

## Statement of Commitment to Transform Education by Line Education Ministries in Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the United Nations,*

*Thank you for convening the global Transforming Education Summit in this watershed moment for recovery of education in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, to prevent a generational disaster in education.*

*We, the Ministers of Education and representatives of education authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Fully committed to building quality, inclusive and equal education accessible to all, mindful of recommendations and needs of all engaged parties in the consultation process on transforming education in Bosnia and Herzegovina:*

*Advocating **equal access to education** and support for children and youth with disabilities, children and youth from economically and socially vulnerable categories, and rural areas,*

*Undertaking to improve **access to education**, training and labour market to ensure leave no one behind principle through quality education and lifelong learning, improved inclusiveness of education systems, and matching societal needs,*

*Calling stakeholders to collaborate to improve **work and business environment** and thus accelerate job creation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and contribute to improving living standards,*

*Recognising the need to **acquire new knowledge, skills and competences of pupils and students** that will prepare them for an evolving work-and-life environment and a sustainable future, focusing in particular on individual learning approaches, building language and mathematical functional literacy, and acquiring general and specialised knowledge, skills and competencies, based on learning outcomes,*

*Aware of the impact of global and local challenges affecting the development of children, pupils and students, **advising zooming in on mental health and well-being of children**, pupils, students and teachers,*

*Working to **strengthen professional, legal, financial and administrative setting** for delivering on quality inclusive education, especially digital learning, bearing in mind the pedagogical and technical requirements that educational institutions must meet, including the necessary minimum qualifications of teachers and lecturers for this form of learning,*

*Calling for continuous improvement of curriculum across the board in education, based on **learning outcomes and skills of the 21<sup>st</sup> century** in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to facilitate greater alignment with societal and labour market needs and furnish children, pupils and students with knowledge, skills and competencies, including **transversal/life competencies** that will contribute to the development of each individual and social inclusion,*

*Investing in **capacity building of teaching staff** at all levels of education by strengthening **digital and PPD<sup>M</sup><sup>1</sup> competencies** necessary in achieving a quality educational process in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,*

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<sup>1</sup> Pedagogical-psychological-didactic-methodological competencies

*Promoting universal and quality preschool education*, that is, improving the preschool education coverage of children, not only in the years before starting school but also at the age between 3 to 6, especially for children from vulnerable categories,

*Implementing* measures to **reduce early school dropout** as well as the number of those lacking knowledge and skills through targeted training and programmes contributing to their integration in society and the labour market,

*Encouraging lifelong learning*, that is, continuous acquiring of knowledge and skills (formal, non-formal and informal learning), recognising that an effective lifelong learning system can be developed only with active involvement and support of government, employers, workers and educational institutions, which is why, in addition to greater public investment in adult education, it is ever more so important to create appropriate incentives to boost private sector investment in human capital development and staff training,

*Advancing the process of digitalization in education* by striving to ensure unhindered access to digital learning through the development of basic technical standards for information and communication technologies in educational systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

*Striving* to achieve the **share of education in GDP and public spending** at 4 to 6 %, that is, 15 to 20 %, bearing in mind the *Incheon Declaration* and the *2030 Education Framework for Action*,

*Supporting reallocation of funds within existing budgets* to respond to existing challenges in accessing education and achieving equal, quality and inclusive education,

*Acknowledging education as a driver* in delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which contributes to smart growth and a society of equal opportunities in order to deliver on the principle of Agenda 2030 Leave no one behind,

*Strengthening* our responsibilities for **delivering on SDG 4 Quality Education targets**, by developing statistical information systems, thus improving informed public policy and budget planning,

*Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment* approach to ensure that gender-responsive measures transforming the education system are indeed priority.