

Cochabamba Agreements:

Regional solidarity to reach SDG4-E2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean

II Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean
July 25-26, 2018. Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia

We, the Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean, and high-level government representatives, together with representatives of United Nations agencies, regional organizations, civil society organizations and other partners of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development,

Considering that in the Declaration of Buenos Aires, adopted during the I Meeting of Ministers of Education held on 25 and 26 January 2017, Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean, high-level government representatives, together with representatives of United Nations agencies, regional organizations, civil society organizations and other partners of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development, committed to develop a roadmap for the implementation of SDG4 – E2030 at the regional level that included coordinating, communication and monitoring mechanisms that respond to the expectations, realities and educational priorities of the region;

Recognizing that, in the aforementioned meeting, the participants reaffirmed OREALC/UNESCO Santiago's regional coordination role of the SDG4-E2030, and urged the co-convenors of the mentioned Agenda (UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and the World Bank) and other relevant actors in the region to ensure coherence and develop joint actions to support its implementation;

Considering that OREALC/UNESCO Santiago organized two Technical Follow-up Meetings to the Regional Ministerial Meeting of Buenos Aires in April 2017 and February 2018 to draft a Roadmap for the implementation of SDG4–E2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Meeting participants comprised of the current representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the Global SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia), a representative from a Caribbean country elected by GRULAC (Grenada), as well as UNESCO and UNICEF, sub-regional and regional organizations (CARICOM, CECC–SICA, OAS, and OEI) and representatives of civil society and teacher organizations (CLADE and Education International);

Considering the debate carried out, and consensus reached at the Regional Ministerial Meeting in Cochabamba, we agree to:

1. Adopt the Roadmap with its coordination mechanisms for the implementation of SDG4-E2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean (Annex 1). It consists of a reference framework for the development and implementation of regional actions and recommendations to support national implementation, so that Member States advance in a coordinated and coherent manner in the development of policies and actions in themes that have been prioritized by the region: quality education, equity and inclusion, teachers and education workers, and lifelong learning.
2. Call on OREALC/UNESCO Santiago to facilitate the establishment and functioning of a coordination mechanism that will promote the implementation of the Roadmap and ensure representation, coordination and communication between the Ministries of Education of the Member States and other relevant regional actors. The mechanism will be composed of:

-Regional Steering Committee: a Regional Steering Committee will be composed of key partners with the following structure and working modalities:

Based on the principles of representation, inclusion, rotation and coherence, the group will be comprised of up to 20 members:

- The Latin American and Caribbean country representatives in the Global SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee; and additionally, seven Member States, two from South America, two from Central America and Mexico and three from the Caribbean that will be elected by Member States of each region.
- **Three co-convening agencies:** UNESCO and UNICEF will have permanent seats and a third seat will be occupied on a rotational basis by one other co-convening agency;
- **Four intergovernmental organizations:** CARICOM, CECC-SICA, OAS, and OEI;
- **Two civil society organizations,** on a rotational basis, in alignment with the Global SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, with regional and/or sub-regional coverage.

-Executive Secretariat: will be exercised by OREALC/UNESCO Santiago and will support the Regional Steering Committee in the implementation of the Roadmap.

-Working Groups: The Regional Steering Committee will establish four Working Groups that will carry out specific activities to advance the implementation of the Roadmap in each of the following areas: (i) Review, Monitoring and Reporting; (ii) Policies and Strategies; (iii) Advocacy and Communication; (iv) Financing and Governance. The Working Groups may, as needed, include technical experts to provide support.

3. Call on the Regional Steering Committee, with the support of OREALC/UNESCO Santiago in its role as Executive Secretariat, and in consultation with all Member States to:

3.1 Facilitate the implementation of the Roadmap for the period 2018–2021 and develop a progress report to present at the next Regional Education Ministerial Meeting, organised by OREAL/UNESCO Santiago together with a host Member State. In this framework, the Implementation Roadmap will be reviewed, revised and re-designed as necessary for the following phase.

3.2 Promote greater articulation between regional educational ministerial meetings, agendas and working plans of the different regional and sub-regional organisations, with the aim of creating better synergies to advance the implementation of the Roadmap.

- 3.3 Draft a proposal for financial, technical and human resource mobilization to enhance regional and international cooperation for education in Latin America and the Caribbean, including South-South cooperation.
- 3.4 Develop regional communication and advocacy strategies on the importance of the principles of the SDG4 Education 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Roadmap.
- 3.5 Ensure that the Regional Steering Committee is in close coordination with the GRULAC and the Global SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee
4. Entrust OREALC/UNESCO Santiago with the responsibility, together with a host Member State to organize a Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Education Ministerial Meeting every two or three years, following the agreement of the Member States, in coordination with the Regional Steering Committee.
 5. Develop work plans to align national and local policies to SDG4–E2030, taking into consideration national and regional priorities.
 6. Strengthen intersectoral collaboration to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
 7. Call on the Regional Steering Committee to coordinate regional perspectives, with GRULAC representatives, along with the Global Steering Committee, in the Global Education Meeting and the 2019 High Level Political Forum, to ensure that education is well reflected in the SDG Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Engage youth and adults to advance the implementation of SDG4 – E2030 and call on the Regional Steering Committee to explore modalities for their participation in regional coordination mechanisms.

We thank the people and the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for organizing the II Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the SDG4–E2030, and we acknowledge the work developed by its Ministry of Education in the preparation of this fundamental process to guarantee the right of all persons to an equitable and inclusive quality education throughout life.