Officer and Administrative Assistant, Office of the Principal

Meetings: Monthly, 1.5 hours, strong preference for in-person, but hybrid options will be available

Term: June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024 (One Year)

Quorum: 50% of the Council

Decision Making: The Council will make recommendations to the Special Advisor on the basis of consensus

Reporting: The Council will identify key SDG clusters and name individuals on the Council to be "Cluster Leads", responsible for reporting back to the Council on their respective cluster. The Council Chair will report to the Principal's Office for key decisions on the implementation of SDG strategy at Queen's

Distribution of Minutes: All Council members