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**TECHNICAL COOPERATION GROUP ON THE
INDICATORS FOR SDG4-EDUCATION 2030 (TCG):
EIGHTH MEETING
CONCEPT NOTE**

The 2020 Global Education Meeting called for a proposal to improve the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism (GECM), and to strengthen the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee to lead and coordinate the GCM according to the Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA), taking into consideration the post-COVID-19 context.

In recent months, progress has been made towards establishing a new [Global Education Cooperation Mechanism](#), which will be launched in November 2021. One of the three core functions of the new GECM is to increase the availability of data on education-related actions and outcomes, and the use of these data to monitor progress towards SDG 4 to enhance the conditions for accountability.

As part of this core data and monitoring function in the GECM, five strategies are envisaged, of which three will be the focus of the eighth meeting of the TCG:

- Fill **data gaps**, with an emphasis on the gaps of selected SDG 4 indicators. While far more education data are currently available than before, there is also a sense that significant gaps remain, especially for high profile indicators, which prevents effective monitoring of progress in education.
- Strengthen the **TCG** for more country engagement and ownership. While maintaining the current representation mechanism, all countries should nominate two contact points, one from the ministry of education and one from the national statistical office. Engagement by all countries and stronger links between TCG representatives and their constituencies will be needed to (i) strengthen ownership of methodological developments, (ii) contribute to the development and monitoring of joint plans to fill data gaps, and (iii) engage in the setting and review of benchmarks.

- Finalize the setting of national and regional **benchmarks** for selected SDG 4 indicators, following a robust technical and political process, based on countries' ownership and their national sector plans' targets, where available. Fulfilling this neglected commitment of the Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA) will be the linchpin of the proposed reform.

Objectives of 8th Meeting of the TCG

The 8th meeting of the TCG (TCG 8) will focus on:

- Providing an update on the global, thematic and regional methodological developments to **fill data gaps**, including:
 - New reporting of administrative data, including expenditure
 - New developments on learning outcome indicators
 - New developments on household survey-based indicators
 - Population estimates: call for a task force
- Discussing regional and national engagements within the **TCG working arrangements**
- Presenting status, finalization, and next steps for **SDG 4 benchmarks**

Consequently, the main objectives of TCG 8 are:

1. To DISCUSS and ENDORSE methodological decisions and areas where further work is needed; and
2. To IDENTIFY areas for improvement in data production and funding;
3. To REVIEW and FINALIZE the list of indicators to be published in 2022;
4. To REVIEW and ENDORSE the working arrangements of the TCG.

TCG 8 Meeting Modalities

This year, the TCG Secretariat is convening its members to a virtual meeting for a duration of 3.5 hours.

Date: **Tuesday 2 November 2021**

Time: **14h00 to 17h30 (Paris time) / 9h00 to 12h30 am EST (Montreal time)**

The meeting will be held in English, with simultaneous translation to French and Spanish.

TCG Working Groups Meetings

The following TCG working groups will be meeting the week prior to the TCG 8 to discuss issues pertaining to their mandate.

Working Group	Date and time (Paris time)	Themes
Teachers	25 October 2021 16:00-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ISCED-Teachers
Household Surveys	25 October 2021 17:00-18:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Out-of-school rate• Disability• UNICEF/New
Administrative data / EMIS	26 October 2021 13:00-14:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with templates• Population
Education Expenditure	26 October 2021 14:15-15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation and review of the UIS template for the use of national data
Global Alliance for Monitoring Learning (GAML)	28 October 2021 13:00-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SDG Indicator 4.1.1 Update on Policy Linking and Statistical Linking• Measuring Learning Loss• Developments on indicators 4.6.1• Measuring Learning in household surveys

The meetings will all be held in English, with simultaneous translation to French and Spanish.

TCG Background

The [TCG](#) was formed in early 2016 to lead the development and implementation of the global and thematic indicator frameworks to monitor the education targets in SDG 4. The Director of the UIS, Silvia Montoya, and the Director of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, Manos Antoninis, 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. For more information on the full TCG composition, please visit this [page](#).

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 12 SDG 4 and one SDG1 global indicators).

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

TCG Progress Development

Since its creation, the TCG has made important methodological progress:

