



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Digital Inclusion: addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups

Leaving No One Behind





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Access to Information at the Intersection of Sustainable Development Goals

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information



- SDG 4: UNESCO emphasizes and affirms the importance of access to information and open technologies to ensure inclusive and equitable education for the vulnerable, such as persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples.



- SDG 5: Inclusive policies must incorporate gender as a starting point; UNESCO recognizes the centrality of gender in its policies and activities, and act accordingly to guarantee access to information to all women.



- SDG 9: Resilience, inclusion and sustainable development inform each other. UNESCO is committed to achieving resilience through open science and open solutions to eliminate disparities in access to information.



UNESCO

Virtual Expert Group Meeting on “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: The role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”

6 August 2020



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Examples of UNESCO's Actions

UNESCO's tools ensure universal access to information at the Intersections of Sustainable Development Goals



Integrated normative support for implementation, monitoring and reporting on global agreements, norms and standards

- UNESCO promoted norms and standards for universal design such as Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace.



Convening of stakeholders across constituencies, leveraging of partnerships and facilitating knowledge-sharing & South-South & triangular cooperation

- UNESCO is the secretariat to the upcoming International Decade for Indigenous Languages (2022 – 2032) and the lead agency for convening the International Day for Universal Access to Information



Integrated, evidence-based policy advice and thought-leadership, to support the efforts of countries to embed SDGs into national & local plans & budgets

- UNESCO developed Learning for All: Guidelines on the Inclusion of Learners with Disabilities in Open & Distance Learning;



Capacity development and technical assistance

- UNESCO reports and monitors all activities relevant to SDG 16.10.2 while taking into considerations top priorities, such as access for persons with disabilities and gender.



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Policy Recommendations

Our recommended Strategies To Leave No One Behind

- Create national legislation for digital accessibility. Nations should develop laws to meet the ICT accessibility requirements, including as it relates to language survival in cyberspace.
- Implement Universal Design to Learning to reduce the barriers in education by providing appropriate accommodations, supports and challenges while maintaining high achievement expectations for all learners.
- Raise awareness about the benefits of open access to scientific information among policy makers, researchers and knowledge managers to foster partnerships and collaborations; open access to scientific information is also an essential tool to build resilience to climate change and health crises.
- Encourage and support capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet.



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