



Organization's name: Bridge 47

Organization's Website: [www.bridge47.org](http://www.bridge47.org)

Organization's Focal Point name, title and email here: Rilli Lappalainen, Chair and Founder, [rilli.lappalainen@bridge47.org](mailto:rilli.lappalainen@bridge47.org)

### **Chapeau**

Bridge47 welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the Zero Draft Pact for the Future, which must constitute a commitment by all to increase common political will, leadership and ambition to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Summit of the Future must mark a defining point at which efforts are accelerated to collectively agree actionable steps to tackle current challenges, deliver on commitments, and ensure that future generations inherit a more sustainable, just and equal world. The Pact for the Future must include strengthened recognition of the multiplier role of Transformative Education, and SDG Target 4.7 in particular, as an accelerating force in achieving all of the SDGs. The critical importance of Transformative Education was highlighted by the UN Secretary General at the 2023 SDG Summit and the Transforming Education Summit of 2022. It is imperative that the Pact for the Future reflect the UNSG's leadership in strategically prioritizing the enabling and transformative role of education as a cross-cutting theme, essential to achieving Agenda 2030 commitments.

### **Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development**

The main source of finance to help countries increase and improve basic services, social protection, environmental protection, infrastructure, and other vital public investments like education will always be domestic tax revenues, which is why it is critically important to stop the tax avoidance, evasion and tax competition that is undermining tax collection.

Transformative Education is recognized as an essential enabler of the entire SDG Agenda and is thus critically important to achieving sustainable development. Target 4.7 commits to ensuring that all learners acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development, as empowered and active global citizens, participating in decisions which affect them, and ensuring development is sustainable and equitable for future generations.

### **Chapter II. International peace and security**

With ever-increasing threats to democratic values, human rights, and freedoms, and complex multiple crises directly impacting on international peace and security, including the climate

emergency, poverty, and food and water insecurity, Transformative Education is more important than ever in ensuring a widespread understanding of what it means to be a global citizen. Target 4.7 aims to ensure that everyone is equipped with the understanding and skills to become empowered global citizens, working towards social justice, solidarity, and equality to achieve a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

### **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

Active global citizens, equipped with skills in innovation, systems thinking, critical thinking, managing change, and resilience, along with a greater understanding of an increasingly interconnected world, can be global change-makers and help create a more sustainable and just world. Transformative Education, as outlined in SDG Target 4.7, must therefore underpin all developments in science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation.

At the Transforming Education Summit, UNESCO and UNICEF launched Gateways to Public Digital Learning, a global, multi-partner initiative to support countries in securing equitable access to digital learning resources. The new Initiative will map, describe and analyze existing public platforms and content; help countries create and strengthen national platforms; identify and share best practices; and establish international norms and standards to guide the development of platforms in ways that advance national and international goals for education. The critical media literacy is fundamentally important element on that.

### **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

Education is critical to accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, and quality lifelong education, which empowers everyone to become active agents of change, contributes to improving social, cultural, economic, and political structures to create a better world for future generations. The Pact for the Future must therefore not only recognize, but strategically prioritize, the enabling role of education, ensuring a whole-of-society approach to achieve the SDGs collectively and effectively. Educators, including civil society organizations, are crucial actors in accelerating these efforts in the formal, non-formal and informal education sectors, and in ensuring that understanding and awareness around the SDGs amongst the global public is increased.

In a world of increasing inequalities, with threats to civil society space and democratic values, and unprecedented and complex global crises, it is essential that all education – formal, informal, lifelong, and life-wide - include learning around social justice, sustainability, and equality. SDG Target 4.7 recognizes the central role of Global Citizenship Education (GCE)/Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in empowering learners with both knowledge and skills to tackle the root causes of injustice and inequality. The Pact for the Future must explicitly recognize that active global citizens, equipped with skills in critical thinking, systems thinking, innovation, and resilience, along with a greater understanding of solidarity, equality, and sustainability in an interconnected world, can be global change-makers.

Practical and actionable measures to ensure this could include:

- A commitment to the strategic prioritization of quality Transformative Education, in particular Global Citizenship Education/Education for Sustainable Development, within all global and

national policies, and a recognition that education should be lifelong and life wide.

- Dedicated funding for Global Citizenship Education/Education for Sustainable Development, both at a global and national level, reflecting this strategic prioritization.

- A commitment to increasing awareness and understanding, both among policymakers and the global public, of Global Citizenship Education/Education for Sustainable Development as a transformative force, and enabler to achieve all the SDGs.

- A recognition that all citizens should be empowered to participate in decisions which affect them, and that Global Citizenship Education/Education for Sustainable Development policies should specifically ensure the inclusion of marginalized and oppressed.

## **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

Transforming global governance requires informed, engaged, and active citizens, who are committed to ensuring a more just and sustainable world for future generations. The delivery of Agenda 2030 will not be possible without a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach at both global and national levels. Transformative Education must be an essential element underpinning global governance, to ensure that systems are based on equality, human rights, social justice, inclusivity, and effective participation.