

Read the definitions. Highlight any key words you resonate with. Then choose the interpretation that relates to you the most *Sustainability/Sustainable Development* is

- 1) *“A dynamic process which enables all people to realise their potential and to improve their quality of life in ways that simultaneously protect and enhance the Earth’s life support systems”* Forum for the Future (2008)
- 2) *“A balanced interaction between population and the carrying capacity of the environment, such that the population develops to its full potential without adversely affecting the carrying capacity of the environment upon which it depends”*
Buckminster Fuller Institute (Source Citnet 2010)
- 3) *“The ability of all to live a safe, healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and local, cultural and spiritual values”* Chrisna du Plessis (2002)
- 4) *“ ... maintaining a delicate balance between the human need to improve lifestyles and feelings of wellbeing on one hand and preserving and enhancing natural resources and ecosystems on the other”* Global Development Research Center, Kobe, Japan (Source: GRDC 2009)
- 5) *“..... economic growth that will benefit present and future generations without detrimentally affecting the resources or biological systems of the planet”* W. Clinton's US President’s Council for Sustainable Development (1993)
- 6) *“..... leaving the world a better place than you found it, taking no more than you need, trying not to harm life or the environment and making amends if you do”* Paul Hawken (2004)

DECLARATION from Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

"As Chancellors, Presidents, Rectors, Deans and Leaders of Higher Education Institutions and related organizations, we acknowledge the responsibility that we bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development. On the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro from 20-22 June 2012, we agree to support the following actions:

- **Teach sustainable development concepts**, ensuring that they form a part of the core curriculum across all disciplines so that future higher education graduates develop skills necessary to enter sustainable development workforces and have an explicit understanding of how to achieve a society that values people, the planet and profits in a manner that respects the finite resource boundaries of the earth. Higher Education Institutions are also encouraged to provide sustainability training to professionals and practitioners;
- **Encourage research on sustainable development issues**, to improve scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of knowledge, including new and innovative technologies.
- **Green our campuses** by: i) reducing the environmental footprint through energy, water and material resource efficiencies in our buildings and facilities; ii) adopting sustainable procurement practices in our supply chains and catering services; iii) providing sustainable mobility options for students and faculty; iv) adopting effective programmes for waste minimization, recycling and reuse, and v) encouraging more sustainable lifestyles.
- **Support sustainability efforts** in the communities in which we reside, working with local authorities and civil society to foster more liveable, resource-efficient communities that are socially inclusive and have small environmental footprints.
- **Engage with and share results through international frameworks**, such as the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, led by UNESCO, the UN University system, the UN Academic Impact, the Global Compact, the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative and the UN Environment Programme's Environmental Education and Training initiatives, in order to exchange knowledge and experiences and to report regularly on progress and challenges."