



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 June 2017

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 24 April 2017 regarding the High Level SDG Action Event on Education that will take place on 28 June at UN Headquarters, New York, I hereby attach the latest draft programme together with a briefing note for Member States.

I also take this opportunity to invite your delegation to attend a briefing regarding this event on 21 June, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Conference Room 7, where my Office will address any questions you may have.

Additional information will be made available on my website (<http://www.un.org/pga/71/event-latest/high-level-event-on-education/>). For any inquiries, please contact Advisors, Ms. Naomi Parekh ([parekh1@un.org](mailto:parekh1@un.org)) or Mr. Mohammed Al-Buainain ([al-buainain@un.org](mailto:al-buainain@un.org)).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson', written in a cursive style.

Peter Thomson

To All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York.



HIGH-LEVEL SDG ACTION EVENT  
**EDUCATION**

28 June 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

- 08:15-09:30**    **BREAKFAST DISCUSSION + OPENING OF INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION**  
**MARKETPLACE EXHIBITION** | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Express Bar  
H.E. DESSIMA WILLIAMS  
Special Adviser, SDG Implementation, Office of the President of the General Assembly  
Musical Performance by Emmanuel Kelly
- Exhibition of innovative approaches to education and achieving the SDGs. Informal, standing breakfast will be served. The Exhibition is open until 18:00
- 09:30-10:20**    **OFFICIAL OPENING | ECOSOC CHAMBER**  
Musical Performance by NYC High School Student Choir  
H.E. PETER THOMSON  
President of the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly (@UN\_PGA)  
H.E. AMINA MOHAMMED  
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (@AminaJMohammed @UN)  
MS. IRINA BOKOVA  
Director-General of UNESCO (@IrinaBokova, @UNESCO)  
MR. SAUL MWAME  
Founder, Building Africa's Future Foundation
- 10:20-12:00**    **DIALOGUE: WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO ACHIEVE SDG 4? | ECOSOC CHAMBER**
- Moderated, dynamic discussion between Ministerial-level participants and panelists on what's needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 by 2030
- H.E. JORGE SAMPAIO  
Former President of Portugal, Global Platform for Syrian Students  
H.E. JU-HO LEE  
Former Minister of Education, Republic of Korea  
MS. KOUMBA BOLY BARRY  
Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education  
MS. ALICE ALBRIGHT  
CEO, Global Partnership for Education (@AliceAlbright, @GPforEducation)
- 12:00-13:00**    **INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION | ECOSOC CHAMBER**  
**MODERATOR**  
MR. VIKAS POTA  
CEO, Varkey Foundation  
**PANELISTS**  
MS. LESLEE UDWIN  
Founder & CEO, Think Equal (@ThinkEqualorg)  
MR. SHAI RESHEF  
President and Founder, University of the People (@UoPeople)  
MS. MAGGIE MACDONNELL  
Winner, Global Teacher Prize 2017





# HIGH-LEVEL SDG ACTION EVENT **EDUCATION**

28 June 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

**MS. ASMAA ALFADALA**

Director of Research and Content Development, World Innovation Summit for Education – Qatar (@WISE\_tweets)

**RESPONDENT**

**MR. MUHAMMAD USMAN**

Executive Director, Centre for Renewable Energy & Action on Climate Change

13:00-15:00

**LUNCH BREAK**

13:00-15:00

**YOUTH ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION | 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR EXPRESS BAR**

Organized by UNESCO's MGIEP, the iTAge (Talking across Generations) model will engage young people and career experts in a candid discussion about education. The event will be streamed online.

15:00-16:30

**EDUCATION IN VULNERABLE AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATIONS | ECOSOC CHAMBER**

**MODERATOR**

**MR. DEAN BROOKS**

Director, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies

**PANELISTS**

**MS. CAROLINE MILES**

CEO, Save the Children, USA (@Savethechildren)

**MR. OMAR ABDI**

Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF (@UNICEF)

**MR. FAHAD AL-SULAITI**

CEO, Education Above All – Qatar (@EAA\_Foundation)

**MS. YASMINE SHERIF**

Director, Education Cannot Wait (@UNICEF)

**MR. GEOFFREY LOANE**

Education Adviser to the Director of Operations, ICRC

**RESPONDENTS**

**MS. PETRA NEMCOVA**

Happy Hearts Fund (@HappyHeartsFund)

**MR. DOR AKECH ACHIEK**

Settlement Services International

16:30-17:30

**EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP | ECOSOC CHAMBER**

**MODERATOR**

**MR. DANKERT VEDELER**

Assistant Director-General, Ministry of Education, Norway; Co-Chair of the Education 2030 Steering Committee (@Education2030UN)

**PANELISTS**

**H.E. HAHN CHOONGHEE**

Co-Chair, Group of Friends on Education for Global Citizenship

**MS. SUSAN HOPGOOD**

President, Education International (@EduInternational)





HIGH-LEVEL SDG ACTION EVENT  
**EDUCATION**

28 June 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

**MS. MAY EAST**  
Chief Executive, Gaia Education (@GaiaEducation)

**MS. FRAN SIRACUSA**  
Member, Global Goals Educator Task Force (@TeachSDGs)

**RESPONDENTS**

**MS. SANAYA BHARUCHA**  
Teach for India, Senior Manager, Student Leadership

**MS. MUSARRAT MAISHA REZA**  
Director of Programme Design and Development, Be the Peace-Be the Hope

17:30-18:00

**CLOSING SESSION**

**H.E. DESSIMA WILLIAMS**  
Special Adviser, SDG Implementation, Office of the President of the General Assembly  
**MS. IRINA BOKOVA**

Director-General of UNESCO (@IrinaBokova, @UNESCO)  
RAPPORTEUR from iTAGe Youth Roundtable Discussion

18:15-20:00

**RECEPTION | DELEGATES DINING ROOM**  
Musical Performance by **MS. YASMINE DE VITL**



## Briefing Note for Member States

### Meeting overview

The High-level SDG Action Event on Education will consist of 5 main segments:

- A High-level Opening Segment
- A Scene-setting Ministerial Dialogue on “Tackling SDG 4... What will it take?”
- A Panel on Innovations in Education
- A Panel on Education in Emergencies, Conflict and Humanitarian Situations
- A Panel on Global Citizenship Education; Education for sustainable development

### Member state engagement

Member states are encouraged to engage in discussions throughout the day. In particular, a Ministerial Dialogue will be dedicated to a discussion with high level Member State representatives on what it will take to achieve SDG4. Member states will also have an opportunity to engage in the interaction panel discussions throughout the day, time permitting. Please note that there will be no speakers list or plenary debate during this meeting. Member States who wish to intervene, are encouraged to press the button on the console.

### Ministerial Dialogue: Tackling SDG 4... What will it take?

#### **Objective**

Showcase opportunities, challenges and solutions to push for universal access to quality lifelong education; address the need for adequate, effective and accountable financing for free primary and secondary education.

#### **Structure**

The Ministerial Dialogue will start at 10:20am, immediately after the end of the High-level opening, and will continue for approximately 100 minutes, until 12 noon. It is structured to be as interactive and engaging as possible.

The Moderator will begin by introducing the panel and structure. The moderator will then engage a number of the panelists by posing guiding questions. The moderator will then seek the views of a number of Member States represented at Ministerial level or equivalent. The moderator will revert to the remaining panelists for their views. The moderator will then engage with remaining Member States represented at Ministerial level or equivalent. The Dialogue will end with observations from other meeting participants, time permitting.

Member states participating in this Dialogue are discouraged from making formal statements. Contribution will be limited to three minutes. Member State statements can be uploaded to UN Papersmart.

#### **Format**

**Moderator:** (TBC)

**Panelists:**

- H.E. JORGE SAMPAIO: Former President of Portugal, Global Platform for Syrian Students
- MS. KOUMBA BOLY BARRY: Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education
- H.E. JU-HO LEE: Former Minister of Education, Republic of Korea
- MS. ALICE ALBRIGHT: CEO, Global Partnership for Education

**Guiding questions:**

- What has your government achieved in access to quality, inclusive education and how can you continue to push for meaningful/tangible progress towards the 2020 and 2030 deadlines?
- How can governments, civil society and the private sector work together to ensure that the right to quality education is realized and accessible to all?
- How do we ensure sustainable financing to meet the targets of SDG 4? What are the barriers to achieving sustainable financing?
- What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the education sector – as of today, 28 June in the year 2017 - and what are your solutions to overcome these challenges?

**Important Information**

**PowerPoint Presentations:** PowerPoint presentations are discouraged during the Ministerial Dialogue to allow for active discussion.

**Social Media:** #SDG4Action, #GlobalGoals, @UN\_PGA

(please refer to programme for speaker/ organization Twitter handles). If your Minister is interested in creating a quote card for use on social media, please submit their photo, title and a brief quote (max 150 characters) to [parekh1@un.org](mailto:parekh1@un.org) and [kandt@un.org](mailto:kandt@un.org).

**Filming & Photography:** The meeting will be webcast and archived at [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org). The Event will be photographed.

**Interpretation:** Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Russian, Mandarin and Spanish will be in use. We kindly ask that you consider speaking at a slower pace to ensure ease of interpretation. Interpretation will be available from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm; 3 pm – 6 pm.

**Ministerial Interventions:** The Ministerial Dialogue is the dedicated framing panel for Ministers to share their views with participants. Ministers are also welcome to contribute to other panel discussions, time permitting. There will be no formal inscription. We anticipate 16-18 Ministers in attendance.

**Meals:** At 8:15 am, there will be an informal breakfast for all meeting attendees in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Express Bar where the Innovations in Education Marketplace will take place. The Ministers will be invited to attend a VIP lunch in the Delegate's Dining Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor) starting at 1pm, immediately following the Panel on Innovations. Formal invitation to attend the lunch to follow. Invitations are non-transferrable. A formal reception will be held after the closing of the meeting (Delegate's Dining Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)).

**Accreditation Information:** Permanent Missions of the Minister's country will arrange for accreditation and passes for their Minister and their Minister's delegation.

If you have any questions, please contact: Mohammed Al-Buainain at +1 929 258 2536 / [al-buainain@un.org](mailto:al-buainain@un.org) or Naomi Parekh at +1 917 436 0214 / [parekh1@un.org](mailto:parekh1@un.org)

**Panellist Bios**

**H.E. JORGE SAMPAIO: Former President of Portugal, Global Platform for Syrian Students**

Jorge Sampaio was president of the Portuguese Republic (1996–2006), United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (2007–2013), and United Nations Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis (2006–2012).



In May, 2006, Mr. Sampaio was appointed by the United Nations secretary-general as his first special envoy for the Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis. He ended his tenure in December, 2012. In April, 2007, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon designated him as high representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, a position he held until February, 2013. In 2013 he founded the Global Platform for Syrian Students ([www.globalplatformforsyrianstudents.org](http://www.globalplatformforsyrianstudents.org)), an emergency scholarship programme aimed at allowing Syrian students affected by the war to continue their studies and graduate. He has also become a strong advocator in the international arena of the importance of boosting higher education opportunities in emergencies and protracted crises, making the case for a global, sustainable and systemic solution.

**MS. KOUMBA BOLY BARRY: Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education**

A new Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Dr. Koumbou Boly Barry, from Burkina Faso, took office on 1st August 2016 following her appointment at the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council.



Dr. Boly Barry holds a PhD in Economic History from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal. She is the former Minister of Education and Literacy of Burkina Faso and has consulted widely for various governments and international institutions on the right to education. Dr. Boly has been an advocate on gender issues in education. She also has ample knowledge and experience in training and research, a visiting professor at University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, University of Louvain La Neuve Belgium, a lecturer at Ouagadougou University, Burkina Faso, Vitoria University, Brazil and Fribourg University, Switzerland. She replaces Mr. Kishore Singh from India.

**H.E. JU-HO LEE: Former Minister of Education, Republic of Korea**

Professor Ju-Ho Lee served as Minister of Education, Science, and Technology of the Republic of Korea (2010-2013). Before joining the ministry as Vice Minister in 2009, he was Senior



Secretary to the President for Education, Science, and Culture. He has been noted for his education reform endeavors as a member of the National Assembly. His policy entrepreneurship began when he worked as a research fellow in Korea Development Institute (KDI) and as a professor of KDI Public Policy and Management. He has written many articles and several books, including “Private Tutoring and Demand for Education in South Korea” (2010) and Positive Changes: The Education, Science & Technology Policies of Korea (2012).

He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Seoul National University and his Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University in 1990. After his 9-year service in the Korean parliament and government, he returned to academia in 2013 as a professor at the KDI School of Public Policy and Management. Utilizing his experience as a high-rank public servant, he actively resumed his research on human capital and innovation policies. He is also working for the international community as a Commissioner of the International Commission on Financing the Global Educational Opportunities. His recent research has covered a wide range of issues, such as the measurement of 21st century skills, changes in pedagogies, opening-up strategies in education reforms, and innovation ecosystems.

**MS. ALICE ALBRIGHT: CEO, Global Partnership for Education**

Ms. Alice P. Albright was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of the Global Partnership for Education's Secretariat in February 2013. Since joining GPE, Ms. Albright has strengthened the position of GPE to be a major delivery agency of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.



The Global Partnership for Education is made up of 65 developing country governments, as well as other donor governments, civil society organizations/NGOs, teacher organizations, international organizations, and private sector organizations and foundations. Their common mission is to mobilize global and national efforts to contribute to the achievement of equitable, quality education and learning for all, through inclusive partnership, a focus on effective and efficient education systems and increased financing.

Before taking on her role as CEO at GPE, Ms. Albright served in the Obama Administration as the Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) from 2009 to 2013. In that position she led a significant expansion of the bank's operations. Ms. Albright also launched a number of initiatives to modernize Ex-Im and extend its reach to underserved businesses and markets.

From 2001 to 2009, Ms. Albright served as the Chief Financial and Investment Officer for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) and from 2003, additionally, as the head of GAVI's Washington, DC office. Working closely with GAVI's partners, she helped develop and implement the strategy that transformed GAVI from a start-up to one of the most successful and respected public-private partnerships working in international development. Ms. Albright led GAVI's innovative finance program, which enhanced the delivery and financing of vaccines and immunization services in the world's poorest countries. She also led GAVI's efforts to design and launch the International Finance Facility for Immunization, an award-winning program to enhance GAVI's ability to finance the purchase of vaccines.

(Amended bio)