



Concept Note for the Panel **Financing for SDG4-Education 2030: Leaving no one behind - what will it take to narrow inequity gaps?**

25 April – 10am - 12am
Room IV, UNESCO HQ, Paris

Objectives

This event, organized by UNESCO, in collaboration with the Global Campaign for Education, will explore and define opportunities and challenges in financing the new education agenda, particularly in terms of addressing the needs of the most marginalized populations. Held on 25 April during the 2016 Global Action Week for Education, the event will follow-up closely on the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (18-22 April 2016), and offer input for the first World Humanitarian Summit (23-24 May 2016), as well as the HLPF on Sustainable Development (11-20 July 2016). It will provide an opportunity to advocate for urgent action to increase the scale and efficiency of investment in the global education agenda and in reaching those most in need.

Background

With the adoption of the new global development agenda in September 2015, the international community set an ambitious education goal by calling for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. One of the key lessons learnt from Education for All is that if the vulnerable and the excluded are not reached, the promise of the new education agenda will not be fulfilled. Therefore, SDG 4 pays particular attention to inclusion and equity and to leaving no one behind. The Incheon Declaration emphasizes: “*No education target should be considered met unless met by all*”. Given the broadened scope of the agenda, redoubled efforts from all governments, donors and other entities will be required. The cost of reaching universal pre-primary, primary and secondary education of good quality in low and lower middle income countries alone is projected to increase from US\$149 billion in 2012 to US\$340 billion, on average, between 2015 and 2030.¹ The total cost will more than triple in low income countries². The projected

¹ UNESCO (2015): *Education for All Global Monitoring Report. Policy Paper: Pricing the right to education: The cost of reaching new targets by 2030.*

increase reflects a combination of greater numbers of students and higher per-student expenditure to improve quality and address marginalization. But these estimates do not take into account the full ambition of the new education goal and its lifelong learning targets, since they do not include the costs of post-secondary education and adult literacy. The cost of attaining the entire goal will therefore be significantly higher.

In many countries, moving towards universal primary and secondary education and reducing disparity in learning will depend on governments targeting resources towards children from marginalized households and communities. Studies show that children who are most excluded from education are also those on whom governments spend the least,³ despite an extremely strong business case to be made for investing in education of the marginalized. Around 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in poor countries had basic reading skills⁴. Each year of additional schooling has been estimated to increase individual earnings by 10%, empowering women and men to lift themselves out of poverty⁵. These marginalized populations therefore need affirmative policies and funding. It is assumed that, given the interventions needed to address the disadvantages faced by children living in poverty, per-student costs will need to increase by up to 40%⁶.

Considering the high levels of additional investment required to reach the targets of the new agenda, the insufficient domestic expenditure on education in a number of countries⁷ and a decrease of almost 10% in international assistance since 2010⁸, who will be financing equitable education and learning opportunities and how? What types of new sources and resources could be mobilized? Which groups should be regarded as the most marginalized? How to guarantee that the most disadvantaged benefit from the resources? With half of the current out-of-school children living in fragile and conflict-affected countries, how to ensure a more equitable distribution of resources by country, sector and level of education?

Suggested panelists:

- **Speakers:**
- **Norway:** Ambassador Tarald Brautaset, the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs' Special Envoy for Education and focal point for the Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity
- **Ethiopia:** Mr Fuad Omer, Deputy Permanent Delegate, Permanent Delegation of Ethiopia to UNESCO
- **OECD:** Mr Andreas Schleicher, Director, Directorate for Education and Skills
- **ODI:** Ms Romilly Greenhill, Team Leader on Development Finance, Overseas Development Institute

² Ibid.

³ UNICEF (2015): *The Investment Case for Education and Equity*

⁴ UNESCO (2012): *Education for All Global Monitoring Report. Youth and Skills – Putting Education at work.*

⁵ UNESCO (2010): *Education for All Global Monitoring Report. Reaching the Marginalized.*

⁶ UNESCO (2015): *Education for All Global Monitoring Report. Policy Paper: Pricing the right to education: The cost of reaching new targets by 2030.*

⁷ UNESCO (2015): *Education for All Global Monitoring Report: Education for All 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges*

⁸ Ibid.

- **GCE:** Mr David Archer, Head of Programme Development with ActionAid, Global Campaign for Education Board Member
- **GEM:** Mr Manos Antoninis, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Education Monitoring Report
- Ms Teopista Birungi, Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU) founder, Deputy Director Education Services, Kampala Capital City Authority, member of the Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity
- **Moderator:** Mr Jordan Naidoo, Director, Division for Education 2030 Support and Coordination, UNESCO

A video message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, will be shown during the panel.

A video message from Ms Alice Albright, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Partnership for Education, will be shown during the panel.

Invitees

Invitees to attend in Room IV: ILO, OECD, International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, Members States' Permanent Delegations, UNESCO ED Sector staff, International Institute for Educational Planning staff, CC/NGO members.

Event to be webcasted: the primary audience will be the Member States' Ministries of Education (National Commissions), Academia and Civil Society through our CC/NGO network.

English-French interpretation will be available.