



**Statement of National Commitment of Transformation in Education
in the Syrian Arab Republic
Presented to Transforming Education Summit
on the sidelines of the 77th Meeting
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Introduction:

Education, in the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR), is a basic societal need of people that should not be underestimated. Considered an important component of the human development, education has been given an attention by all the State's institutions. The Constitution of the SAR stipulates the right to education for all, free of charge, without exclusion or marginalization. The government, in alignment with its commitment to continue education without interruption, is committed to implement all measures to maintain public health in schools, universities and educational institutions following procedures that prevent the spread of diseases and following approved global health protocols in cooperation with relevant international organizations. The government is committed to providing electronic distance learning platforms as alternatives to direct education. It is also committed to transform education to mainstream 21st century skills within educational curricula and in conducive school environments that embrace learning modalities such as self-learning, peer education, and flipped classrooms, to compensate the educational loss to help provide learning opportunities for all in all circumstances.

Commitment to education:

Transforming and developing education, such as curricula and pedagogical and educational tools, has become an urgent necessity to achieve the national and international economic and social sustainable development goals, to stimulate social and political commitment to appropriately promote this change, and ensure support required for a real contribution to the realization of these goals in a complex and competitive social environment that is increasingly dependent on science and knowledge in a pervasive technological revolution.



Given what the SAR has suffered during the period of war against it and the spread of the epidemic, it needs to transform education by choosing skillful learning that improves the efficiency of graduates and fosters their creativity and successful participation in the labour market and public life.

Previously, during the war the world witnessed, the ability of Syrian youth to innovate and excel. Building manpower in Syria was considered distinctive throughout history. Hence, the Ministries of Education (MoE), and Higher Education and Scientific Research, and partner ministries, in cooperation with international organizations concerned with education, such as UNICEF, UNESCO and others, in addition to many local non-governmental organizations, research centers and universities, are relentlessly committed to take advantage of global changes to transform education in Syria, through measures capable of changing the educational system in line with modern scientific aspirations and societal needs.

The Constitution of the SAR stipulates the right to education for all, free of charge, without exclusion or marginalization, and the State guarantees this right regardless of gender, disability or other factors. The SAR is also committed to developing its educational capabilities to inculcate the necessary values for learning to live together, without any kind of discrimination, in line with the principles of morality, equality and justice; fostering civic responsibility, democracy and human rights; respect for civilizations and cultures of peoples, generation's capacity and its active commitment to sustainable development.

Despite the shortage of teachers in Syria, as a result of the terroristic war on it, the State is committed to securing the necessary cadres to mitigate this shortage and improve teachers' salaries and socioeconomic status according to available capabilities, The state seeks to secure incentives related to the services teachers provide to ensure the thriving of education (compensations: support for work in-remote areas - job promotion - - exam supervision and correction - additional teaching compensations, and others). The State is also committed to providing vocational training programs pre-service and in-service training, and to ensuring an adequate distribution of teachers throughout Syria.

During the war, Syria committed itself to designing curricula developed aligned to global standards and local requirements in alignment with 21st century skills in cooperation with



UNESCO. Curricula were designed to foster national competencies necessary to achieve the purpose of learning and the society requirements, and began to be applied in schools since 2017. The curricula also incorporated the 17 sustainable development goals for greening education and fostering the sustainability of national resources. Furthermore, the curricula bolster learners' socioemotional, civic and personal capacities to prepare them for life through according a special emphasis to early childhood and adopting flexible interactive learning systems based on activities and skills.

. The MoE adopted transformative educational methods such as initiative and project-based learning, social emotional learning, life, work and citizenship skills-building and vocational guidance in the basic education to support introducing alternative learning systems that provide learning opportunities for those who haven't attend general education, such as Curriculum B and the Self-Learning Curriculum were a.

digital transformation was initiated through blended and distance learning via various educational platforms and launching virtual schools. Nevertheless, a digital gap still exists, exacerbated by electricity shortages, and lack of access to electronic devices due to the war and siege. Digital resources managed by MoE servers and platforms, compatible with educational curricula remain available and free of charge to all,.

The SAR is facing an economic reality and serious challenges due to the catastrophic repercussions of the terroristic war on it, the US and Turkish foreign occupation of parts of its lands, and plundering of its national wealth and capabilities, as well as unfair unilateral coercive measures imposed by Western countries on the Syrian State and people. This hindered the state's ability to meet the required and planned levels of quality, safe, equitable and inclusive education. But it is working hard to cover the basic costs required for education, where there is an urgent need to strengthen international cooperation that helps secure the resources needed to fulfill these commitments.

Conclusion:

The Syrian Arab Republic is committed to transforming education. It has developed short, medium and long-term plans to achieve that. It advocates for an international, depoliticized and impartial United Nations Fund that can provide equitable resources to all member states to develop the capacities of young people and inculcate the necessary values for learning to live together, without any kind of discrimination, in line with the principles of



morality, equality and justice; fostering civic responsibility, democracy and human rights; respect for civilizations and cultures of peoples, generation's capacity and its active commitment to sustainable development.. The state, popular organizations, associations and local communities are working closely with international organizations, primarily UNESCO, to reach the fourth goal of the sustainable development goals related to the quality of education SDG4, or Access to Quality Education for All in 2030.

Bashar al-Assad

President of the Syrian Arab Republic