

SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee

Provisional Agenda for 11 - 12 November

Room IV, UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, Paris



[23 October 2019 Draft]

The Context

This Steering Committee gathers on the eve of the last SDG decade and follows an in-depth review of SDG 4 at the High Level Political Forum. The message from the Forum and the SDG Summit was unequivocal: we are not on track to achieve the SDGs and must commit to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, placing the inclusion imperative at the centre.

The Steering Committee's contribution to the HLPF sets out clear recommendations, drawing on the Global Education Meeting in Brussels, UIS monitoring and projections and the Global Education Monitoring Report's analysis of national approaches to SDG 4.

Over the past months, new initiatives have been established or strengthened their visibility in the international arena, including the Global Education Forum initiated by the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, the Generation Unlimited partnership on education and skills; the Global Partnership for Education's launch of the Knowledge and Innovations Exchange initiative and increased support for Education Cannot Wait. G7 Ministers of Education and International Development pledged to tackle inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and training while G7 and G20 leaders affirmed continued support for girls' and women's education and recognized the importance of life long learning for employability.

All these developments reflect awareness of the urgency to partner and innovate to accelerate progress towards SDG 4 while at the same time increase the challenge of coordination, complementarity and collective action. In this shifting and complex landscape, the role of the Steering Committee is all the more essential as a space for strategic dialogue among all education constituencies, guidance and harmonized action, provided it can demonstrate its effectiveness and enhance its visibility. In the aim of strengthening multilateral coordination, UNESCO has established an education partners' platform, which has met twice since July and will convene twice yearly, and sharing its outcomes with the full Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee needs to take “education diplomacy” to a new level by asserting its voice and influence in line with its mandate to provide strategic guidance for the coordinated implementation of SDG 4; build partnerships, promote joint advocacy, encourage harmonization of partners’ activities, evaluate and monitor progress.

As such, this Steering Committee meeting will focus on ways to reinforce its coordination and strategic guidance mandate, building on the outcomes of the High Level Political Forum and other multilateral initiatives, strengthening linkages with regional mechanisms and influencing policy at country level to accelerate progress.

In advance of the meeting and facilitated by the Secretariat, the Steering Committee will be encouraged to develop a joint statement to be delivered to the High Level Ministerial Meeting on Education of the 40th General Conference (13 November 2019). It should urge focus and action around a set of policy priorities to foster inclusion, equity and learning for all, especially the most vulnerable. This will also ensure a linkage between the HLPF, the SDG Summit and UNGA related events, and the General Conference, which gathers all 193 Member States.

The Steering Committee will also discuss and endorse the proposals of the four Working Groups, which are expected to develop recommendations on policies and strategies around central topics for educational development and to facilitate peer learning. The Committee will also agree on the status of affiliate members and the renewal of specific constituencies.

Following up on a request made to UNESCO’s Executive Board, a dedicated session on the Futures of Education initiative will be organized to present the scope of the project and opportunities for Steering Committee engagement.

Objectives:

- Take stock from key recent UN events and gain a shared understanding of new initiatives with a view to ensuring articulation with the Steering Committee and strengthening the latter’s political engagement around key priorities
- Share regional coordination developments with a view to improving linkages and communications between national, regional and global dimensions of SDG4 coordination
- Acquire shared vision of opportunities for engagement and advocacy in 2020
- Review and guide the directions proposed by the four Working Groups
- Agree on the Terms of Reference for affiliate members and renewal process for constituencies (youth, private sector, foundations)
- Strategy to engage with the Futures of Education initiative

Expected Outcomes

- Agreement on how to enhance the role of the SC as a politically oriented platform to support SDG 4 coordination and implementation through common positioning, advocacy and improved regional action
- Agreement on the Joint Statement to Ministerial Education Meeting of General Conference
- Agreement on priority joint engagement actions and messaging in 2020

Provisional Agenda

Monday, 11 November 2019	
09:30 - 10:00	Welcome, refreshments
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome by co-chairs and adoption of the Agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening statements by ADG/ED, co-Chair SC Education 2030 • Adoption of the Agenda <p>Ref 1: concept note/agenda</p>
10:15 – 11:15	Acting on key 2019 Events and strengthening connections with new initiatives
	<p>The HLPF and SDG Summit concluded on an urgent call for action and delivery in the next decade, with the role of quality education and lifelong learning for shaping more resilient and sustainable societies emphasized. The Steering Committee, the GEM Report and the UIS provided ample evidence to take stock of where the world stands and future prospects. New initiatives to accelerate support to countries most in need such as the Global Education Forum have been established. In this context, strengthening coordination around shared priorities, actions and advocacy is more crucial than ever for advancing implementation and building momentum around the investment case for education as the driver of sustainable development.</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> The panel session aims to build on key outcomes from major recent events to evaluate how the Steering Committee can increase strategic pressure and support to SDG4 implementation, strengthening connections with emerging initiatives to work and act together.</p> <p>Ref 2: doc synthesis of recent events, initiatives & outcomes</p>
11:15 – 13:00	How are regions adapting and implementing the SDG4 agenda?

	<p>UNESCO has established regional coordination mechanisms to take forward and translate global commitments to the realities and educational priorities of each region, defined through regional commitments and roadmaps. How do these mechanisms facilitate communication with Ministries of Education and other relevant regional actors?</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> This session should highlight the achievements of each coordination mechanism, challenges it faces and facilitate peer learning between regions.</p> <p>Ref 3: recent coordination highlights from all regions</p>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30	Report from the Working Groups
	<p>Following the March 2019 Steering Committee meeting, Working Groups have been set up on inclusion and equity; teachers; skills and higher education, in order to make strategic policy recommendations and facilitate peer learning.</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> the 4 Working Groups are expected to present the scope of their work and expected output over the next year.</p> <p>Ref 4: updated information available</p>
15:30 – 16:15	Working modalities and Terms of Reference
	<p>Discussion and agreement on Terms of Reference for affiliate members and process for renewal of specific constituencies.</p> <p>Ref 5: document to be prepared</p>
16:15-16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	Review of 4' minute joint statement of the Steering Committee to the General Conference
	<p>Review of Joint Statement to General Conference</p> <p>Ref: to be shared separately</p>
18:00 - 19:00	Cocktail hosted by UNESCO (tbc)

Tuesday, 12 November 2019	
9:30 – 10:15	1) Global Education Monitoring Report 2020 on inclusion and beyond and 2) Global and thematic indicators: status of implementation and future perspectives
	<p>1) Orientations of Global Education Monitoring Report 2020 on inclusion, including launch of country profiles, and possibilities for Steering Committee engagement in launches and national/regional outreach.</p> <p>Ref 6: GEMR document</p> <p>2) The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators is leading an intensive review process of the global SDG indicator framework. Moreover, Members States, regional and international stakeholders have continued the implementation of the thematic indicator framework for SDG 4 within the Technical Cooperation Group (TCG) and with the coordination of UIS.</p> <p>What are the stakes for SDG 4 monitoring? Where do we stand with country specific targets and agreed benchmarks at regional and global levels? How can the SC better support the production of better quality data?</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> This session will report back on key decisions from the Technical Cooperation Group Meeting (TCG) and the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) held in Yerevan, Armenia, in August 2019 and the role of the Steering Committee in supporting the plans and actions for better quality data.</p> <p>Ref 7: UIS document</p>
10:15 - 10:30	Coffee/tea break
10:30 – 10:45	Special Address by the President of the UN General Assembly TBC
	Special Address to be delivered by the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (tbc).
11:00– 12:30	Ministerial Panel
	Ministers from each region share challenges and priority actions to accelerate progress towards SDG4.
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15:00	Opportunities for Engagement in 2020 and beyond
	<p>This session will discuss opportunities for positioning and joint advocacy, supported by a calendar of events and key messages to take forward from the HLPF and SDG summit (International Education Day, Expo 2020, G20, UN General Assembly events on education, regional forums).</p> <p>The session will include a presentation of Dubai Cares on the Expo 2020.</p> <p><i>Objective:</i> to have a shared overview of opportunities for building synergies with and influencing key international initiatives and processes</p> <p>Ref 9: Communication strategy/calendar-roadmap</p>

15:00 - 16:00	Futures of Education exchange
	<p>Officially launched during UNGA 2019, the Futures of Education will cast the net widely over the next two years to prepare a report on “Learning to Become”.</p> <p>Objective: This session provides an opportunity for SC to engage with the Futures of Education Team and discuss modalities for continued engagement.</p> <p>Ref 10: Futures of Education document</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Conclusion and Way Forward
	Agreement on Joint statement to General Conference, summary of key actions and concluding remarks