Report

Meeting of the RCG4-WCA Steering Team
Regional Coordination Group on SDG4-Education 2030 in West and Central Africa

Reported by the Secretariat (UNESCO Dakar)

Date: 24 September 2018
Time: 14h00-15h30
Location: UNESCO Dakar
Modality: remote meeting via Skype

Participants

UNESCO Dakar: Gwang-Chol Chang (RCG4-WCA Chair)
ANCEFA: Teopista (phone)
CAMES: Mamadou Sarr
FAWE: Houraye Mamadou Anne (Skype)
Secretariat: Catherine Collin, Chelsea Lavallee, Louis-Rodrigue Lauzer (UNESCO Dakar)
Absent: CONFEMEN, UNICEF WCARO

Meeting objectives

In preparation for the next Plenary Group meeting scheduled for 26 September 2018, the RCG4-WCA Steering Team met to discuss the following points:

1. The functionality of the task teams and plenary group;

2. The links between global and regional SDG4 coordination,

3. The terms of reference for a task team on "Learning to Live Together Sustainably" and

4. *The regional launch of the 2019 Global Education Monitoring report.*

1. <u>Report on the Functionality of Task teams and Plenary Group</u>

The Secretariat presented a basic evaluation of the task teams and plenary group functionality and activities to date. The brief was compiled mainly using past plenary meeting reports and the 2016-17 Activities report.

A. Plenary group

- The group was established in May 2016 and there are currently 26 members. Some members are considered to be "inactive," as they do not have a focal point or have not participated in meetings or exchanges.
- The use of the platform is low, however the Secretariat will lead a meeting on Communications with all members in October to understand how to make improvements.
- This year the group has not organized a joint event, but there was a strong mobilization of members behind the planning of the Pan African High-Level Conference on Education (PACE2018).

B. Task teams

- Some task teams are high functioning, have strong communication and complete joint activities.
- Others teams have not shared updates: a replacement for the Early Childhood lead is still needed; TVET has not had any activity since drafting its TOR in 2017; and Higher Education is active but has not shared key pieces of information on the platform or with the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat requests that each task team share their 2018-19 work plan on the platform so all members are aware of others' activities and to facilitate greater collaboration between task teams.
- More up to date, detailed information on the task teams will be collected from the task teams themselves through a questionnaire meant to inform the 2018 Activities Report.

The Chair suggested more reflection is needed on how to animate the task teams, especially those who have not been particularly active.

2. SDG4 Global Coordination: global-regional linkages

The Chair participated in the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee meeting from September 12-13 in Paris. The following points were shared;

A. SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee

- There are currently three member states per region. In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) they were all Anglophone (South Africa, Kenya and Uganda) and not representative of the WCA region.
- A proposal was accepted to expand member state representation to four states. A fourth SSA state will be decided, which will likely be from WCA.
- The African Union (AU) and ADEA are the two organizations representing SSA on the Committee.

B. High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- The HLPF is an annual event which occurs in New York at the UN to evaluate several SDGs each year in-depth. 2019's HLPF will review SDG4, among others.
- Voluntary national reviews (VNR) (completed by members states) and thematic reports, one of which will be submitted by the Steering Committee, are submitted to the HLPF committee for review. Several member states have already submitted VNRs and additional countries will do so as well in the lead up to HLPF 2019.
- All future Steering Committee meetings will focus on HLPF reporting until 2019.

C. Global Education Meeting (GEM), December 3-5, 2018

- The hosting member state is Belgium. The GEM is not open to all member states, but champion states will be selected and invited. Regarding civil society organizations (CSO) and other organizations, the number is limited based on Belgium's deliberations, as the hosting state is required to finance many of the states' attendance.
- There are technical and Ministerial segments. The technical segment will examine the goals in depth and will concentrate on sharing experiences. The Ministerial segment will focus on topics that need to be scaled up, specifically inclusion, refugees/migration, teachers and teaching issues, and a fourth topic, which remains to be chosen.

D. Global and regional platforms

- As the Union African and ADEA, as well as UNESCO's five regional bureaus in Africa, work together to collaborate, the regional coordination mechanism is developing. In other regions, the coordination mechanism is led solely by UNESCO.

E. Advocacy

- The Steering Committee's idea is to get SDG4 recognized as one of the prominent SDGs, particularly at UN headquarters in New York where many strategic and financial decisions are made.
- An advocacy strategy was developed by the ED-2030 Steering Committee, which aims to: create a youth advocate group and a "Group of Friends of SDG4" in New York where individuals can champion SDG4.

When asked how these changes will affect the RCG4-WCA, the Chair responded that the group must make linkages within Africa and then with global level processes so as to have strong input and influence within the ED-2030 Steering Committee. The AU and ADEA, which have been delegated to represent the AU's education interests, were consulted about extending the Education 2030 in Africa platform to all of Africa and to link SDG4-CESA with other sub-regions. A Steering Committee on SDG4-CESA coordination could be established in Addis Abba but the Education team at the AU needs more capacity in order to follow through.

3. Review of the terms of reference developed for a task team on "Learning to Live Together Sustainably"

UNESCO recounted that several agencies hope to establish a coordination structure on the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) in WCA. The Secretariat shared the TOR it drafted and indicated that it will be presented at the Plenary meeting where members will be invited to join the team or to take the lead of the team. UNESCO will be implicated in this team and could take the lead, but would prefer to have a co-lead.

Save the Children proposed working with the working group, Education in Emergencies (EiE), in the past, but this arrangement could overlook non-emergency issues and the terms of reference have therefore focused on Education for Sustainable Development (including climate change) and Global Citizenship Education (including Education for the (PVE)).

ANCEFA commented that the TOR seems to cover a very broad topic and perhaps it should be narrowed.

FAWE added that Save the Children is the co-lead of EiE with UNICEF. If it is in the interest of the RCG4-WCA, relationships could be developed through stronger ties with these two organizations.

This new task team should focus on emerging issues such as peace, PVE, values education, climate change, 21st century skills through Education and the relevance of education, among others. The team needs a clear mandate, including a distinctive name.

The Chair continued that life skills, competencies and values seem to be an aspect that is overlooked in the RCG4-WCA's activities. To incorporate these components into education in Africa requires close collaboration, with each other and RCG4-WCA partners.

4. Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR)

The GEMR will officially launch this year on November 20, 2018 and the topic this year is Migration and Displacement.

- The Secretariat proposed a plan for launching a social media and email campaign developed through collaboration with RCG4-WCA members. Together, key messages, targeted statistics and pertinent recommendations for the region would be identified and circulated using members' existing social media channels.
- To work more closely with Local Education Groups (LEGs), which has been an ongoing priority for the RCG4-WCA, the group could send targeted email messages through their listservs. This would be part of a larger process for collaborating with the LEGs.
- Finally, the group would hold a regional press conference to disseminate the messages throughout the region, with regional journalists in attendance.
- Next steps: receive feedback from the Steering Team and then present the plan to the Plenary group. Commitment and availability of members should be determined, as well as the timeframe

The plan was approved for presentation to the Plenary group. As many organizations are strong in advocacy, they should be implicated in planning and implementation.

The Chair added that the GEMR team at UNESCO headquarters will likely send materials, as it is a crucial moment for advocacy, and there will be a panel discussion.

5. Conclusion

The Steering Team members approved the agenda for the September 26, 2018 Plenary meeting.