

Ministerial Meeting

Education for All in Latin America and the Caribbean: Assessment and post-2015 challenges”

Regional Project of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (PRELAC)

Lima, Peru, 30-31 October 2014
Hotel JW Marriot, Miraflores

Concept note

1. With less than 500 days until the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the six “Education for All” (EFA) targets, the UN and UNESCO have been accelerating efforts to assist Member States in meeting these goals while also mobilising the world to define the post-2015 development agenda.
2. Regarding EFA, a series of ministerial conferences are being organised as a direct follow-up to the Global Education Meeting (GEM) of Muscat, Oman, 12-14 May 2014, and in preparation for the Global “Education for All” Forum to be held in South Korea, May 19-22, 2015. These meetings take stock of the discussions in the UN General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the post-2015.
3. From a regional perspective, UNESCO Santiago has undertaken a series of consultations with Member States, UN agencies, UN Regional Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CSOs, regional groups and various development partners to: (a) assess the progress achieved by the region in meeting the 2015 EFA targets, and (b) reflect on the education issues and challenges of the region for the cycle 2015-30.
4. For point (a), UNESCO Santiago is preparing a synthesis report on EFA progress in the region, based upon the national EFA progress reports that all LAC countries are completing by the 2nd half of 2014. This is an in-depth analytical exercise that not only assesses regional EFA progress, takes stock of the achievements and lessons learned, but also identifies unfinished tasks and emerging themes that are likely to configure the post-2015 education agenda.
5. For point (b), in January 2013, UNESCO Santiago launched a process of analysis to give impetus to the design of the post-2015 education agenda for the region. This has been carried out mainly through a series of events and technical meetings, notably a ministerial meeting in January 2013 in Mexico.
6. On that occasion, the Ministers of Education reached consensus on the main issues to be included in the post-2015 education agenda, validated a roadmap to guide the efforts of UNESCO and Member States in the design of the post-2015 education agenda, and called for enhanced convergence between the future post-2015 education agenda and (at that time) the upcoming OWG-led Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The education scenario in LAC presents various characteristics (also agreed by the Ministers) which will guide the meeting in Lima and the post-2015 education agenda:
 - Education is a fundamental human right and the basis for guaranteeing the realization of other rights.
 - Since the major challenge in the LAC region is inequality and its consequences on the progress of countries, a key principle for the post-2015 education agenda is the reduction of inequality and poverty through the provision of quality education for all. High levels of inequality are observed in all countries, with social class, ethnic origin and geographic location being important determinants.
 - Quality education for all is an essential condition for tackling inequality, poverty and for creating more inclusive societies. Quality in education is a broad, multi-faceted concept that implies a holistic approach towards life-long learning.
 - The concept of sustainable human development should be at the core of all efforts to promote social development that is both inclusive and equitable.
 - Education should promote active and effective citizenship both locally and globally as well as contribute to strengthening democracy, fostering dialogue and conflict resolution, thus mitigating all forms of extremism and violence.
 - Educational systems should offer under- and unemployed out-of school youth with viable alternatives to allow for social and workplace integration.
8. UNESCO General Conference of November 2013, committed to promoting an overarching goal on education “based upon the key principles of access, equity, quality, in the perspective of lifelong learning during international discussions on the global education agenda” much in line with the above-mentioned LAC principles.
9. The process to determine the post-2015 education goal, targets and strategies will culminate at the World Education Forum 2015 in May 2015 in South Korea. At that meeting a Framework for Action on Education 2015-30 will be adopted, with a view to the UN General Assembly of September 2015 where the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs) will also be adopted.
10. In this connection, UNESCO Santiago is organising, jointly with the Minister of Education of Peru, the regional Ministerial Meeting “**Education for All in Latin America and the Caribbean: Assessment and post-2015 challenges**”, in Lima, on 30-31 October 2014.
11. The meeting of Lima will bring together ministers and high-level officials of ministries of education from LAC countries as well as UN agencies, CSOs/NGOs, development partners and stakeholders in education to discuss issues, challenges and priorities for education beyond 2015 on the basis of the regional and national EFA reviews.

Objectives

12. The main objectives of the meeting in Lima are:

- a) A review and analysis of EFA progress in the LAC region: achievements, challenges and lessons learned, followed by a debate on education priorities for the post-2015.
- b) Discussion of regional perspectives on the proposed post-2015 education goals and targets, with reference to the Muscat Agreement and the current proposal (Goal 4.) of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.
- c) A general debate and contribution to the post-2015 Framework for Action, including follow-up and means of implementation of the future education agenda (2015-30) i.e. partnerships, financing and monitoring.

Expected results

13. The expected results of the meeting in Lima are:

- a) A statement to be adopted by the ministers of education that captures their regional vision and priorities for the post-2015 education agenda; and
- b) A roadmap on the design, implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 education agenda in the region.

Working language and participants

14. The working languages of the meeting will be Spanish and English. There will be simultaneous interpretation. The participation will be by invitation. The following are the categories of participants:

- Representatives of UNESCO Member States in the LAC region. Each Member State is invited to send a delegation of wide composition considering the range of topics and sector-wide issues
- Representatives of relevant ministries, such as ministries of finance, labour, and planning
- Representatives of NGOs and CSOs, both national and international
- Representatives of UN agencies (especially but not only the EFA convenors)
- Representatives of regional and sub-regional groups e.g. OEI, OAS, CARICOM, MERCOSUR, UNASUR, CELAC, etc.
- Representatives of development banks, foundations and bilateral partners.
- Representatives of the private and corporate sector.
- Individual experts from research centres and universities.



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Santiago Office
Regional Bureau of Education for
Latin America and the Caribbean

Oficina de Santiago
Oficina Regional de Educación
para América Latina y el Caribe

Date and Venue

15. The Conference will take place in Lima, Peru, on 30-31 October 2014 at the Hotel JW Marriot, Miraflores.

General information and working documents

16. More information as well as the working documents can be found in the Website:

[Education for All and Post-2015](#)