

Global Education Meeting 2018: collective commitment to leave no one behind in access to education



With the adoption of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the international community recognized that education was essential for the success of all 17 of its goals. Ambitions for education are essentially captured in [Sustainable Development Goal 4](#) which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” [by 2030](#).

In 2019, the High-Level Political Forum, the central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals at the global level, will have an in-depth review of SDG 4 (Education) together with the SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate action) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and their interlinkages under the auspices of ECOSOC. Moreover, 2019 will mark the first four-year cycle against which SDG 4 and its interlinkages with other SDGs are reviewed comprehensively during the 2019 United Nations General Assembly Summit.

Next week, with a focus on a review of progress towards the universal global education commitments since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and to examine the links between education and other SDGs under the review, some 350 ministers, officials, representatives of development agencies and other partners from all over the world will join the **Global Education Meeting**, to be held from 3 to 5 December, in Brussels, Belgium.

Organized by UNESCO in consultation with the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, and hosted by the Government of Belgium, the meeting will address urgent priorities in a world that still numbers 262 million out-of-school children, adolescents and youth. The data also show that 617 million children and adolescents — i.e. six out of ten — are unable to read a simple sentence or handle basic mathematic calculations. More than two-thirds of them are in school, highlighting the urgent need to improve the quality of education currently on offer.

This first Global Education Meeting since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda in 2015 will focus on the need to reduce inequalities within and among countries, in and through education. During the meeting, four high-level ministerial panels will focus on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and gender equality in education; ensuring the right to education for migrants and refugees; rethinking the role of teachers in a changing landscape; and skilling and re-skilling for life and work.

The meeting will seek to achieve following outcomes:

- An assessment of current progress towards the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 targets and commitments at global, regional and national levels, and identification of bottlenecks impeding progress;
- An identification of recommendations for strategic areas requiring political guidance and/or intervention for the effective achievement of the global Education 2030 Agenda;

- Agreement on key policy messages to input into the global 2019 HLPF Review and UN General Assembly 2019;
- Strengthening of coordinated support for implementation of SDG4-Education 2030.

Deliberations will notably be informed by UNESCO's newly released [2019 Global Education Monitoring Report](#), [Voluntary National Reviews](#), regional consultations and the on-going work of the multi-stakeholder [SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee](#).

Queen Mathilde of Belgium will officially open the meeting (4 December 2018, 2 pm) alongside Stefania Giannini, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education, Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, President of UN ECOSOC, and Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports.