



## SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee Meeting 28 June 2021 - 13:00 – 15:30 CET (online)

### Background and context

Nearly one and a half years after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the strengthened capacity of the international community to contain the spread of the virus, as well as the acceleration of vaccination campaigns mark the beginning of a new chapter of the global health crisis, namely that of the recovery phase. In the context of the pandemic, the world faced the largest educational disruption in recent history, putting at risk hard gained progress in the advancement of the Education 2030 Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more broadly. Although the progressive reopening of educational institutions across all regions is an encouraging development, a simple return to pre-COVID-19 'business as usual' cannot be envisaged, as it would threaten the right to inclusive quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for millions, and bear the risk of leaving the most vulnerable behind on the path towards a sustainable future for all.

To respond to the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, the international community came together at the extraordinary session of the 2020 Global Education Meeting (2020 GEM), convened by UNESCO with the Governments of Ghana, Norway and the UK on 20 and 22 October 2020. The 2020 GEM created momentum for the protection and promotion of education as a catalytic force for recovery and the acceleration of progress across the SDGs more broadly. The determination to position education at the heart of national efforts to build back better in the post-crisis area is captured in the 2020 GEM Declaration, which calls for targeted action to: 1) protect education financing, 2) safely reopen schools, 3) strengthen support to teachers, 4) invest in skills development, and 5) narrow the digital divide in education.

Beyond the five priority action areas, the 2020 GEM Declaration also paved the way for an inclusive global consultation process on the strengthening of the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism (GCM) as a means to create an enabling environment for more effective support of national efforts towards the implementation of SDG 4. Drawing on the key messages of a series of broad regional and constituency consultations, an in-depth analysis of the current state of the global education architecture and a country survey on coordination challenges and good practices, a dedicated multi-stakeholder Working Group elaborated a concrete proposal for a more effective GCM. The latter notably includes a scenario for the transformation of the Steering Committee into a politically stronger, empowered, more visible and effective body. The Working Group's proposal will be presented for adoption by the international community at the ministerial segment of the 2021 GEM, scheduled to take place on 13 July 2021. The meeting will be convened by UNESCO with the Steering Committee at the margins of the ministerial segment of the 2021 HLPF.

### Meeting objective and expected outcomes

The objective of this Steering Committee meeting is to assess the state of the implementation of the SDG-Education 2030 Agenda 18 months after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic at global, regional and country levels. The meeting will provide a platform for exchange and peer dialogue on common challenges and lessons learned. It will shed light on shortcomings requiring urgent policy attention, as well as on concrete innovative solutions that have proven to be successful in addressing some of the most critical challenges related to the COVID-19 recovery and the acceleration of progress towards SDG-Education 2030 more broadly. Particular emphasis will be put on concrete acceleration strategies and the central role of benchmarking processes as powerful tools for progress.

The meeting will also provide the opportunity to deliberate on the upcoming Global Education Meeting. As such, it will outline the way forward for SDG-Education 2030 global coordination by featuring a presentation of highlights of the multi-stakeholder consultation process on the reform of the GCM, as well as of the final version of the scenario paper, in view of the latter's endorsement at the 2021 GEM. Finally, the meeting will allow for joint reflections and concrete decisions on the Steering Committee's contribution to this milestone event.

## Agenda

Time	Session
13:00-13:10	<p><b>Welcoming remarks and purpose of the meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO <i>5min</i></li> <li>Prof. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Co-Chair, SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (Japan) <i>5min</i></li> </ul>
13:10-14:35	<p><b>From recovery to acceleration – where do we stand?</b> Moderated by Prof. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Co-Chair, SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (Japan)</p> <p><b>Presentation on the state of SDG-Education 2030 in the world and update on the establishment of regional SDG 4 benchmarks</b> Joint presentation by Ms Silvia Montoya, Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics and Mr Manos Antoninis, Director, UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report <i>15min</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q&amp;A session <i>15min</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Regional reporting on the advancement of the SDG-Education 2030 Agenda</b> This session will allow for regional reporting on progress towards the global education goals and targets, with particular emphasis on the complexities of the COVID-19 recovery context. The discussion will allow for the sharing of experiences and lessons learned across regions to identify achievements, common challenges, as well as solutions and encourage peer learning. Regional presentations will be followed by an open discussion among Steering Committee members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief introduction by Ms Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Director, Division for Education 2030, UNESCO <i>2min</i></li> <li>Presentations to be delivered by the six regions <i>5min each = 25min total</i> <i>(Steering Committee representatives of each region are invited to designate a presenter and coordinate in the elaboration of the content of the presentation. Presentations should be limited to 5 minutes per region)</i></li> <li>Open discussion <i>28min</i></li> </ul>
14:35-15:20	<p><b>The way forward –Towards the 2021 Global Education Meeting (13 July 2021)</b> Moderated by Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO</p> <p><b>Highlights of the multi-stakeholder consultation process on the reform of the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism (GCM) and presentation of the final version of the scenario paper</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Joakim Bakke, Director, Ministry of Education and Research, Norway <i>10min</i></li> <li>Open discussion <i>15min</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Contribution of the Steering Committee to the 2021 Global Education Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introductory presentation by Ms Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Director, Division for Education 2030, UNESCO <i>5min</i></li> <li>Open discussion <i>15min</i></li> </ul>
15:20-15:30	<p><b>Overall observations, next steps and closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prof. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Co-Chair, SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (Japan) <i>5min</i></li> <li>Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO <i>5min</i></li> </ul>