

Identifying policy challenges hampering progress towards global education targets and commitments

4th meeting of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee

28 February-2 March 2018, Paris, France



ASPBAE Secretary-General, Maria Khan (R), with SEAMEO Deputy Director, Ethel Valenzuela, at the 4th SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee meeting in Paris.

The multi-stakeholder SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (SC) is the main global consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As mandated by the Education 2030 Framework for Action, the Steering Committee “provides strategic guidance, reviews progress drawing on the GEM report, and makes recommendations to the education community on key priorities and catalytic actions to achieve the new agenda, monitors and advocates for adequate financing, and encourage coordination and harmonization of partner activities.”

The Education 2030 Steering Committee meeting held in Paris aimed to –

1. Agree on a strategy for global review, monitoring, and reporting process, in view of HLPF 2018 and the 2019 Review.
2. Define positions and recommendations of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee on key strategic areas.
3. Refine the advocacy, communication, and outreach strategy of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee.
4. Define next steps for the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (next meeting, rotation of members, and the Global Education Meeting 2018).

Click [here](#) for the Summary of the Meeting Decisions and Recommendations.

Some of the highlights of the meeting were on issues around indicators and financing. On indicators, there was a push for the "investment case in data", something which was also put forward during the Replenishment Conference of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) held in February 2018, and which GPE and the private sector are taking forward to support.



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The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), and the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR) argued for a sum of USD280 million to that end. Civil society intervened so that the final recommendations on indicators were not all centred around measurable learning outcomes, but on formative and diagnostic evaluations as well. It was apparent that GPE will have a growing influence in the realm of indicators, especially because it will be financing work in this area, including that of UIS.

The issue of financing continued to be a cause for concern for civil society organisations (CSOs) in the meeting. A paper on ‘Innovative Financing’ was one of the core meeting papers, and a side event on this theme was convened by France, the Commission and the Global Business Coalition for Education, which revolved around bonds and the private sector. CSOs were concerned about the strong focus on the ‘financialisation of education’ during the meeting and argued for equal attention to tax justice and the reaffirmation of the commitment to free education in the discourses on education financing.

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Dankert Vedeler (L), Co-Chair of the Education 2030 Steering Committee Meeting, and UNESCO Assistant Director-General, Qian Tang, in the concluding session of the Steering Committee Meeting. Mr. Tang retired on the same day.

The Steering Committee also discussed its submission to the High-level Political Forum 2018, underscoring the role of education in the SDGs in focus: SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (clean energy), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 15 (life on land). The final submission of the Steering Committee is available [here](#).

Also at the meeting, the GEMR and Youth representative in the SC presented two campaigns on the right to education - one on justiciability of the right to education, and the other on the importance of governments to report regularly on the right to education. Both were endorsed by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee also agreed the features of the Global Education Meeting (GEM), set for 3-5 December 2018 in Brussels. As indicate in the Education 2030 Framework for Action, the GEM “*will be organised by UNESCO in consultation with the Education 2030 Steering Committee to review the Education 2030 Agenda against progress made*”. In preparation for the GEM, regional consultations will be organised in 2018 as follows -

- Pan African High-Level Conference on Education 2018: 25-27 April 2018, Nairobi, Kenya
- 4th Asia Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 4): 14-16 July 2018, Bangkok, Thailand
- Latin America and the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting: 25-26 July 2018, Sucre, Plurinational State of Bolivia
- Regional Consultation hosted by the Council of Europe: 24 October 2018, Strasbourg, France
- ALECSO Ministerial Meeting: 10 May 2018, Tunis, Tunisia
- Arab Regional Meeting on Education 2030: October-November 2018

The rotation of members of the Steering Committee was also discussed as the two-year term of the incumbent members was coming to an end in 2018. In discussions with the Coordination Group of the UNESCO Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education 2030 (CC NGO/Ed 2030), it was agreed that the two slots for civil society in the SC will be shared by – (1) the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), for another two-year term; while (2) the other civil society slot will be shared by the Arab Campaign for Education (ACEA), who will be lead in the first year (2018), and ASPBAE as lead in the second year (2019).



Civil society ensured that the final recommendations on indicators were not all centred around measurable learning outcomes, but on formative and diagnostic evaluations as well.

The next Steering Committee meeting is set for 12-13 September 2018 in Paris, France.

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This write-up is based on a report by GCE President, Camilla Croso, and ASPBAE Secretary-General, Maria Khan, to the Coordination Group of the UNESCO Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education 2030 (CC NGO/Ed 2030). The Meeting Papers can be accessed [here](#).

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