

SDG 4 High-Level Steering Committee Meeting

8 November 2023, Paris, France

Decisions

ACCELERATING AND MONITORING PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG4

The SDG4 High-Level Steering Committee:

1. calls on all Member States, with inclusive participation of civil society organizations and other non-state actors, to accelerate progress towards SDG4 and improve SDG4 monitoring, including by:
 - (a) setting national targets for 2025 and 2030 as part of the SDG4 benchmarking process;
 - (b) reporting their transformative actions through the Dashboard of Country Commitment and Actions and the 2024 Global Education Meeting; and
 - (c) participating in the first UNESCO Conference on Education Statistics (February 2024).
2. invites Member States and partners to support and contribute to the SDG4 Knowledge Hub as the global gateway to SDG4-related data, good practices, knowledge products and other resource materials.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FINANCING

The SDG4 High-Level Steering Committee:

3. urges Member States and partners to take concrete actions to implement the Transforming Education Summit Call to Action on Educational Investment and requests its Finance Committee (FA3) to take stock of actions undertaken at global and country levels, develop a strategy for implementation by mid-2024 and report regularly to the HLSC on progress; welcomes the ongoing work of the Global Education Forum and alignment of its actions with the work of the HLSC on financing and requests it to report to the HLSC on progress; and invites all finance-related entities and initiatives to work more jointly together under the overall guidance and coordination of the HLSC Finance Committee (FA3).
4. endorses the proposals of the HLSC Task Group on the Multilateral Financing of Education Initiative (MFEI) coordinated by the Inter-Agency Secretariat, and requests the Task Group to reconvene for a final meeting to suggest implementation actions for the proposals, under the coordination of the HLSC Committee on Finance (FA3):
 - i. Develop and promote a common narrative across multilateral agencies/funds on education finance to: a) address the role of education as a foundational investment not only in economic development but as an enabler of broader sustainable development; b) build on the thematic priorities from the 2022 Transforming Education Summit to support global-level coordination and cross-sector resource mobilization; c) promote the collective role and contribution of multilateral agencies/funds in financing education in support of government priorities.
 - ii. Pursue innovative financing instruments and approaches for the education sector, considering country-level macro-economic conditions, with appropriate safeguards and upholding education as a human right, by: (a) accelerating the roll-out and scale-up of existing financing mechanisms, and (b) actively exploring new potential financing mechanisms based on the experience of other sectors to unlock additional financing for education.
 - iii. Strengthen the adherence to a government-led, inclusive strategic financing and sector planning dialogue at country level as the principal alignment mechanism for all multilateral agencies/funds and other financing partners.

5. thanks the World Bank for securing sessions on education financing at their 2023 Spring and Annual Meetings and reiterates its request to the World Bank and IMF, under the auspices of the HLSC, to maintain this periodic dialogue between finance and education ministers on prioritizing, increasing and improving education financing as a critical enabling investment.

ADVANCING THE GLOBAL EDUCATION AGENDA

The SDG4 High-Level Steering Committee:

6. calls on Member States and partners to support and participate in the TES Global Initiatives¹ and requests their conveners to report regularly to the HLSC on progress, including the implementation of their respective Calls to Action, and to share good practices through the SDG4 Knowledge Hub.
7. requests multilateral agencies and funds to reconstitute the Multilateral Education Platform (MEP) and strengthen its mandate, with guidance from the Sherpa Group, for effective multilateral leadership and engagement on HLSC priorities.
8. welcomes the Recommendations of the High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession and encourages Member States and partners to support and monitor their implementation through existing coordination and monitoring mechanisms, including the CEART², the Global Report on Teachers, and the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030.
9. calls on Member States and other stakeholders to implement the Global Youth Initiative by (a) supporting youth leadership and advocacy skills development, (b) providing opportunities for youth to engage in education decision-making processes, and (c) supporting the development of a global youth indicator.
10. calls on Member States and partners to position education strategically at the 2024 Summit of the Future and the 2025 World Social Summit, including in their outcome documents and requests the incoming HLSC Sherpa Group and its Communication Leads Network to develop and implement a global advocacy strategy.

¹ Greening education, Education in crisis situations, Digital transformation, Foundational learning, Girls' and women's empowerment

² Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel