

Transforming Education Summit (TES)

Workstream 2: Thematic Action Tracks

Terms of Reference – 29 April 2022

Overview

The Thematic Action Tracks work stream will spotlight five areas that require greater attention and action and that can accelerate progress on education and the 2030 Agenda and transform education.

Through a series of open consultations at the global level, they seek to identify evidence-based examples of successful policy interventions; mobilize new commitments to action, building on and strengthening existing initiatives; and identify key elements for education to be fit for the future.

The themes of the Action Tracks are universally relevant and reflect the lifelong learning perspective of SDG 4. Equity and gender equality, as well as education in emergencies will be mainstreamed in each Thematic Action Track. The following are the five thematic action tracks for the Summit:

1. Inclusive, equitable, safe, and healthy schools
2. Learning and skills for life, work, and sustainable development
3. Teachers, teaching and the teaching profession
4. Digital learning and transformation
5. Financing of education

The changes that the Actions Tracks seek to promote should encompass the **immediate needs** to be tackled (especially, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic), **medium-term changes** needed to advance on SDG 4, and the transformations needed in education systems and societies in a **longer term**.

Action Tracks do not exist in silos. They involve key stakeholders and actors within and beyond the education sector. In substance and in practice, Action Tracks must be mutually supporting and explicitly recognize and incorporate linkages and synergies across each other. Arrangements will be put in place to ensure each track works together in a collaborative and coordinated manner.

Key Deliverables

Each Action Track is expected to:

- **Prepare a short discussion paper** that sets out the overall ambition (i.e., desired changes and transformations), challenges, opportunities, and possible solutions. The discussion paper should also identify opportunities for the Action Track to address equity and gender equality and to produce co-benefits for the other Action Tracks, also paying attention to the situations of emergency and crisis.
- **Hold open and inclusive consultations**, drawing on the discussion paper, aimed at:
 - Identifying good practices and innovations that have led to or have promising results in each thematic area, to be consolidated into an online catalogue curated by the Summit secretariat.
 - Mobilizing new commitments to action, building on and strengthening existing initiatives, partnerships and coalitions, and proactively engaging with “pace setter” (or champion) countries.

- Identifying elements that are critical to transforming education into the future, including those that require greater international cooperation, to feed into the Summit outcome document.
- **Distill key recommendations** and present an update on discussions for Pre-Summit consideration.
- **Provide a contribution** to the Summit in September that captures key recommendations, top innovations, commitments to action and proposals for future action.

Expected Roles of the Action Track Leadership and Members

Each action track will be co-led by two member states and one leading stakeholder, with substantive support provided by the UN support team. The Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Summit and the Summit secretariat will support the coherent work of each track.

(1) The Member State Co-Leads of each Action Track are expected to:

- Co-lead the Action Track with the Stakeholder Co-Lead and guide the UN support team in the development of key materials including the discussion paper and inputs to the Pre-Summit and the Summit.
- Co-convene a minimum of twice monthly consultation meetings of the Action Track.
- Participate in coordination meetings among the co-leads of the Action Tracks.
- Encourage other Member States to support and participate in Action Track activities.
- Ensure that the Action Track process is conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner and reflects the universal, lifelong learning perspectives, mainstreaming equity and gender equality.

(2) The Stakeholder Co-Lead is expected to:

- Co-lead the Action Track with the Member State Co-Leads and guide the UN support team in the development of key materials including the discussion paper and inputs to the Pre-Summit and the Summit.
- Co-convene a minimum of twice monthly consultation meetings of the Action Track.
- Participate in coordination meetings among the co-leads of the Action Tracks.
- Provide leadership in encouraging stakeholders' engagement in the work of the Action Track, particularly young people.

(3) UN anchor agency and alternate anchor agency of the UN support team are expected to:

- Provide technical support to the Co-Leads in the content development of the Action Track, including the discussion paper, the substantive contributions for the Pre-Summit and the contribution for the Summit.
- Support the Co-Leads in convening meetings and discussions around the Action Track.
- Regularly update the TES Secretariat on the progress being made.
- Using an open-source methodology, curate key papers, activities, organizations, and thinkers to serve as the evidence base.
- Develop, with the TES Secretariat, the definition and criteria for the selection of good practices and innovations; lead the identification, documentation, and synthesis.

(4) Action Track members (including Member States, technical institutions, UN agencies, advocacy groups, civil society groups, private sector and multi-stakeholder coalitions, etc.) – are expected to:

- Actively participate in and promote the ideas and work of the Action Track through available online platforms, social and other media and in meetings of the track.
- Advocate for the Action Track and the work thereunder at local, national and global levels.
- Support and participate in the identification and documentation of good practices and innovations.
- Develop partnerships beyond the Action Track itself with an eye for broad inputs and buy in as well as later implementation (global, regional, national, local; civil society, private sector, academia, etc.) and public outlines of these commitments and projects/discussions.
- Support and provide constructive comments to the Action Track activities and outputs.

(5) Special Adviser and the Summit Secretariat:

- Convene co-leads on a monthly basis to discuss progress, coherence and challenges.
- Provide ongoing guidance, templates and support to facilitate the work of each track.

Key Milestones and Timeline

The following table provides an indication of the expected milestones during different phases of the process towards and beyond the Summit.

Key Milestones	Responsibility	Timeline
<p>Action Track Initiation (late March – mid-May 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize selection of co-leads and support team. • Prepare and revise the draft discussion papers. • Convene the first open consultation of the Action Track to discuss the draft discussion papers (week of 9 May). • Share information to be included in the national consultations, public engagement, TES Advisory Committee meetings. 	Co-leads and Action Track teams	Revised discussion papers by 13 May
<p>Pre-Summit Preparation (May – mid-June 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene at least two open consultations per month, informed by the Discussion Papers. • Develop proposals to strengthen and align activities of existing coalitions/partnerships/platforms. • Encourage, moderate and curate entries of good practice and innovations and prepare a synthesis. • Prepare key recommendations and an update of Action Tracks for the Pre-Summit. • Participate and develop parallel session/side events on Action Tracks at the Pre-Summit. 	Co-leads and Action Track teams	Initial set of curated entries by 20 May Second draft discussion papers by 3 June Pre-Summit: 29-30 June
<p>Summit preparation (early-July – September 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene at least two open consultations per month to prepare a contribution to the Summit. • Refine proposals, solutions and enablers based on feedback and ideas from the online entries and the Pre-Summit. • Collaborate with key leaders and Member States moving ideas to action and national political commitments. • Identify relevant case studies, initiatives, leaders for featuring in the Summit. • Submit final contribution to the Summit by end of August 	Co-leads and Action Track teams	Final contribution to the Summit: mid-August

<p>The Summit (September 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summit engagement, advocacy, and amplification with networks. 	<p>Action Track teams</p>	<p>September 2022</p>
<p>Beyond the Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-Summit follow up and implementation and support to Member States. 	<p>SDG4- Education 2030 High-Level Steering Committee with Action Track teams</p>	<p>October 2022 and beyond</p>