

**High-Level Interactive Dialogue
Aligning Inclusive Quality Education Policies with Sustainable
Development Goals**

**INDIA STATEMENT
by
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Trusteeship Council Chamber

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Mr. President,

We thank you for convening this high-level interactive dialogue on 'Aligning Inclusive Quality Education Policies with Sustainable Development Goals'.

The briefers have already elaborated upon the centrality of inclusive and quality education in achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite significant progress made in increasing access to basic education to every child, more conventional challenges such as lack of funding, lack of physical and pedagogic infrastructure, exclusion due to disability and gender, poverty, hunger and lack of nutrition continue to pose formidable challenges.

It is estimated that 69 million new teachers are required to achieve universal primary and secondary education by 2030. Meanwhile, less than three-quarters of teachers are trained to national standards.

There is currently a \$39 billion gap to providing quality education to all children by 2030. While developing countries need to allocate more resources to education, international aid and cooperation in education sector for developing countries remains an important piece in the puzzle.

While we continue to grapple with these challenges, the solutions must cater to a digital society and economy. Current education system is largely a product of

brick and mortar industrial age. We need fundamental reforms of education system meet the requirement of the digital age.

In order to prevent structural unemployment in the future, education today needs to foster skills that will be relevant to pupils when they enter the job market. As automation and AI promise to replace most recurring tasks, memory recall functions and even data management, humans have to focus on their human qualities that are difficult to be replicated by machines.

21st century education system needs to focus on developing human skills such as compassion, creativity, critical thinking and communication.

Education offers an untapped opportunity to combat climate change. Promoting the principles and practices of sustainable development through education are important.

By focusing on new technologies, such as Virtual Reality, ed-tech can offer unique learning experience. We need edu-tech solutions that helps to address the barriers of distance and quality and creates opportunities for life-long learning.

Mr. President,

In the spirit of South-South cooperation, we established the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme which provides capacity building assistance to 160 partner countries. With the focus on our immediate neighborhood and our African partners, it offers around 13,000 scholarships every year to professionals across a wide range of expertise.

Last year, we launched the e-Vidya Bharti (Tele-education) project for Africa, it enables students to access premier Indian education through the comforts of their homes. The tele-education portal www.iLearn.gov.in, provides access for African students to over 500 courses in various disciplines. The portal would also offer 15,000 scholarships for students from Africa to pursue courses at premier Universities of India.

We have recently initiated a project under India-UN Development Partnership Fund to upgrade the infrastructure of an educational institution in Palau which will also be used as a venue for a forthcoming international conference.

An educated society is the pivot of dynamic economies. Let us work together with all stakeholders to accord high priority to inclusive and quality education in implementation of SDGs.

I thank you.