TCG4:
SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee
Review, Monitoring and Reporting Working Group update
TCG4/2

16-18 January 2018
Dusit Thani Dubai
133, Sheikh Zayed Road, Trade Centre,
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Summary of teleconference
11 December 2017

Participants: European Commission, OECD, Co-Chairs (GEM report, UIS) and Secretariat

Review of outputs, updates and follow-up

Output A1. Progress on guidelines for deadlines, procedure and content of the 2018 HLPF input
A separate discussion will be held between the Secretariat and co-chairs to clarify next steps and division of tasks for the preparation of inputs, based on the standard reporting format. Key messages will need to be agreed upon before the input is prepared.

Output A2. Progress on paper that outlines options for drafting and reviewing the 2019 HLPF input
- **Options paper.** A paper is underway, outlining different options and scenarios for the preparation of the 2019 HLPF submission in a more creative and inclusive manner than standard reporting style. The paper builds on various inputs, including a set of key messages to communicate from the SDG-Education Steering Committee to the HLPF, the former reporting cycles, and taking into account what kinds of messages have been prepared for adoption for the other SDGs. Note that there will be two HLPF sessions in 2019. The fall session of the HLPF will be organized jointly with the General Assembly and will need to make a link with the messages and inputs prepared for the July session. **Next steps:**
    - Identify meetings/events that could potentially influence the process [e.g. upcoming regional SDG4 consultations], as well as particular issues that could be taken up by certain constituencies or Member States in their Voluntary National Reviews [refer to draft calendar shared with the Steering Committee].
    - Steering Committee would need to decide on options for reporting [i.e. to produce the inputs for the 2019 HLPF in a format or document that has more of a lasting influence and/or in a more creative way].
    - UNESCO has agreed internally and with the SC Bureau that the Global Education Meeting (Nov/Dec 2018) will be a point of endorsement for a draft report and/or messages from the Steering Committee. An expert meeting, along the lines of similar meetings that have been organized for other goals being reviewed at the HLPF, could also be organized on the side of the Global Education Meeting.
    - We also may want to think of alternative ways of using the SDG-Education 2030 web platform to capture voices from other groups (e.g. civil society) as well as on issues related to interlinkages with other goals.
- **HLPF side events.** The UNESCO office in New York initiated discussions with World Bank and UNICEF to form a small task team to facilitate and advocate greater engagement on education for the 2018 and 2019 side-events, including at the HLPF and the General Assembly.
  Next steps: Identify 1-2 Member States (champions) to host the HLPF side-event(s).

Output B. Progress on report concerning existing regional and sub-regional education and training strategies and agendas with respect to their monitoring frameworks, reporting mechanisms and benchmarking approaches

- **Mapping.** UNESCO regional bureaux were contacted by the co-chairs to request list of regional/sub-regional organizations active in education and potential contact names and details. They received very little response. UIS has since taken the lead to conduct a desk review of such potential

organizations, examining if the following exist: (a) agendas; (b) strategies; (c) monitoring and reporting frameworks; and (d) experiences with regional benchmarking and definitions of thresholds of learning/competencies to be achieved. As a follow-up to the meeting in Brussels in October, further discussions have taken place with the European Commission to put in place peer learning mechanisms on setting and using benchmarks, as well as how they can help develop a framework. To be discussed further.

Next steps: Questionnaire and draft mapping will be shared first week of January with the working group for inputs.

Output C. Progress on key messages for Steering Committee to support financing and capacity development for measurement and monitoring SDG4 with focus on deadlines for drafts and review ahead of pending deadlines for translation

- **Key messages.** Set of key messages for the Steering Committee to be drawn from the messages proposed by the Technical Cooperation Group, convening 17-18 January 2018. UIS is in the process of elaboration of an "investment case" where the necessary funds needed for data production, capacity development and global coordination on SDG4 monitoring. An overall estimate that covers all needs is deemed important for preparing the messages and particularly regarding the need for more coordinated and increased investment for monitoring the SDGs. Ensuring coordination with the Advocacy and Communications working group will also be important.
- **GPE replenishment statement.** It was requested by OECD, and supported by UIS and GEM, if one line could be added to the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee Statement of Support to GPE Replenishment, signed by the SDG-Education 2030 co-chairs, with reference to a case for investment for reliable data for monitoring. Secretariat will check on status of letter and possibility of insertion at this stage.
- **GPE replenishment conference side event.** Secretariat exploring the possibility of organizing a short side event (20 mins) with a focus on monitoring and the SDG agenda during the replenishment (as deadline for registration has already passed). GEM report, UIS and OECD expressed interest in taking the lead on organizing this event's content.

Next meeting

- Next RMR WG virtual meeting is proposed for the week of 8 January 2018.

RMR WG Outputs
16 October 2017

	Task	Responsible	Output	Role of the RMR WG	Timeline
A.	Prepare inputs for the High-level Political Forums in 2018 and 2019	Steering Committee **Secretariat** to propose a process for the HLPF SC submissions	**Guidelines** on deadlines, procedure and content of the 2018 HLPF input	Provide feedback/review the guidelines	Complete guidelines by January 2018, before the next SC meeting
		GEMR and **UIS** with support by Secretariat	**Paper** that outlines options for drafting and reviewing the 2019 HLPF input	Provide feedback/review the paper	Complete the paper by January 2018, before the next Steering Committee meeting
B.	Map existing regional monitoring mechanisms and experiences with benchmarks and thresholds	Steering Committee **Secretariat** [communication]; **UIS** [indicators and frameworks]; **GEMR** [reports]; to prepare and initiate the mapping exercise with support from partners	**Report** on existing regional and sub-regional education and training strategies and agendas, focusing on their: • monitoring frameworks • reporting mechanisms • benchmarking and threshold setting processes (where relevant, e.g. EC, OECD, OEI and others); and providing recommendations for a process of establishing benchmarks or thresholds.	Regional organizations in the Steering Committee to help complete the mapping by leveraging existing networks. UIS regional network will liaise with UNESCO Regional Offices on this. Contribute to the preparation of inputs for the report. Review/provide feedback on the draft report before it is shared with the Steering Committee	Complete the mapping by January 2018, before the next Steering Committee meeting
C.	Prepare key messages for Steering Committee to support financing and capacity development for measurement and monitoring SDG4	**UIS** and **GEMR** with inputs from the TCG	**Short document** outlining measurement and monitoring needs and key messages, for the Steering Committee and partners to support the development of national capacity on data and monitoring progress, with specific attention to low and middle-income countries	Inputs/review/feedback on the draft report before it is shared with the Steering Committee with special attention to key messages to countries	Complete the paper by January 2018, before the next Steering Committee meeting

Previous list of tasks

	Task	Recommendation
1.	**Provide feedback to the Technical Cooperation Group (TCG) on its strategic direction**	**Dropped**. This is a SC activity. It is inconsistent for the RMR WG (co-chaired by UIS, which serves as TCG Secretariat) to provide feedback to itself.
2.	**Invite the TCG to produce a report on the status of development and availability of SDG 4 indicators**	**Done/Dropped**. The invitation has been issued and this is now a TCG activity.
3.	**Invite Member States, regional organizations and development partners to participate in SDG 4 review, monitoring and reporting related activities**	**Dropped**. This is a Secretariat activity and is relevant for all SC activities, not just review, monitoring and reporting.
4.	**Prepare inputs for the High-level Political Forums in 2018 and 2019**	**Retained.** New output **A**
5.	**Follow-up to GEM 2016 Report recommendations**	**Dropped**. This is a SC activity. It is inconsistent for the RMR WG (co-chaired by GEMR) to co-decide on the follow-up and take-up of its recommendations. What the GEMR can do is issue a one-page version of its recommendations for the SC.
6.	**Map existing regional monitoring mechanisms**	**Retained.** New output **B**
7.	**Produce guidelines for the prioritization of indicators at national level**	**Dropped**. It is proposed to merge this into output 9.
8.	**a. Produce a report on experiences with benchmarks and thresholds**	**Retained** but merged into output 6.
	b. Invite the TCG to produce a technical document on possible definitions of benchmarks and thresholds for SDG 4 targets.	**Dropped**. This is a TCG activity.
9.	**Prepare a set of strategies, approaches and key messages for Steering Committee to support financing and capacity development for measurement and monitoring**	**Retained**. New output **C**