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# The Brazilian Network of Higher Education Institutions for Sustainable Development (Rede UniSustentável)

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**Abstract.** The Brazilian Network of Higher Education Institutions for Sustainable Development - colloquially known as UniSustentável - is a program of education, research, extension, entrepreneurship, and innovation implemented at the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS). The Network aims to carry on an environment of cooperation, collaboration, exchange, and communication among member Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with the purpose of building a more sustainable society, educating people and fostering good practice in sustainability adoption. The Network will be preferably composed of Brazilian HEIs and operates on a non-profit basis, without affiliations to political parties or religious connotations. The coordination of the Network is carried out by an elected Coordinator and Coordinator-adjunct on a biennial basis, with administrative support provided by an administrative committee and a general assembly. UniSustentável is affiliated to the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA). Founded in September 2023 with 3 member HEIs, as of April 2024, it has expanded to include 20 HEIs located in all 5 Brazilian regions. The network's activities are organized into working groups, each overseen by a responsible HEI and comprised of staff, faculty, and students from member HEIs, as well as the potential involvement of invited experts. Despite its short existence, UniSustentável has already demonstrated that it is possible to work towards sustainability through the collaboration of HEIs.

#### **Keywords:**

Brazil, collaboration, cooperation, university, sustainability.

#### 1. Introduction

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are key players in the quest for sustainable development in the regions where they operate. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide HEIs with a globally accepted framework, since it provides HEIs with a globally accepted and understood definition of the concept of a responsible university, offer a framework for demonstrating their impact, foster new sources of funding, and support collaboration with new partners, both external and internal. At the same time, HEIs contribute to the SDGs with innovative solutions, knowledge and ideas, train current and future implementers and those responsible for implementing the SDGs, serve as role models on how to support, adopt and implement the SDGs in governance, management policies and culture, and develop cross-sectoral leadership that guides the SDGs [1]

As drivers of the process of social transformation towards sustainability [2], HEIs have begun their sustainability actions in the environmental dimension, centered in the areas of teaching, research and extension [3]. Some important historical milestones in the Latin American and Caribbean region were the publication of the diagnosis on "The incorporation of the environmental dimension in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean", convened by UNESCO, UNEP, RFA-ALC, ICFES and UNAL in 1984, and the Bogotá Charter signed by 59 Latin American HEIs at the First Seminar on University and Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1985 [4].

It should be noted that the Talloires Declaration (1990) is often mentioned as the first and most important document expressing universities' commitment to the environment and sustainability, while five years earlier, in 1985, representatives of 59 Latin American HEIs approved the Bogotá Charter at the event mentioned above [4].

Among the various sources of information on the progress of Latin American universities' commitment to the environment and sustainability, the "Observatorio de la Sustentabilidad en la Educación Superior de América Latina y El Caribe" (OSES-ALC), which was created as an inter-institutional program between the "Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas y Ambientales" (U.D.C.A) and the "Red Colombiana de Formación Ambiental" (RCFA), with the support of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Red de Formación Ambiental para América Latina y el Caribe (RFA-ALC) and the Asociación de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe para la Integración (AUALCPI). This observatory has a vast repository, organized into national and regional diagnoses and historical analyses [4].

The first regional diagnosis carried out by OSES-ALC concerned progress in the environmental commitment of HEIs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The study was carried out between 2014 and 2018, and was built on the concept of an institutional environmental system, in which five areas of institutional action were identified: governance and participation, education and teaching, research and technology, extension or social projection, management. The study involved 331 HEIs from 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries [4].

The second and current regional diagnosis carried out by OSES-ALC focuses on the knowledge, commitment and contributions of HEIs in Latin America and the Caribbean to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Similar to the previous diagnosis, this one adopts the concept of an institutional sustainability system, which is very similar to the concept disseminated by UNESCO, the institutional integral approach to sustainability, which is understood as a way of moving towards sustainability in a holistic way, encompassing

teaching content and methodology, influencing the learning process and, at the same time, incorporating sustainability into all aspects of the institution, including facilities, operations, interaction with community stakeholders, governance and capacity building [5, 6, 7].

The institutional holistic approach to sustainability can be adopted by HEIs in different ways. It can be proposed by the institution's leadership or emerge from an academic or staff group. However, to be successful, this approach needs to be incorporated into the HEI's organizational culture. Otherwise, the institution runs the risk of taking a narrow approach to sustainability, focusing only on improving the organizational image or complying with legal requirements [8].

As previously highlighted, the SDGs are an excellent opportunity for HEIs to incorporate sustainability into all their areas. However, a survey carried out in 2020 found that only 42% of Brazilian federal universities have incorporated the SDGs into their institutional documents and that 74% do not link research or extension projects to the SDGs [9]. Still in relation to Brazilian federal universities, another study found that although they are required by law to draw up a management plan that addresses environmental issues, only 25% of them had their plan in place between 2020 and 2021 [10]. Another study carried out in 2018 found that out of a sample of 150 private and public Brazilian HEIs, only 14 had published Sustainability Reports [11].

However, a recent study on the participation of Brazilian HEIs in the GreenMetrics ranking identified that the number of Brazilian HEIs ranked by GreenMetrics has increased by over 1000% since its first edition, and their overall scores have increased since 2014, with the largest increase occurring in recent years [12]. HEIs are seeking to improve their contribution to sustainable development, especially after the pandemic [13].

But HEIs need to overcome some barriers in order to implement the SDGs. Some of the frequent obstacles are: resistance to change in organizational culture, difficulties in obtaining financial resources to integrate the SDGs and fund related projects, lack of awareness, interest and support from senior management, challenges in incorporating the SDGs into institutional systems, lack of organizational structure and leadership dedicated to coordinating implementation, lack of indicators and tools to measure progress, lack of cooperation networks between HEIs and partnerships with other organizations in carrying out projects related to the SDGs [9]. Overcoming these barriers is essential if HEIs are to achieve their sustainability goals and contribute effectively to the SDGs [8].

One of the subsequent barriers is the lack of cooperation networks between HEIs. In order to overcome this, the Brazilian Network of Higher Education Institutions for Sustainable Development, known as the UniSustainable Network, was created in September 2023. The aim of this article is to present the history of the creation of the UniSustainable Network, as well as how it operates. It is believed that the description of the UniSustainable Network contributes to the establishment of other similar projects, as well as helping to disseminate an environment of cooperation, collaboration and exchange between HEIs, with the aim of contributing to the construction of a more sustainable society.

The next topic will present the sustainability scenario of Brazilian HEIs, highlighting some of the main events that have taken place in recent years. The Implementation topic will then present the recent historical background, organizational structure and results obtained by the UniSustainable Network, and the article will end with some final considerations.

#### 2. Scenario

Brazil, the largest country in Latin America, had 2.595 HEIs in 2022, with 9.444.116 undergraduate students and 362.116 working teachers. The Brazilian higher education system is composed of institutions of different natures. They are either publicly or privately held. The former are sponsored by the local, state or federal government, and the latter can be either non-profit or profit making companies [14].

In Brazil, federal public HEIs are among the best in the country, 62% of the 50 best universities in the country according to Folha University Ranking 2023 [15], which is the main ranking system for Brazilian universities [16]. And as such, in addition to complying with the law that promotes environmental education, they must meet the legal requirements to include sustainability in their management systems. One of the main requirements was established by Normative Instruction (IN) No. 10/2012, issued by the Secretariat for Logistics and Information Technology, linked to the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management, which provides instructions for the preparation of Sustainable Logistics Plans (PLS). In addition to the legal requirements, federal HEIs can also adopt a voluntary instrument that promotes the practice of sustainability in Brazilian public organizations called the Environmental Agenda in Public Administration (A3P), which was published in 1999 [10].

The Brazilian government's actions related to promoting sustainability in education began in 1981, with the approval of Law 6.983/81, which deals with the National Environmental Policy (PNMA). This document was a pioneer in referring to "environmental education" in Brazilian legislation [17]. However, Law No. 9.795, issued in 1999, requires environmental education and the establishment of the National Environmental Education Policy. This document states that environmental education must be present at all levels of education, in both public and private institutions [18].

It is important to note that even before governmental actions, Brazilian HEIs were already incorporating sustainability issues. There are many actions taken by HEIs to strengthen sustainability in their institutions, including the participation of some HEIS in the First Seminar on University and Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1985. [4]

Several networks of HEIs were organized on environmental education and/or sustainability, among them: Rede Gaúcha de Instituições para a Educação Sustentável (REGIES); Rede Sul Brasileira de Educação Ambiental (REASul); Rede de Ambientalização e Sustentabilidade na Educação Superior (RASES), with the last two networks joined the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA), that is a network of university networks in Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain that coordinate their activities and cooperate to promote the commitment of universities to sustainability [19].

This Alliance of Networks was created at the end of 2007, in Bogota, with 6 environmental university networks representing 90 universities. Since then, new networks have been joining. In April of 2024, ARIUSA has 30 Environmental University Networks that bring together nearly 500 HEIs in the region. Among these, there are national networks, such as those in Colombia (Red Ambiental de Universidades Sostenibles – RAUS, Red Colombiana de Formación Ambiental-RCFA), Costa Rica (Red Costarricense de Instituciones Educativas Sostenibles-REDIES), Brazil (Rede Sul Brasileira de Educação Ambiental-REAsul, Rede de Ambientalização e Sustentabilidade na Educação Superior - RASES, Rede Brasileira

de Instituições de Ensino Superior para o Desenvolvimento Sustentavel - Rede UniSustentável), Peru (Red Sur de Educación Ambiental - RAI), Guatemala (Red Nacional de Formación e Investigación Ambiental - REDFIA), Mexico (Red de Sustentabilidad Ambiental - REDSA; Red de Programas Ambientales Institucionales de la Región Sur - Sureste de la ANUIES; Consorcio Mexicano de Programas Ambientales Universitarios para el Desarrollo Sustentable - COMPLEXUS), Nicaragua (Red Nicaragüense de Universidades por el Ambiente-RENUA), Ecuador (Red de Medio Ambiente-RedMA), Chile (Red Campus Sustentable-RCS), Venezuela (Red Venezolana de Universidades por el Ambiente-REDVUA), República Dominicana (Red Ambiental de Universidades Dominicanas - RAUDO), Argentina (Red Argentina de Universidades por la Sostenibilidad y el Ambiente - RAUSA; Red de Universidades Argentinas para la Gestión Ambiental y la Inclusión Social - UAGAIS), Panamá (Red de Universidades Panameñas para el Desarrollo Sostenible-RUPADES), Cuba (Red de Medio Ambiente del Ministerio de Educación Superior - REDMA - MES), Honduras (Red de Universidades y Organizaciones Hondureñas por la Sustentabilidad y el Ambiente -RUOHSA); as well as regional networks like Mesoamerica (Alianza Mesoamericana por la Sustentabilidad y el Ambiente - AMUSA) y from Latin America (Observatorio de la Sustentabilidad en la Educación Superior de América Latina y el Caribe-OSES-ALC).

The scope of action of ARIUSA is university sustainability, understood as institutional commitment to sustainability, education for sustainability and sustainable campus management. Its vision is to be a reference in university sustainability at Iberoamerican level, its mission is to promote the way for the understanding and systemic implementation of sustainability in Iberoamerican universities through its member networks, and its values are responsibility, transparency and ethics [19].

The important role of university networks was highlighted in the final report of the United Nations on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which also highlighted the work of the ARIUSA [20]. ARIUSA's important work was also highlighted in the document prepared by axis 6 - Strategic role of higher education in the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean of the follow-up meeting of the Regional Conference on Higher Education (CRES+5), known as CRES+5, which took place from March 13-15, 2024 in Brasilia, the federal capital of Brazil [21].

University networks focused on sustainability have several functions, including enabling universities and their stakeholders to draw up declarations or new incentive structures that encourage sustainability within and between universities. In addition, the actions disseminated by the network leverage individual actions at universities, as the network becomes a place of reference for good practices. And because it is a place of exchange, it allows the university actors responsible for the issue to communicate and collaborate with each other in order to improve the capacities of the teams and individuals involved [22].

The document prepared by the 6th team of CRES+5 suggests that every path of transformation that is planned in institutions has as a premise to increase associations, articulated, collaborative and networked work, to allow the emergence of collective intelligence and that in HEIs, together with allied entities, can meet major challenges by uniting capabilities that allow them to positively affect local and regional ecosystems, with innovative exercises. Understanding that the theme of sustainability is embedded in institutional projects and concerns committed higher education communities that want to be protagonists in the construction of a future with hope [21].

In September 2023, the Brazilian Network of Higher Education Institutions for Sustainable Development - colloquially known as UniSustentável - was launched, and that month it applied to join ARIUSA. The application took place during the 10th Ariusa Conference in Antigua, Guatemala. The coordinator of UniSustentável, Rosamaria Moura-Leite, presented UniSustentável to the Alliance's Administrative Committee, giving the background to the creation of the network, its objectives and the next steps to be taken. In a vote, the Committee unanimously approved UniSustentável joining ARIUSA.

The next topic will present the recent historical background, organizational structure and results obtained by the UniSustainable Network.

### 3. Implementation

The UniSustainable Network arose from the need to develop an environment of cooperation, collaboration and communication between Brazilian HEIs in order to stimulate their contribution to sustainable development in Brazil. This need began to be felt when the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS) became part of OSES-ALC, and developed several actions to disseminate the form for diagnosing the knowledge, commitment and contributions of higher education institutions to the sustainable development goals in Brazil. The first event to launch the form in Brazil took place on August 16, 2022 and included talks by the executive director of UNESCO's Earth Charter, Mirian Vilela, and OSES-ALC researcher Angela Maria Plata Rangel<sup>1</sup>. The second event took place on September 8, 2023, and was organized by the Council of Rectors of Brazilian Universities (CRUB) in partnership with OSES-ALC and UFMS, which featured a lecture by Gloria Ordonez, from the United Nations Environment Program and Orlando Sáenz, coordinator of OSES-ALC<sup>2</sup>. In addition to the two events mentioned above, a working group was organized between interested HEIs to fill out the form. During these events, the idea arose of creating a network of Brazilian universities for sustainable development [23].

To disseminate the form, in addition to the two events in Brazil, national events were held in Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Panama, Argentina, Peru and Cuba, as well as an international event, totaling 29 virtual and in person events between January 2022 and April 2023 [24].

The country with the highest number of responses to the form was Brazil with 18, followed by Colombia with 12, Mexico with 9, Costa Rica with 6, Argentina with 4 and Venezuela with 1. The first report about the results of this regional diagnosis was presented to the regional office of the United Nations Environment Program and at the 23rd Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean. The final report can be consulted on the OSES-ALC website [23].

On September 5, 2023, an event was also held with the support of CRUB to disseminate the results of the diagnosis. This event included reports of good practices from several HEIs that responded to the form<sup>3</sup>. At the beginning of 2024, a report was released by Brazilian HEIs in relation to advances in knowledge, commitment and contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals; this document is available on the OSES-ALC website [25].

The inauguration of the UniSustentável Network took place on September 14, 2023,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The recording of the event is available at: https://youtu.be/o\_yxc--ROfw.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The recording of the event is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60vm4VTHMos&t=2517s.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The recording of the event is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_iGw5qMYE6Y&t=1416s.

at the University City of UFMS. Same day that the 6th National Workshop on UI GreenMetric for Universities in Brazil started. This is an annual event held in the countries that have universities participating in the GreenMetric international sustainability ranking, which took place at UFMS on September 14 and 15, 2023. Many representatives from HEIs participating in the 6th National Workshop on UI GreenMetric for Universities in Brazil attended the launch of the UniSustentável network.

The launch featured a speech by the coordinator, Rosamaria C. Moura-Leite, who presented the network's objectives, management and governance structure and provisional regulations, and the lecture Networks for sustainability given by Oscar Mercado Muñoz, a member of the Management Committee of the Alliance of Ibero-American University Networks for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA). At the inauguration, the network was made up of UFMS, the Universidade Federal da Grande Dourados (UFGD) and the Universidade Estadual de Mato Grosso do Sul (UEMS).

As previously mentioned, the UniSustainable Network joined ARIUSA on September 28, 2023. Approximately one month after its inauguration, the first ordinary meeting was held on November 16, 2023, with 9 HEIs as members. The HEIs that joined the network were: Universidade do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte (UERN), Unigran Capital, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM), Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco (UFRPE), Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica Celso Suckow da Fonseca (Cefet/RJ), Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia de São Paulo (IFSP). The participants at the meeting were enthusiastic about the UniSustainable Network. Each member shared their expectations, and during the meeting, work began on drawing up the Network's Work Program for 2024. The composition of the Administrative Committee was also approved, with the participation of Leonardo Chaves de Carvalho (UFMS) and João Vitor Costa (UFMS). The meeting marked not only the establishment of guidelines for the future, but also the strengthening of collaborative ties between the institutions.

At the 2nd ordinary meeting of UniSustentável, held on January 26, 2024, the name of Janielly Montovani Cravo, representing UFRPE, was nominated and approved for deputy coordination of the network. The new Regulations were also approved, given that the first regulations stipulated in article 28 that the coordinator should call on the members participating in the Network to draw up new Regulations as soon as the minimum number of 8 member institutions had been reached. Finally, the work plan for 2024 was deliberated and approved, in which 6 thematic working groups were established: SDG / OSES-ALC form; PLS - New regulation; Academic production; Assessment, integration and dissemination of sustainability practices; Training and Events<sup>4</sup>. Each group is led by a member institution and has the support of members and researchers from the other institutions affiliated to the Network. In addition to the members already mentioned, the Universidade Estadual do Maranhão (UEMA) has joined the network, bringing the total to 10 HEIs by the end of January 2024.

The 3rd ordinary meeting of the UniSustainable Network took place on March 15, 2024, with the presence of representatives from all the member institutions. The deputy coordinator, Janielly Mantovani Cravo, led the meeting and at the beginning of the meeting welcomed the new member of the network, the Instituto Federal do Espírito Santo (IFES). IFES is the 11th member of UniSustentável.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Link to the 2024 Work Plan: https://redeunisustentavel.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Plano-de-Trabalho-2024-Rede-UniSustentavel.pdf

During the event, the members analyzed and approved the request to join as a strategic ally of Enactus Brasil. Enactus is a global network of leaders committed to using business principles to generate positive socio-environmental impact. Guided by academia and supported by executive leaders, participating students develop social and environmental impact projects linked to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In this way, the impact is twofold: on the students and through the projects they develop. Five members of UniSustentável already have Enactus teams: IFES, UEMA, UFMS, UERN and UFSM.

It is important to highlight the presence of the UniSustentável Network at the Regional Conference on Higher Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (Cres+5), held in Brasilia from March 13 to 15, 2024, represented by its coordinator, Rosamaria Moura-Leite. Cres+5, which took place five years after Cres 2018, aimed to evaluate and update the actions outlined in the 2018-2028 Action Plan, especially after the transformations brought by the Covid-19 pandemic to education. The coordinator of UniSustentável made a significant contribution to the discussion of the document drawn up under axis 6, which focused on the strategic role of higher education in the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

During Cres+5, the Asociación de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (AUALCPI) held a round table on "The role of Higher Education Networks on the road to sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean". The event was led by Dr. Germán Anzola, Rector of the University of Applied and Environmental Sciences (U.D.C.A) and Executive Director of AUALCPI. The discussion was attended by rectors, vice-rectors and representatives from various universities in Colombia, Brazil, Argentina and Chile. Also present were the Secretary of the Union of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUALC) and the Director of Training of the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC).

Two presentations were made at the meeting: one by the coordinator of the UniSustentável Network and the other by the coordinator of the Observatory on Sustainability in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSES-ALC), Orlando Saenz. After the presentations, each participant contributed comments and reflections on the crucial role of university networks such as UniSustentável and OSES-ALC in promoting sustainability in the region. They also shared activities carried out by their higher education institutions with the same purpose.

In March 2024, four HEIs joined the UniSustainable Network. They are: Universidade de Taubaté (UNITAU), Universidade Federal do Rio Grande (FURG), Universidade Veiga de Almeida (UVA) andUniversidade Federal de Uberlândia (UFU).

On April 17, 2024, UniSustentável held a special seminar to commemorate Earth Day 2024. The event, entitled "Caring for Nature, a connection between the knowledge of traditional peoples and communities and the strategy for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals", was broadcast live on UFRPE's YouTube channel. With the aim of fostering debate on the importance of nature conservation and the connection between traditional knowledge and the SDGs, the seminar featured the participation of Francisco Itamar Gonçalves Melgueiro, General Coordinator for Environmental Management at Funai - the National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples/Brazil, as a guest speaker. And a round table entitled "SDGs and Traditional Peoples and Communities: Good Practices from Higher Education Institutions", which included representatives from the IFSP, UEMS, UFMS, UFRPE

and Cefet/RJ, who presented projects developed by their institutions with traditional peoples and communities. The event was a rich opportunity for educational institutions to share inspiring experiences with traditional peoples and communities, emphasizing the essential role of higher education in building a more sustainable planet.

In April, the network reached 18 HEIs, with the following HEIs joining: the Instituto Federal de Educação Ciência e Tecnologia de Pernambuco (IFPE), the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC) and the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). And at the beginning of May, two more HEIs from the northern region of Brazil joined, the only region in Brazil that did not yet have any affiliated HEIs. They are: The Universidade Federal do Tocantins (UFT) and the Universidade Federal de Roraima (UFRR).

The affiliation of the universities of Tocantins and Roraima to UniSustentável is of great importance, especially given the representativeness of the Amazon biome. As the largest forest in the world and one of the most important ecosystems for global environmental balance, having representatives from this region in the network strengthens the commitment to sustainability and the preservation of biodiversity. In addition to their geographical importance, these institutions bring with them expertise and scientific knowledge about the challenges and opportunities facing the Amazon.

#### 4. Conclusions

The aim of this article is to present the history of the creation of the UniSustainable Network, as well as how it operates. It is believed that the description of the UniSustainable Network contributes to the establishment of other similar projects, as well as helping to disseminate an environment of cooperation, collaboration and exchange between HEIs, with the aim of contributing to the construction of a more sustainable society.

The UniSustentável Network represents a significant step forward in promoting collaboration and cooperation between Brazilian HEIs towards the sustainable development of their territories. This initiative came about in response to the growing need for HEIs to actively contribute to sustainable development, aligning themselves with international frameworks such as the SDGs, and the conviction that together they can generate much more significant positive impact.

The UniSustentável Network was created in September 2023, with the main objective of cultivating an environment of cooperation, collaboration and communication between Brazilian HEIs. The rapid expansion of the UniSustentável Network, from its beginnings with 3 member HEIs to now 20 institutions in all regions of Brazil, underscores the willingness of Brazilian HEIs to engage in collaborative sustainability efforts.

The organizational structure of the UniSustentável network reflects the effort to institutionalize cooperation and governance. With elected coordinators and administrative committees, UniSustentável operates in a participatory and democratic manner, ensuring that all member institutions have an active voice. In addition, the various working groups have been structured to promote the leading role of the participating HEIs, as well as establishing various verification mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of the activities carried out.

In addition, the UniSustentável network's membership of ARIUSA further increases its regional and global relevance. By aligning itself with a wider network of sustainability-

focused HEIs, UniSustentável gains access to knowledge-sharing opportunities and collaborative initiatives that broaden its reach.

In conclusion, despite its short existence, the UniSustentável Network has already demonstrated that it is a project with immense social value, and the trend is for it to continue to grow and expand the fruits of its work.

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