

CONCEPT NOTE

Fourth meeting of the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG4-Education 2030 Indicators (TCG) Dubai, UAE, 17-18 January 2018

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) with the support of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), and the Regional Center for Educational Planning (RCEP), are pleased to announce the Fourth Meeting of the *Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG4-Education 2030 (TCG)*. The meeting will bring together key stakeholders in the field of education statistics to continue the activities of the group.

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 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 thematic monitoring framework on education (which also includes the 11 global SDG 4 indicators).

The TCG is composed of 28 Member States, including Members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, representatives from civil society organizations and from international organizations including OECD, UNICEF, the World Bank and UNESCO itself. Members of the SDG 4 - Education 2030 Steering Committee are invited to participate as Observers.

TCG results up to date

The previous TCG meetings, which took place in Washington DC, USA (May 2016), Madrid, Spain (October 2016), and Montreal, Canada (June 2017), among others,

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

- 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 29 thematic indicators for reporting in 2017 and a set of indicators that require further methodological development (both endorsed by the SDG 4 – Education 2030 Steering Committee in December 2016).
- 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 4

TCG 4 meeting aims to provide an opportunity for participants to be briefed on key developments that have occurred since TCG 3 towards the implementation of the SDG 4 Agenda, and to issues related to the TCG key mechanisms and outputs.

The main objectives of the TCG 4 are:

1. Review and ratify the TCG work plans for 2018;
2. Approve the report on benchmarking recommendations for indicators;
3. Discuss and update the list of indicators to be reported in 2018 and overall indicators' periodicity recommendations;
4. Advance the discussion on potential new indicators to be included in the 2018 revision with the approval of a preliminary list;
5. Endorse the report requested by the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee on the status of development and availability of SDG4 indicators (*see more details below*);
6. Approve the TCG rotation mechanism and broader governance proposal.

Request from the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (SC)

The [SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee \(SC\)](#) has various working group. One of them –Working Group: Review, Monitoring and Reporting (WG-RMR) – is co-chaired by the UIS and the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR). The WG-RMR makes recommendations on:

- (a) implementation of monitoring and indicator frameworks at global, regional and national levels;
- (b) coordination/harmonization and consensus around review, monitoring and reporting on SDG4 at global, regional and country level across partners and institutions; and
- (c) facilitation and communication of endorsement of indicator frameworks elaborated in the TCG.

The RMR-WG has requested the TCG to provide a report on the status of development and availability of SDG4 indicators. The report should include:

- I. an updated list of indicators including recommended periodicity of reporting;
- II. plans to finalize the conceptual, methodological and operational work on the global indicators by December 2018, including assessment of resources needed to implement this work;
- III. potential revisions to current global indicators.

The report should be provided by the end of 2017 with the aim to be discussed in next SC meeting in February 2018. To meet this deadline, the draft report will be produced by the TCG Secretariat (UIS) and submitted to WG-RMR in December 2017. This draft will then be reviewed and endorsed – with or without modifications – by the TCG 4 in January 2018, following which the TCG Secretariat will communicate the final report to the WG-RMR for further discussion by the SC.