



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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GLOBAL  
ALLIANCE  
TO MONITOR  
LEARNING



# The Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML)

## Fifth meeting Concept note

17-18 October 2018  
Hamburg, Germany



## 1. Background

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) plays a critical role<sup>1</sup> in the Education 2030 Agenda by producing cross-nationally-comparable education indicators and working with partners to develop new indicators, methodologies, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to better assess progress towards the international education targets. It has been designated as the lead agency for producing the indicators needed to track global progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), while sharing responsibility for some targets with other agencies.

The Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) was convened by the UIS in early 2016 to: i) provide concrete solutions to develop new indicators on learning (4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.6 and 4.7) needed to achieve SDG 4; and ii) to set standards for good practices on learning assessments by bringing together technical experts from around the world. Counting more than 250 members representing a wide range of stakeholders from Member States, academia, international organizations, NGOs, civil society and private sector, the Alliance is working to develop the standards and methodologies needed to measure learning globally, while helping countries to produce and use the information to achieve SDG 4.

To advance this work, the Alliance will hold its fifth meeting (GAML 5) on 17-18 October 2018 in Hamburg, Germany.

## 2. GAML work plan

Monitoring progress will require the measurement of student outcomes, in addition to youth and adults skills at several different stages of the life cycle in a broadly consistent way across education systems and socioeconomic contexts. This is a challenge, given that learning, skills and the way they are measured vary widely across local contexts. In the same way that skills needs are context-related.

Since its inception in 2016, GAML has made progress in three areas:

- i) developing methodologies, tools, standards and guidelines for sustainable monitoring;
- ii) collecting descriptive information for diagnostic purposes and for reporting; and
- iii) resolving immediate issues in interim reporting on learning and skills keeping in mind medium- and long-term reporting.

To answer some of the immediate issues and formulate a roadmap toward sustainable reporting, the GAML Secretariat has framed six task forces, one on each target (4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.6 and 4.7) and one cross-cutting task force on assessment implementation. A new task force on capacity development will be discussed in GAML 5.

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<sup>1</sup> Education 2030 Framework for Action, paragraph 100: “The UIS will remain the official source of cross-nationally-comparable data on education”.



### 3. Objectives for GAML 5 meeting

There is a critical need to upgrade the indicators that are currently in Tier II and Tier III. To do this, GAML 5 will review and discuss the methodological proposals for comparability (relevant to Indicators 4.1.1.a and 4.2.1) as well as look into options to increase coverage (relevant to Indicators 4.1.1.b and c, as well as 4.4.1 and 4.6.1).

Moreover, in view of the upcoming 2019 revision of indicators, GAML 5 will discuss potential changes to the list of global and thematic indicators that can be recommended for endorsement by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2020.

In addition, the GAML 5 meeting will present an opportunity to reinforce collaboration with regional organizations and countries. Regional partnerships will strengthen the relationship between GAML and national statistical systems, hence allowing the UIS to provide targeted guidance and assistance facilitating the SDG 4 agenda monitoring. Countries' engagement in GAML 5, on the other hand, will enable country needs to be better understood and discussed, thus defining future priority activities and guidance.

In terms of a work plan, the Secretariat will present the summary progress and work programme for each indicator, including activities, partners and timelines.

Thus, the overall objectives of GAML 5 can be summarised as follows:

- Review the progress of work plans for each GAML Task Force;
- Clarify and reach common understanding of the definition, strategies and monitoring issues for the indicators under the scope of GAML work;
- Identify priority capacity-building needs in implementing and monitoring indicators on learning outcomes;
- Update participants on the plan to upgrade Tier III indicators and agree on recommendations and strategies regarding Tier II indicators coverage; and
- Discuss and agree on a potential inclusion of new indicators at the global and thematic levels to be recommended for consideration by the IAEG-SDG.

### 4. Expected outputs

- Endorsement of GAML progress and outputs;
- Inputs to the deliberation of the TCG regarding the status of the indicators under GAML including potential additional indicators; and
- Approval of the Capacity Development Task Force and its work plan.