

5th Meeting of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee

Synthesis of decisions and recommendations [Final 18 September 2018]

The following document synthesizes the decisions and recommendations made during the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee meeting which was held 12-13 September 2018.

SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee Recommendations

1. Governments are encouraged to undertake Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and to strengthen the analysis of educational progress within these reviews. VNRs should highlight the accomplishments, but also acknowledge the lessons learnt and challenges countries are facing in achieving the SDG goals and targets.
2. Governments must ensure an inclusive process of national review and reporting, providing space for engagement of key non-state partners such as civil society, women's organizations, teacher and youth organizations.
3. All countries are urged to use and build on global/thematic SDG4 indicators and benchmarks, as relevant, as reference frameworks to gauge educational progress within VNRs, taking into consideration agreed regional frameworks.
4. Countries are encouraged to use data more effectively, particularly sex-disaggregated data, and to communicate data more transparently, especially from the national to more local levels [particularly in the context of data on refugees, displaced children and youth].
5. Regional organizations and development partners are encouraged to strengthen their support to national capacity development in monitoring and reporting.
6. Regional organizations and development partners should strengthen alignment between regional and global SDG monitoring frameworks, so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts in country reporting.
7. Governments and their partners are encouraged to use the HLPF process as a space for reporting progress towards SDG commitments and advocating for their interlinkages with human rights, as well as supporting the integration of a youth development lens within SDG review processes.

A. Internal decisions: Membership and Procedures

1. Expansion of Country Representation

Agreement to expand regional SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (SC) country representation from 3 to 4 Member States per region, for affirmation/non-objection at the December 2018 Global Education Meeting.

Next Steps:

1. Asia-Pacific (ASPAC) and Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) regions to submit their agreed four representatives.
2. The other four regional groups to submit an additional (fourth) representative

Deadline for submissions: 30 September 2018

2. Interim Arrangements for co-chair

Current Group I representative from Norway serves as interim co-chair until the Global Education Meeting in December 2018, with UNESCO ADG continuing as co-chair.

3. Expansion of Bureau

An expanded Steering Committee Bureau with representation of one Member State from each of the six regions [one co-chair and five vice-chairs], and one vice chair from civil society, will be constituted at ad-hoc meeting of the Steering Committee at the Global Education Meeting in December 2018.

4. Establishment of Global Education Meeting Task Team

A Global Education Meeting (GEM) Task Team will be constituted to support preparation of the meeting in lieu of the Steering Committee Bureau between September and December 2018. It will be tasked with (1) preparing the zero draft outcome document by 15 November and (2) oversee further fine-tuning of the programme. It will comprise:

- co-chairs of the Steering Committee
- Secretariat
- Belgium, as host of the GEM
- one representative from each regional group
- one representative from each regional organization
- two civil society representatives
- one co-convening agency
- one youth representative

Nominations must be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 30 September.

5. Working Groups on hold until constitution of the Bureau

Given the absence of the Bureau to guide the long-term work of the Steering Committee, the current Working Groups are temporarily put on hold. The focus of the Steering Committee, through the GEM Task Team, will be on the preparation of the Global Education Meeting and its outcome document, towards HLPF 2019 and the UNGA.

B. Internal decision: HLPF 2019 Special Report

Given that HLPF 2019 will specifically cover SDG4, and in order to capture both quantitative and qualitative dimensions, a Special Report is being prepared by the GEM Report under the umbrella of SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee. All regions will participate in the process through the SDG4 questionnaire which captures information on how countries re-orient education policies in light of SDG4.

C. Internal decisions: Planning and organization of the Global Education Meeting 2018

- GEM 2018 has both technical and ministerial components. The ministerial segment should aim to produce 3-5 short and actionable political messages. This will be framed by the results of the technical segment that aims to take stock of education within the 2030 Agenda: Are we on track in meeting our collective commitments? The technical segment will propose policy recommendations to overcome bottlenecks in implementation of SDG4 targets and commitments – ‘looking back while looking forward’.
- The GEM 2018 Outcome Document will comprise:
 - o i) a short statement of 3-5 strong/savvy political messages (max 2 pages) that speak to the HLPF and UNGA, but also to all partners in education as well as beyond the education sector as such and to the broader development agenda. Each message will have global relevance and will drive decisions on financing. Two messages have already been identified: one on inclusion/equity, and one on migration and displacement.
 - o (ii) an annex with policy recommendations based on the review of the implementation of the Education 2030 targets and commitments, as well as on the outcomes of regional consultations.
- The Ministerial segment includes two panels that highlight: (i) inclusion and gender equality, and (ii) migration and displacement. Another two thematic panels need to be identified. There appears to be a consensus on a possible extra high level panel on teachers as a transversal theme/agents for change in the implementation of all (other) educational policy objectives. Other suggestions for horizontal themes throughout the programme are: lifelong learning and TVET, cooperation between regions on development financing, governance, quality and relevance of learning.
- The Steering Committee gives the mandate to the Secretariat to finalise the programme of the technical and ministerial segments, in line with the guidance from the current discussion.
- Forum of parallel sessions: The Secretariat will resend guidelines to all Steering Committee members by 18/09, inviting proposals to lead / co-lead on various themes, with particular attention to ensuring interlinkages of SDG4 with the other SDGs being reviewed during HLPF 2019. Steering Committee members will be invited to submit proposals through the Forum Proposal Form as soon as possible, and at the latest by 30 September. Once leads/co-leads are confirmed for parallel sessions, other interested Steering Committee members can contact them directly, keeping the Secretariat informed.

- Given the universality of the agenda, themes for parallel sessions should be cast to ensure shared interest/relevance that speak to all development contexts.

D. Internal decisions: Steering Committee Advocacy Strategy

- The Steering Committee endorses the draft advocacy strategy including:
 - o The establishment of a **Youth Advocates Group** (Particular relevance: 4.3 and 4.4 higher education/ TVET; 4.7 ESD/GCED; 4.a safe/inclusive environments; 4.c qualified teachers; 4.5 vulnerable/marginalised group) – *Global Campaign for Education (GCE) to collaborate, considering it is also working to increase youth engagement in the Campaign;*
 - o The establishment of a **Group of Friends** for Education and Life-long Learning at UN level, led by a Member State;
 - o Steering Committee members to **advocate and relay recommendations, decisions and positions through their own constituencies** (see the example of foundations through Education Above All foundation).¹

Target audiences include ministers, development partners, political leaders, civil society, academics, media, student and youth groups, women’s organizations and teachers.

- The Steering Committee agrees to take the following into account when developing its recommendations and disseminating them:
 - o The Steering Committee recommendations must be **actionable** and clearly specify the **target audience** to take them forward.
 - o Steering Committee members, and the constituencies they represent, should ensure proper **follow-up on implementation of decisions and recommendations**.
 - o The Steering Committee should ascertain the **impact of recommendations** by developing a mechanism to report and monitor on their implementation by various constituencies.
- The Steering Committee supports the integration of a youth development lens within SDG review processes from a) a life-course perspective, b) an education perspective, and c) a stakeholder perspective as proposed by the Interagency Network on Youth Development, as it implies a dual recognition that youth development is a policy area and a policy objective.
- The Steering Committee supports the inclusion of education in the UNGA **Ministerial Declaration** as well as, through all Steering Committee members placing education on all Ministerial Declaration. The Steering Committee will make efforts to ensure substantive reference to education already in the zero draft.
- The Steering Committee encourages successful stories to be shared through the following platforms [sdg4education2030](#) and @Education2030UN (contact the secretariat).

¹ UNESCO will also ensure dissemination of Steering Committee decisions and recommendations through its education networks.

- The Steering Committee recommends that the communication tools of the various constituencies and target audiences are mapped to enhance communication and dissemination of SC outputs and recommendations, particularly in view of HLPF 2019 and UNGA.