EDUCATION POST-COVID 19
2020 HLPF Side Event

Organized by UNESCO and the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee
with support from Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning

9 July 2020 8 am – 9 am (New York); 2 pm – 3 pm (Paris)

Moderator: Mr Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education, OECD

Welcome
Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistance Director-General for Education, UNESCO

Opening

• Mr Gordon Brown, United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education: new financing for safeguarding and reimagining education
• Mr Jaime Saavedra, Global Director for Education: Education as a foundation to #saveourfuture – introduces the campaign on behalf of all members
• Statement by H.E. Ms Mona Juul, President of ECOSOC and Chair of the Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning

1. New realities for education affected by COVID

Tackling amplified inequalities
• Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistance Director-General for Education, UNESCO
• Hon. Ms Maria Victoria Angulo Gonzalez, Minister of National Education of Colombia, representative of Colombia on the Steering Committee

Anticipating a recessionary outlook – cost predictions
• Mr Manos Antoninis, Director, Global Education Monitoring Report

2. Building Back Resilient and Inclusive

Focus on teachers, students and a safe return to school
• Mr Robert Jenkins, Global Chief of Education, UNICEF
• Ms Haldis Holst, Deputy General Secretary, Education International
• Ms Anna Prokopenya, 2015 WorldSkills Champion

Focus on partnerships to ensure learning continuity
• Magdalena Brier, Profuturo CEO, a programme by Teléfonica Foundation and “La Caixa” Foundation

3. Imperatives for driving forward Education/SDG 4 – What is needed to #saveourfuture

Inclusion: Spotlight on leaving no one behind
• Video message by H.E. Mr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the UN General Assembly
• H.E. Mr Lazarus Ombai Amayo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative Kenya to the United Nations, co-chair of the Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning
• Ms Rasheda K. Choudhury, Executive Director CAMPE and Representative for the Collective Consultation of NGOs to the SDG-Ed2030 Steering Committee

Continued and renewed support for education financing
• Ms Alice Albright, CEO, Global Partnership for Education
The COVID-19 pandemic shook every education system in the world, at its peak leaving 1.57 billion students affected by school closures in over 190 countries. No education system was prepared for such a shock. In an effort to ensure learning continuity, the majority of governments deployed distance learning solutions in the boldest and most disruptive experiment in the history of education, using a hybrid mix of technologies. But this unprecedented period has laid bare inequalities everywhere in access to learning for multiple and inter-related reasons, from socio-economic disadvantage to digital exclusion. Data shows that despite government efforts worldwide to provide alternative remote learning, an estimated 500 million children and youth are excluded from public educational provision.

Given its magnitude and the wide-ranging challenges on the lives of learners and their families, this global pandemic is as much a global educational crisis as a health crisis. Without committed counter-measures, prolonged school closures will widen learning divides and lead to increased drop-out among the most vulnerable, especially girls and those already living in fragiles situation of conflict and crisis. On the other hand, when and how to safely reopen schools remains one of the most sensitive issues on national political agendas. Furthermore, the recessionary environment could lead to cutbacks in domestic spending and international aid for education, with dramatic long-term consequences not only for the achievement of SDG 4, but for the entire social and economic recovery and development.

Crisis is opportunity. The COVID-19 crisis is bringing pedagogical innovation through technology-supported learning and expanded partnerships to share solutions and provide support to countries. It has demonstrated that education can be delivered in new ways, and importantly, that educational institutions are sacrosanct in society not only as places of learning and socialization, but also of caring and provision of essential services such as health, hygiene and nutrition. It has highlighted the importance of socio-emotional skills for effective learning and most fundamentally of the teacher’s irreplaceable role in inspiring, guiding and supporting students to grow and thrive.

The crisis must function as a catalyst to reduce out-of-school numbers, promote equity and gender equality, and improve the quality of education at the start of this Decade of Acceleration. The ‘new normal’ in education can be more transformative, more inclusive and more equitable. It must be more resilient to strengthen the preparedness of education systems to cope with the uncertainty that characterizes our world today, working with traditional and new partners. The COVID-19 Global Education Coalition, launched by UNESCO and counting some 100 partners provides such a platform to match expertise and resources with country needs in a unified approach.

This is a pivotal time to put education back on course, capitalize on lessons learned during the crisis and demonstrate the centrality of education to drive recovery and build more sustainable and resilient societies. It calls for political championing, alliances across sectors and societal engagement to act differently and better to leave no child, youth or adult behind.
The side event will bring together multilateral institutions, national governments, civil society actors, teachers, private sector and youth advocates around 3 objectives:

- identify key lessons learned from the crisis, from breakthroughs in new and alternative learning delivery models to strategies deployed to reach the most disadvantaged
- chart mitigation strategies to avert learning losses and identify key drivers to build back better, putting equity at the center
- in a recessionary context, define strategies to increase mobilization around the protection of education financing and the promotion of education as a global public good and development imperative, including through a joint global campaign with key multilateral actors.

**Format**

The event will feature an inclusive multi-stakeholder panel discussion bringing together high-level representatives of Member States (represented on the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee and the Group of Friends), the UN system, as well as key actors in the field of education from COVID-19 Global Education Coalition established by UNESCO, now counting 100 partners.


You can also watch the event on: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka_BbdmygwM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka_BbdmygwM)

The SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee is the global multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Its primary objective is to harmonize and strengthen support to countries and their partners for the realization of the global education goal and targets. The Steering Committee is composed of members representing a majority from countries, the World Education Forum 2015 convening agencies (UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, ILO, the World Bank), the Global Partnership for Education, the OECD, regional organizations, teacher organizations, civil society networks, the private sector, foundations and youth organizations.

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