

Tec participates in call of Race to Zero's global climate campaign



[Tec de Monterrey](#), together with the **British Embassy** in Mexico, the [World Wildlife Fund](#) (WWF), and like-minded organizations, participated in the call for **Latin American leaders** to join the **Race to Zero (RtZ)** initiative.

This global initiative, which the **Tec is participating in**, seeks **partnerships** between state and municipal governments, the private sector, and universities to achieve the **2050 climate goal** to limit **global warming**.

*“Universities are very important, and we need to do what’s right: act decisively to achieve **carbon neutrality** with the **necessary speed**,”* said **Inés Sáenz**, Vice President for Inclusion, Social Impact, and Sustainability at the Tec.

Sáenz participated in the virtual talk *Alliances for Climate Action Race to Zero Accelerator: Steps for Universities to Follow* **this past October 1**.

The call comes ahead of the [2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference \(COP26\)](#), which will be held from November 1 to 12 in Glasgow, Scotland.



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The Tec's actions to tackle the climate emergency

In the talk, **Sáenz** explained that the Tec considers this issue a **climate emergency** as it has public health, security, social, environmental, and political implications.

*"We recognize that we need rapid, profound, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes at every level of society to **address the climate crisis**," she said.*

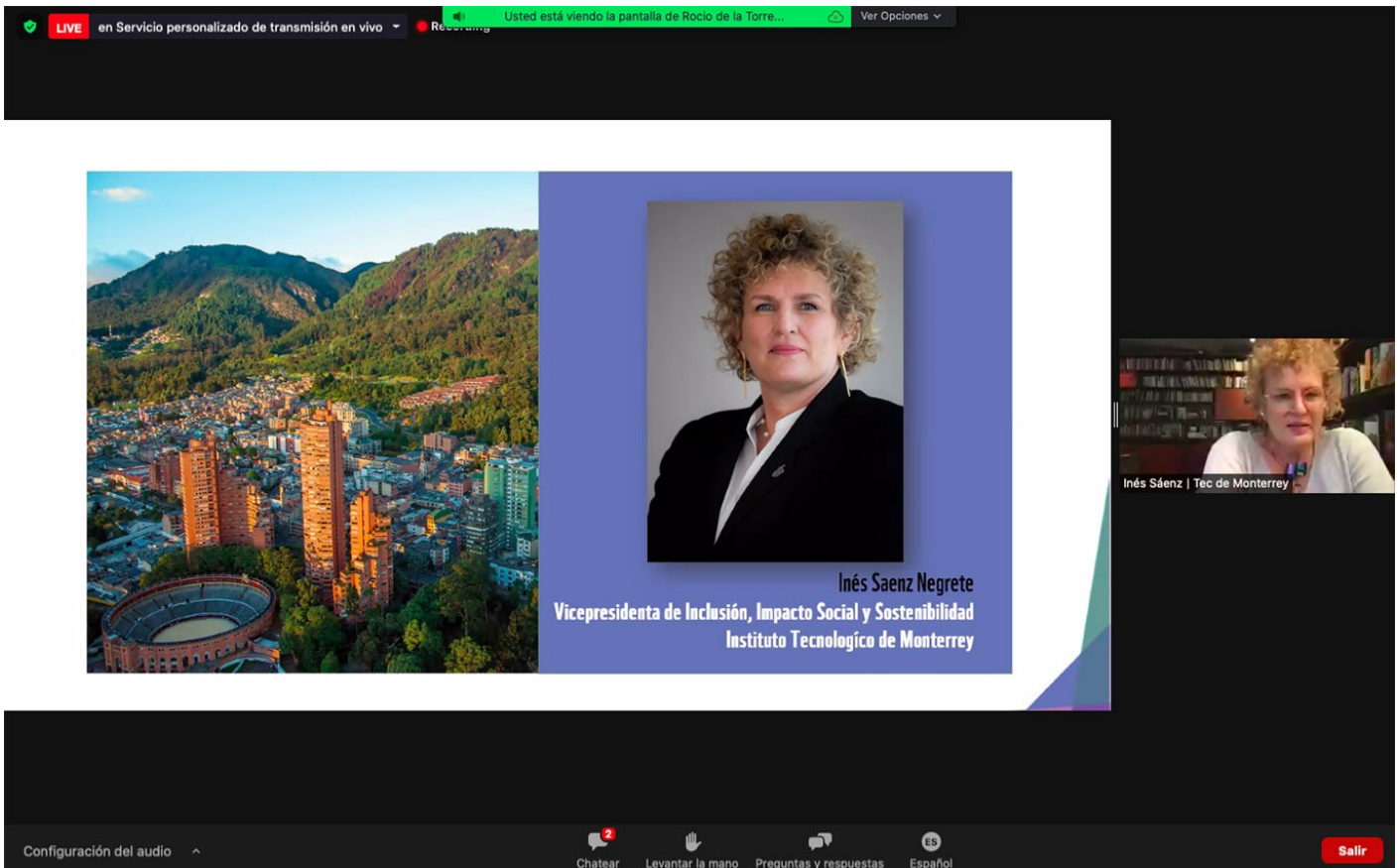
Sáenz said the Tec underlines the **importance** of **collaborating** with **other universities and society** as a whole to take **rigorous and immediate action** to cut **global emissions** in half by **2030**.

*"That's why we're sharing our [**2025 Sustainability and Climate Change Plan**](#), in which we **commit to achieving carbon neutrality on our campuses by 2040**," she added.*

***"Universities are very important. We need to do what's right: act forcefully to achieve carbon neutrality with the necessary speed."** - Inés Sáenz*

The **Tec's 6 actions** contained in this plan were announced on April 22, said Sáenz:

1. Implement a **culture** of sustainability in every operational, managerial, and academic process.
2. **Mitigate** the environmental impact of the institution through reduction of its carbon footprint.
3. **Reduce vulnerability** to present and future impacts in relation to climate change. In addition, increase resilience and **adaptation** to the environmental crisis.
4. **Educate** Tec de Monterrey students and teachers on climate change issues.
5. **Promote** interdisciplinary **research** in order to provide systematic solutions to facilitate sustainable development and address climate change.
6. **Connect** local, national, and international partnerships aimed at sustainability and climate change.



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United against climate change in this initiative

The **RtZ signatories** commit to establishing a **Climate Action Plan** with clear science-based objectives, to immediately showing local climate action, and to reporting progress at least once a year.

*“We need to lead the **transformational actions**. It’s not just about small changes, but also about really decoupling our economic growth from carbon emissions,”* said Jorge Rickards, Director of WWF Mexico.

“We call on heads of government to publicly commit their cities to setting ambitious science-based targets to reduce their emissions and join Race to Zero,” said Jon Benjamin, British Ambassador to Mexico.

This initiative is backed by the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) and was launched in June 2018 by **Gonzalo Muñoz** and **Nigel Topping**, appointed high-level climate action champions.

The role of **climate action champions**, designated annually at the **Conferences of the Parties (COP)**, is to seek collaboration between governments, businesses, and other actors to take action against climate change.

Nigel Topping, for his part, mentioned the **urgency** of “*universities also participating with their curricular programs to create awareness in future leaders.*”

The image is a screenshot of a live video conference. At the top, there is a black bar with a red 'LIVE' indicator and text: 'en Servicio personalizado de transmisión en vivo', 'Usted está viendo la pantalla de Cynthia Menéndez ...', and 'Ver Opciones'. The main content is a white slide with a purple and blue geometric design on the left and right sides. The slide features the logo for 'Alianza para la Acción Climática' with 'RtZ' and 'RACE TO ZERO' below it. The title of the slide is 'Pasos a Seguir para Universidades'. Below the title, the name 'Cynthia Menéndez' is listed, followed by her title 'Coordinadora de Ciudades Sustentables' and 'WWF-México'. On the right side of the slide, there is a small video window showing Cynthia Menéndez speaking. At the bottom of the slide, there is a black bar with navigation options: 'Configuración del audio', 'Chatear', 'Levantar la mano', 'Preguntas y respuestas', 'Español', and a red 'Salir' button.

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Change through Alliances for Climate Action

Less than **15% of RtZ members** are from **Latin America**; therefore, it is necessary to increase climate ambition in this region, the panelists agreed.

Cynthia Menéndez, Coordinator of Sustainable Cities for WWF Mexico, spoke of the search to implement **systemic change** through the **Alliances for Climate Action (ACAs)**.

“*We all want to **get tens** in this context, but **this time what we want** is for **all of us to get zeros**,*” she said.

The **ACAs** are a **method** that consists of **three strategies** to accelerate the **realization of climate goals**:

- **Climate action:** working individually and collectively toward goals.
- **Public positioning:** conveying a sense of urgency and promoting greater citizen support.
- **Climate advocacy:** actively participating in public climate policy conversations at local and national levels.

If you want to **know more about the campaign**, you can find information on the [World Wildlife Fund](#) page.

The Tec seeks to contribute in this call to the **Nationally Determined Contribution by Mexico in the Paris Agreement**, establishing **goals of carbon neutrality** and **climate resilience** with the **Race to Zero** and **Race to Resilience** campaigns.

The institution has signed several **international commitments** in recent years, in search of efforts to **advance toward sustainability** and against **climate change**.

In June of this year, the [Tec, together with 45 leading universities in the world](#), committed to continue implementing **programs and actions in favor of sustainability**, which they stipulated when signing the [Hamburg Declaration 2021](#), released at the Global University Leaders Council Hamburg 2021 ([GUC Hamburg](#)).

What's more, in December 2019, the Tec signed the **Global Climate Letter for Universities and Colleges**, in which one of the **commitments** was to achieve **carbon neutrality by 2040**.

RtZ is the **world's largest campaign** that currently brings together:

- *730 cities*
- *3,000 companies*
- *30 regions*
- *35 health institutions*
- *Nearly 200 financial institutions*
- **More than 600 educational institutions, including Tec de Monterrey.**

KEEP READING

<https://tec.mx/en/news/national/institution/tec-de-monterrey-presents-its-sustainability-and-climate-change-plan>