

African Conference on Quality Early Childhood Education and the Professionalization of Educators

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Casablanca, Morocco
4-5 December 2019

In partnership with:



Agenda

Evidence shows that educators and teachers are the key driver of quality education. When they are qualified, well trained and supported, and enjoy adequate working conditions, they are able to provide children with quality learning experiences that will lead to positive developmental outcomes and educational success. Given that early childhood education (ECE) represents an important window of opportunity for laying a strong foundation for children's learning and sustainable development, education systems should pay increased attention to building a teaching workforce that covers the early years and to implementing measures that encourage the professionalization of ECE educators. However, ECE educators are often confronted with a lack of training and professional development opportunities, pedagogical support, career development pathways and adequate working conditions. These challenges need to be urgently addressed so that children's rights to quality care and education are met from their early years and so that they are empowered to succeed in later schooling and life. Against this background, the Ministry of Education of Morocco, ILO and UNESCO are organizing the African Conference on Quality ECE and the Professionalization of Educators on 4-5 December 2019 in Casablanca, Morocco, in partnership with the German Development Cooperation (BMZ/GIZ), the Moroccan Foundation for the Promotion of Preschool Education (FMPS), the Regional Center for Quality and Excellence in Education (RCQE), the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 (TTF), the Monegasque Cooperation for Development, and Royal Air Maroc (RAM). The Conference will provide a platform for dialogue and sharing of challenges and good practices regarding the professionalization of ECE educators and the development and management of the educator profession.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Conference are to:

- Reaffirm the importance of increasing investment in equitable and quality ECE and the professionalization of ECE educators;
- Exchange good practices, experiences and challenges regarding the professionalization of ECE personnel and the promotion of equitable and quality ECE services.

The Conference will culminate in the adoption of a Casablanca declaration (provisional title) to renew a collective commitment to quality ECE and the professionalization of educators, as well as outline strategies and actions for ways forward.

DAY 1

Wednesday 4 December 2019: Morning	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <p>Moderator: Master of Ceremony from Morocco</p> <p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr Saaïd Amzazi, Minister of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Morocco • Mr Akira Isawa, Deputy Director of Sectoral Policies, ILO • Ms Golda El-Khoury, Director and Representative, UNESCO Office for the Maghreb
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 1: High level panel: Toward quality early childhood education and the central place of early childhood educators in achieving SDG 4-Education 2030</p> <p><i>Strong political will and commitment is essential to achieving SDG target 4.2 on early childhood care and education, which calls for quality provision for all children. In this session, Ministers of Education will share their experiences about policies and practices and debate major challenges facing their countries in achieving SDG target 4.2, particularly the development of qualified and competent ECE personnel.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Golda El-Khoury, Director and Representative, UNESCO Office for the Maghreb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Youssef Belqasmi, General Secretary, Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Morocco • Dr Hamidu Bobboyi, Executive Secretary, Universal Basic Education Commission, Nigeria • Mr Mohamed Mahmoud Sidi Yahya Oul Abdarrahmane, General Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family, Mauritania • Prof. Abdel Rahamane Baba Moussa, General Secretary, Conference of Ministers of Education of Francophone States and Governments (CONFEMEN) <p>Exchange with audience</p> <p>Information about the Drafting Committee for the elaboration of a Casablanca declaration</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Group photo and coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 2: Celebrating achievements and good practices</p> <p><i>This session will provide an opportunity to highlight and share one major achievement or good practice per country related to the professionalization and management and/or working conditions of early childhood educators. One government representative per country will speak for 2 minutes to briefly explain the achievement or good practice. The sharing of achievements or good practices will be preceded by (1) remarks by the representatives of social partners on achievements and challenges regarding the professionalization of early childhood educators, and (2) reflections on guiding principles on the promotion of decent work for early childhood education personnel.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms Rokhaya Diawara and Ms Yoshie Kaga, Programme Specialists, UNESCO</p> <p>Introductory messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Dennis Sinyolo, Senior Coordinator, Education International • Ms Yeshimebet Zewoldie Belete, Human Resources Director, Paul Ries & Sons,

	<p>Ethiopia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Aziz Kaichouh, Director-General, Moroccan Foundation for the Promotion of Preschool Education (FMPS) • Ms Raki Bal, Early Childhood Development Resource Person, Inter-country Quality Node for Early Childhood Development (ICQN-ECD) <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections on guiding principles on the promotion of decent work for early childhood education personnel: Mr Oliver Liang, Head, Public and Private Services, ILO • Sharing of country achievements or good practices: Government representative per country <p>Exchange with audience</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
<p>Wednesday 4 December 2019: Afternoon</p>	
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Session 3: Tools for planning, data and practice improvement</p> <p><i>The session will introduce some international tools and resources that exist for improving the planning, data collection and practice development that impact the capacity and working conditions of ECE personnel.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Binyam Sisay Mendisu, Programme Specialist, UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) and Mr Mohamed Alaoui, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Office for the Maghreb</p> <p>Quick ice-breaker</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Africa Framework for Basic Education Teacher Development: Ms Rokhaya Diawara, Programme Specialist, UNESCO • Data for effective planning of early childhood education personnel: Ms Diane Coury, Programme Specialist, IIEP-UNESCO • Country profiles on ECE and its personnel: Ms Yuxi Wang, UNESCO Consultant, and Ms Francesca Colombo, Senior Programme Officer, International Step by Step Association (ISSA) <p>Exchange with audience</p>
15:00 – 16:20	<p>Session 4: Parallel working groups on challenges, good practices and recommended actions</p> <p><i>This session will break into thematic groups to discuss related challenges, good practices and recommended actions. At the end of the working group session, each group will have shared the challenges and good practices concerning the theme, and will have generated inputs and recommendations that can feed into the elaboration of the Casablanca declaration. Each group will be provided with key guiding questions for discussion, and a copy of the draft declaration to facilitate the discussion on the groups' inputs and recommendations. In each working group, there will be a pre-assigned moderator, who will introduce the theme of the working group and the related guiding questions. Each group will identify a rapporteur who can report on the results of the discussion in the following session.</i></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Qualification, initial training and professional development • Group 2: Recruitment, deployment, retention and career development • Group 3: ECE personnel in rural and remote areas and those serving disadvantaged

	<p>populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 4: Working conditions • Group 5: Data and monitoring of early childhood education with a focus on ECE personnel development and management
16:20 – 16:50	Coffee break
16:50 – 18:00	<p>Session 5: Tools for planning, data and practice improvement (cont'd) and reporting on the results of the Working Groups</p> <p>Moderator: Government representative</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit for promoting gender-responsive pedagogies in ECE in Africa: Ms Hanne Huysmans, Education Advisor, VVOB • Reporting on the results of the Working Groups <p>Exchange with audience</p>
18:00 -	Dinner (for participants to arrange themselves)

DAY 2

Thursday 5 December 2019: Morning	
09:00 – 09:20	<p>Session 6: Summary of work from the first day and partner presentation</p> <p>Summary of work from the first day: Mr Oliver Liang, ILO</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Regional Center of Quality and Excellent in Education (RCQE) in promoting the quality of education in the Arab World: Dr Abdelrahman Almedaires, Director-General, RCQE
09:20 – 11:00	<p>Session 7: How do we define competent educators and what is needed to develop qualified and competent ECE personnel?</p> <p><i>This session will provide an opportunity to reflect and discuss what encompasses “competent educators” in ECE, and what is required to develop qualified and competent early childhood personnel, drawing from different national and international experiences.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Erfan Diebel, Senior Education Policy Advisor, German Development Cooperation (BMZ/GIZ)</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences from Morocco: Representatives of the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Morocco • Experiences from Ghana: Mr Jon Beaulieu, Chief Operating Officer, Sabre Education • Experiences from the Arab region based on a study on increasing kindergarten enrolments: Mr Mohamed Matar Mustafa, RCQE Expert • Experiences from international projects: Ms Yoshie Kaga, Programme Specialist, UNESCO <p>Exchange with audience</p>

11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Session 8: Decent working and teaching conditions in ECE</p> <p>This session will highlight good practices in securing and promoting decent working and teaching conditions for ECE personnel, including approaches for collective representation, sustainable and tailored infrastructure, and innovations in professionalization and practice.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Akira Isawa, ILO</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences from the Moroccan Foundation for the Promotion of Preschool Education (FMPS): Mr Aziz Kaichouh, Director-General, FMPS • Experiences from the Danish Union of Early Childhood Educators (BUPL): Mr Lasse Bjerg Jørgensen, Head of International Relations and National Treasurer, BUPL • Experiences from government: Mr Koffi Ouboènalè Lantomey, Director of Preschool Education, Ministry of Education, Togo • Experiences from employer organization: Ms Thérèse Tchouanga, Head of the administrative department of the Inter-Patronal Group of Cameroon <p>Exchange with audience</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
Thursday 5 December 2019: Afternoon	
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session 9: Discussion on and adoption of the declaration of the Conference</p> <p><i>The session will present the draft declaration to be considered for adoption at the end of the Conference. The draft will include the inputs and recommendations that emerged from the previous sessions.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Gwang-Chol Chang, Chief, Section for Educational Policies, UNESCO</p> <p>Presentation of the draft declaration: Member of the Drafting Committee</p> <p>Exchange with audience</p> <p>Presentation of the final declaration: Member of the Drafting Committee</p> <p>Closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research of Morocco • ILO • UNESCO