



CONCEPT NOTE

Fifth meeting of the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4-Education 2030 Indicators (TCG)

14-16 November 2018

Mexico City, Mexico

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) with the support of National Institute for Education Evaluation of Mexico (Instituto Nacional para la Evaluación de la Educación – INEE), are pleased to announce the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4-Education 2030 (TCG). The meeting will bring together key stakeholders in the field of education statistics to continue the development and implementation of the SDG4 Monitoring Framework.

TCG background

The TCG was formed in early 2016 to lead the development and application of the global and thematic indicator frameworks to monitor the education targets in SDG 4. The Director of the UIS and the Director of at the Division of Education 2030 Support and Coordination of UNESCO's Education Sector (UNESCO ED/ESC) co-chair the group to guarantee an efficient articulation between UNESCO divisions and units and other international stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda. The UIS acts as the Secretariat.

The SDG 4 - Education 2030 Framework for Action ratified that the UIS remains *“the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education”*. It also clearly recognised that *“in addition to collecting data, the UIS will work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to better assess progress across the targets related to UNESCO's mandate, working in coordination with the Education 2030 Steering Committee”*¹. Within this context, the aim of the TCG is to efficiently coordinate efforts to implement SDG 4 monitoring, particularly in respect to the 43 indicators in the thematic monitoring framework on education (which also includes the 11 global SDG 4 indicators).

The TCG is composed of 27 Member States, including Members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, representatives from civil society organizations and from regional and international organizations including OECD, UNICEF, the World Bank and UNESCO itself. Members of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee are invited to participate as Observers.

¹ Paragraph 100, *Education 2030 Framework for Action*.

TCG results up to date

The previous TCG meetings, which took place in Washington DC, USA (May 2016), Madrid, Spain (October 2016), Montreal, Canada (June 2017) and Dubai, United Arab Emirates (January 2018),

- Revised the 43 thematic indicators proposed in the Education 2030 Framework for Action taking account of changes proposed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators.
- Reached agreement on a list of 33 thematic indicators for reporting in 2017 and a set of indicators that require further methodological development (both endorsed by the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee in September 2018).
- Shared national and regional experiences in the development and implementation of the follow-up and review processes of SDG 4.
- Established three Working Groups to take forward the work on (i) Indicator Development to guide the development and implementation of the SDG 4 indicators, (ii) Capacity Building to identify capacity-building needs at the national level, and (iii) Country Reporting to guide data reporting and data sharing of the SDG 4 indicators.
- Advanced methodological discussion of specific issues related to SDG 4-Education 2030 indicators, such as establishment of benchmarks, thresholds and minimum proficiency levels.

Objectives of TCG 5

In light of the upcoming revision of the list of Global indicators in 2020, TCG 5 will focus on:

- I. Topics related to indicator development, reporting and benchmarking processes
- II. Challenges and obstacles countries face in producing and reporting on SDG 4 indicators.

Consequently, the main objectives of TCG 5 are:

1. Considering necessary modifications, and discussing alternative methodologies to fill gaps in coverage, to ENDORSE methodological developments and APPROVE the list of indicators to be published in 2019.
2. Advancing the discussion on potential new indicators, to APPROVE a preliminary list of these indicators to be included in the 2020 revision.
3. Presenting and discussing the SDG data validation process, to ACHIEVE ENDORSMENT of the process by the Member States.
4. To DEVELOP recommendations on benchmarking processes.
5. To AGREE on key messages to the international community about challenges and needs of Member States in producing SDG 4 indicators.