

Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED2030)

25-27 November 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The World Education Forum 2015 (WEF 2015) held on 19-22 May 2015 in Incheon was organized by UNESCO together with the co-convening agencies¹ UNICEF, the World Bank, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, and UNHCR, and hosted by the Republic of Korea. On 21 May 2015, 120 ministers, heads and members of Government delegations from 160 countries, heads of international agencies, multi- and bilateral organizations and representatives of civil society, the teaching profession, academia, youth and the private sector adopted the [Incheon Declaration](#). The Declaration reaffirms the vision of the worldwide movement for Education for All (EFA), initiated in Jomtien in 1990 and reiterated in Dakar in 2000. Countries and the global education community committed to a single, renewed education agenda that is holistic, ambitious and aspirational, and leaves no-one behind. This new education agenda, 'Education 2030' is fully captured in the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) and its corresponding targets which aims to, ***“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all”***. The Declaration represents a collective commitment of the education community to implement the Education 2030 agenda. It affirms the principles of education as a public good, as a fundamental human right, as a basis for guaranteeing the realization of other rights, and inspires bold and innovative action.

The heart of Education 2030 lies at the national level, and thus, country-led action supported by effective multi-stakeholder partnerships and financing can drive change. Countries are expected to translate the global targets into achievable national targets based on their educational priorities, national development strategies and plans, the ways in which their education systems are organized, their institutional capacity and the availability of resources. At the regional level, collective efforts are critical to successfully adapt and implement Education 2030 at both the national and regional levels. Regional cooperation should build on existing partnerships, frameworks, and effective and efficient mechanisms, as well as forge new partnerships to ensure strong regional collaboration, cooperation, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the new education agenda. Specific roles and activities of regional mechanisms may be established and draw on the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference (APREC) as well as the findings of the assessment of the EFA architecture in Asia-Pacific.

In September 2015, the 17 SDGs which include SDG 4 on education that succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be adopted at the United Nations Sustainable

¹ In July 2015, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) confirmed their status as a co-convenor of Education 2030.

Development Summit in New York. Following the adoption of the SDGs, the Framework for Action Education 2030: *Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all* will be adopted at a high-level meeting at the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2015. The [Education 2030 Framework for Action](#) (FFA) serves as the overall guiding framework for the implementation of Education 2030 and outlines how to translate the global commitment into practice at the global, regional and national levels. It aims to support all countries to realize their own vision and ambitions for education within the framework of SDG 4 and its targets and proposes ways of implementing, coordinating, financing and monitoring Education 2030 to ensure equal education opportunities for all.

As we enter the next phase of collective action, the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED2030) will be the first step towards building a common understanding of Education 2030 and preparing for its implementation at the regional and national levels. The region is characterized by geographical vastness and cultural diversity, with more than half of the world's population or 4.3 billion people, covering five E9 countries, and over 3,000 languages. Over the years, Asia-Pacific has seen rapid urbanization, aging populations, regional integration, increased migration, the rise of middle income countries, and natural disasters. The deliberations at the meeting will attempt to unpack, through an Asia-Pacific lens, the various aspects of the FFA including the implementation modalities and develop a regional strategy to achieve Education 2030. As part of Asia-Pacific's preparation for the new education agenda, a regional assessment of the EFA architecture is underway and its findings will inform this particular discussion at the meeting. The monitoring, reporting and evaluation of SDG 4 requires better and further disaggregated data and more robust processes, and thus, orientation and capacity development in this area are also needed. This meeting will thus identify the capacity development needs of Member States for the successful implementation of Education 2030, including for monitoring and reporting.

The meeting will be co-organized by UNESCO Bangkok – Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA). It will gather relevant technical-level officials of the ministries of education, the WEF 2015 co-convenors, development partners, and donors in the region.

Overarching objective

To prepare Member States for the implementation of Education 2030 in the Asia-Pacific region.

Objectives

- To build a common understanding among Member States of Education 2030, SDG 4 and its corresponding targets, and the Framework for Action;
- To orient Member States on the proposed global indicators and corresponding data needs, and to explore additional indicators for a more comprehensive and disaggregated analysis of equity and quality from a lifelong learning perspective;

- To initiate discussions on national priorities and strategies for achieving Education 2030 and the national targets, and on setting intermediate benchmarks (e.g. 2020 and 2025); and
- To discuss the regional and national coordination, partnerships, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms for Education 2030, building on existing mechanisms, frameworks and strategies to support the implementation of Education 2030 at the national level.

Expected Outputs

- Documentation of the region's, sub-regions' and countries' inputs on the priorities and strategies for achieving Education 2030 and tentative intermediate benchmarks;
- Documentation of inputs for the regional monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanism for SDG 4 and its corresponding targets including a list of tentative indicators;
- Proposal on the regional coordination and partnerships to support countries in their implementation of Education 2030; and
- Feedback on the capacity development needs of Member States for the effective implementation of Education 2030.

Country Preparatory Work

To prepare for the discussions during the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030, participating Member States will organize national-level consultations with key stakeholders on the following areas: 1) The focus and education priorities of the country in the context of Education 2030; 2) the country's proposals on how Education 2030 will be implemented and what coordination/partnerships and M&E mechanisms will be established at the country level; 3) proposed monitoring indicators and possible national/regional benchmarks; and 4) country's capacity development needs in the context of implementing Education 2030.

Participants

This will be a technical meeting. Each Member State will nominate two senior officials from ministries of education. It is expected that one official is the designated coordinator of the new education agenda and the other official is responsible for education planning, monitoring and statistics. About 120 MOE officials, WEF 2015 co-convenors, development agencies, high-level representatives from regional organizations including Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), CSOs/NGOs and Thematic Working Group (TWG) on EFA members will participate in this meeting.

Modality

The meeting will be conducted over three days and will be facilitated by experts. A set of reference documents will be used to inform the discussions. The meeting will employ a

combination of plenary sessions and group discussions, and will refer to relevant reference papers and guiding questions for this meeting.

Day 1: Information sharing on Education 2030, SDG 4 and its targets, the Framework for Action, and presentations and discussions on the identification of national priorities.

Day 2: Monitoring and evaluation of Education 2030, indicators and assessment of capacity development needs.

Day 3: Regional and national implementation strategy and coordination mechanisms for Education 2030, and the roles and responsibilities of co-convenors and regional entities.

Dates and Venue

25-27 November 2015

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Key Reference Documents

- Incheon Declaration
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002331/233137E.pdf>
- Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Full report of the OWG of the General Assembly on SDGs)
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1579SDGs%20Proposal.pdf>
- Framework for Action Education 2030: towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all (draft)
<http://en.unesco.org/world-education-forum-2015/file/245/download?token=RAk0bEVT>
- Bangkok Statement (Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference, Bangkok, August 2014)
http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/epr/APREC/Presentations/APREC_Bangkok_Statement_Final.pdf
- Muscat Agreement (Global EFA Meeting, Oman, May 2014)
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002281/228122E.pdf>
- 2015 EFA Global Monitoring Report – Education for All 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002322/232205e.pdf>
- Asia-Pacific Regional EFA Synthesis Report: A synthesis of the national EFA reports
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002332/233236E.pdf>
- Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002325/232555e.pdf>