November 30, 2022

Science Diplomacy in International Organizations

Stakeholder Takeaways

The Role of Education

- Integrate teaching of SD & SDGs into early education to build awareness in the next generation of decision makers.

- Incorporate SD & SDG education into STEM coursework to deepen intersectional awareness between policy and science.

- Foster cultural exchange at all educational and professional levels.

- Promote interdisciplinary practices for advancement beyond the scope of one discipline's ability.

- Strengthen science communication for effective messaging across diverse audiences.

The Need for Inclusion

- Recruit diverse diplomats and UN representatives by building relationships with institutions of higher education to attract talent outside of policy and governance fields of study.

- Work with local communities and support regional initiatives.

- Use language that is accessible and transparent.

- Incorporate local, traditional, and indigenous knowledge into decision-making processes on SD and in the implementation of SDGs.

- Foster avenues for citizen science.

The Relevance of Trust Building

- SD is based on trust that is not only about rationality but also incorporates empathy and ethical engagement.

- Authentically engage with stakeholders, especially local community members.

- Reflect on history of science and acknowledge shortcomings.

- Be open and transparent about interests and values.

- Build common ground and engage in open discourse.

- Diversify expert groups and intentionally foster intersectional representation.

Remaining Challenges:

- Cementing UN core values including universality, neutrality, integrity, and evidence-based decision-making.

- Fostering academic freedom and science exchange in authoritarian and non-democratic societies.

- Making higher education accessible and affordable to cultivate global citizens.

- Ensuring the role of applied science institutions is equally recognized.

- Incentivizing leaders to promote community engagement from the top-down.

- Balancing interest-based & value-based SD; recognizing geo-strategic competition.

Shared Resources

- Human Dignity Curriculum

- Unite Ideas

- German Consulate & SDGs

- University Alliance Ruhr

- UAS7

- DWIH New York