The 2030 Agenda was adopted on the premise of the interconnectedness and the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. The multiple impacts of COVID-19 and now the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine are only confirming how interconnected the world we live in is and how challenges keep cascading, ultimately jeopardizing the whole 2030 Agenda. As part of our efforts for a sustainable global recovery, we need to redesign how we connect the world to build forward better with forward looking investment in both hard and soft infrastructure. Against this background, this year’s HLPF theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, is very timely, as is the in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education.

In this context, the EU has recently presented Global Gateway, the new European strategy for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet. Its focus is to boost, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport and strengthen health, education and research systems across the world, both “hard” in terms of physical infrastructure and “soft” concerning people to people connectivity.

Global Gateway fully aligns with the UN’s 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. It aims to mobilise up to €300 billion in investments by 2027 to underpin a lasting global recovery, taking into account the shared interests of the European Union and partner countries. For transformational impact, Global Gateway will be taken forward through a Team Europe approach, bringing together the EU, its Member States working in partnership with partner governments, the private sector, multilateral institutions and civil society.

Education and Vocational Education Training (VET) are key for this “building forward” agenda and key to connect people and societies, and ultimately fight inequalities. This is why the EU is putting forward an ambitious comprehensive offer including: Team Europe Initiative on Opportunity Driven Skills and Vocational Education and Training in Africa and the Regional Teachers Initiative as part of the Africa-Europe Global Gateway Investment Package; support for Global Partnership for Education to ensure of quality and inclusive basic education; a Youth Mobility Initiative for Africa and a revamped Erasmus+ with increased offer and access to mobility programs, will be central to ensuring that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills for the growing job market.

Looking ahead, the Transforming Education Summit (TES), to be held in September 2022 on the margin of the UNGA high-level week, as announced by the UN SG in “Our Common Agenda”, will highlight the central role of SDG4 on education to reverse the backslide on all SDGs and ensure a sustainable recovery. It will mobilise all stakeholders to step up changes needed to transform education systems to address the learning crisis and lay the groundwork for accelerated progress on education. The EU’s Global Gateway ambition and the partnerships forged around it will be crucial in this context.
Program

Keynotes
Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

Panel discussion
Ms. Sevim Aktas, EU Youth Representative
Mr. David Moinina Sengeh, Minister Education, Sierra Leone
Ms. Li Andersson, Minister of Education, Finland
Mr. Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director for Programmes, UNICEF
Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships

Closing Remarks
Ms. Daniela Grabmüllerova, Deputy Minister Regional Development,
Czech Republic