Virtual side event to the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum

TRANSFORMING LEARNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE:
Education for Sustainable Development
Tuesday, 12 July 2022 - 1.00 – 2.30 pm EDT

Background

In today’s increasingly complex and interconnected world facing multiple challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of people, such as spread of infectious disease, climate change, loss of biodiversity, natural disaster, violent conflict, extreme poverty and inequality, among others, there is no better inroad than education to address these human security threats. However, we are witnessing a roll back of the achievements made in education and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to COVID-19 and other international crises.

Recognizing that education is a human right, a foundation for peace, and an enabler to achieve other development goals, the UN Secretary-General is convening the “Transforming Education Summit” in September 2022 to make education a ‘pre-eminent public good’. Transformative education must be sought so that children and young people will learn to live cooperatively, respect diversity, care for environment, and be actively involved in finding solutions in a rapidly changing world, both locally and globally.
Education for sustainable development (ESD)—as enshrined in Target 4.7 of SDG 4—is an integral element of quality education. ESD reassesses what we learn, where we learn, and how we learn to ensure that we develop the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that enable us to make informed decisions and actions on aforementioned global challenges to human security.

Following up on the work of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (2015-2019), the current global framework for ESD entitled “ESD for 2030” aims at mainstreaming ESD in education, skills training, and lifelong learning, and constitutes a crucial part of transforming education and learning to achieve not only the SDG 4 but the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

Held on the margins of the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), this side-event will enable a constructive dialogue among a diverse range of policy makers and practitioners engaged in the field of both education and SDGs in general.

**Objectives**

The virtual event will bring together Member States, UN agencies, the private sector, youth advocates, and civil society representatives around the following four objectives:

- Highlight ways to harness the transformative power of education in achieving sustainable societies and discuss how policies and practices in ESD can contribute to building a better future.
- Showcase the evidence-based benefits and innovations of integrating ESD into all levels of education and training from early childhood to tertiary and adult education, so that all individuals are provided with lifelong opportunities to fully develop their human potential.
- Emphasize the role of ESD as a cross-cutting instrument to empower learners at all levels of education which enable more profound and holistic understanding of sustainable development and potential solutions.
- Strengthen and accelerate existing global frameworks and networks of ESD at local, national, regional, and global levels, with a view to sharing good practices.

**Organizers**

This virtual event is co-organized by the Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning (Co-Chaired by Japan, Argentina, Czech Republic, Kenya, Norway) and UNESCO.

**Connection Details**

This event will take place in English and will be entirely virtual. Please register here, by Tuesday, 5 July, to participate. The event will also be livestreamed on UN Web TV.
## Program

**Moderated by** Professor Yuto Kitamura, Graduate School of Education, University of Tokyo

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| **01.00 – 01.30 pm** (30 min) | **Opening remarks**  
H.E. Ambassador Kimihiro Ishikane, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Co-Chair of the Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning  
Minister of Education, the Netherlands (TBC)  
Mrs. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO  
Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, UN (Video message) |
| **01:30 – 02:25** (55 min) | **Panel Discussion**  
Minister of Education, (Finland, Netherland or Greece)  
Minister of Education, Kenya [TBC]  
Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan [TBC]  
Representative of Laureates for the UNESCO-Japan ESD Prize on ESD (NGO/Civil Society)  
(eg. Ghana, Palestine, Peru, Germany) [TBC]  
Youth Representative from Latin America |
| **02:25 – 02:30** (5 min) | **Closing remarks**  
TBD, Co-Chair of the Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning |