



2024 CONFERENCE ON
**EDUCATION DATA
AND STATISTICS**

UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics

First Session

Paris, 7-9 February 2024

Information session for Member States

October - November 2023



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Outline

- ▶ Conference objectives and expected outcomes
- ▶ SDG 4 data governance
- ▶ More on the Conference

More and better data are needed to ensure impact

- ▶ **Full geographical coverage** of the global SDG 4 indicators, especially those on learning and equity, is still a challenge;
- ▶ **Policies and strategies** need to be based on solid and up-to-date evidence;
- ▶ **Digitalization** has shifted by whom and how data are collected, processed, and analyzed;
- ▶ Increased **efficiency** through improved **cooperation** between all stakeholders in education is a necessity

Conference objectives

- ▶ **Reaffirm** the role of Member States as primary agent for the coordination of education data and statistics;
- ▶ **Discuss** guidelines, concepts, recommendations, and statistical standards;
- ▶ **Discuss** any emerging needs for international statistical cooperation;
- ▶ **Take stock** of good practices and improve national statistics and international comparability;
- ▶ **Reflect** on experience and lessons of SDG 4 benchmarking process;
- ▶ **Discuss** technological developments and the ways to benefit from opportunities and address challenges.

Expected outcomes and next steps

- ▶ Establish a community of practice of education statisticians to meet regularly;
- ▶ Acknowledge international statistical standards and norms, tools and methodologies as the basis for sustainable national statistical systems;
- ▶ Define the agenda forward, taking into account agreed and shared priorities and concerns.

SDG 4 data governance: Member states - IAEG-SDG and TCG

SDG 4 data governance gives **Member States** a more important role in relation to the indicators' framework, with the support of **leading statistical agencies**.

▶ Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG)

- Established by UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2015
- 26 Member States
- Leads development and oversees the global indicator framework
- Reports annually to UNSC

▶ Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 Indicators (TCG)

- Established by UIS/GEMR in May 2016
- 22 Member States
- Leads development of thematic indicator framework
- Reports every 2 years to UNSC through UIS and to SDG4-Education 2030 High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) since 2022

Composition of the TCG

Arab States

- Oman
- Lebanon
- Saudi Arabia

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Angola
- Gambia
- Zambia

Eastern Europe

- Armenia
- Estonia
- Russian Federation

Western Europe and North America

- Canada
- Germany
- France
- Sweden

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Jamaica
- Mexico

Asia and the Pacific

- Bangladesh
- Indonesia
- P.R. China
- Pakistan

UNESCO Conference aims to reinforce UNESCO's leading role in education data and statistics

- ▶ Similar approach by:
 - ILOSTAT's 100th anniversary in 2023 with ILO as leading agency; 33 members in the 1st session (1923).
 - UN Statistical Commission (functional body of ECOSOC) established in 1946 leading the statistical system; meets annually since 1993.
- ▶ UNESCO Conference will reflect the SDG agenda with:
 - **Member States** deciding on the indicator framework, unlike for MDGs where agencies led the decision-making;
 - **Regional organizations** as the regional layer of monitoring should articulate with the global and thematic frameworks;
 - **Interlinkages** between SDG targets calling for closer **collaboration** among statistical agencies.

Conference: 3 days at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris plus a pre-conference engagement day

Date	Session	Description
6 February	Pre-conference Engagement Day	Focused discussion on life-long learning dimensions coordinated by ED/PLS, ideally co-hosted by partners (ECE, Higher education, skills, EMIS, data ecosystems,...)
7 – 8 February	Current challenges and proposed solutions for existing SDG indicators	Position papers under consultation with Member States and regional partners (October/November) and work in education data space focusing on methodological and coverage challenges
9 February	Partnerships and coordination of statistical and data systems and role of technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with sister agencies (ILO, WHO, ITU, WFP, UNICEF) and cooperation at regional level • Opportunities and challenges of technology

Position papers cover critical topics

► Topics of position papers

- Administrative data
- Teachers
- Expenditure
- Household surveys
- Learning outcomes
- Benchmarks
- ISCED

► General structure of position paper

- Background
- Data sources
- Challenges
- Potential solutions
- Agenda forward

Big data, digitalization, AI and education data

- ▶ **Production:** New methods of data sourcing and production (e.g., automation of tasks and use of latest technology)
- ▶ **Use:** New data discovery, analysis and modelling (e.g., predictive analytics)
- ▶ **Capacity development:** Improving efficiency (e.g., chatbots, virtual assistants)
- ▶ **Innovation and skills challenge:** Taking full advantage of opportunities and addressing risks

Who will participate in the Conference?

- ▶ **Three delegates from each Member State:**
 - Representative from the Ministry of Education
 - Representative from the National Statistical Office
 - Representative from the National Learning Assessment unit or agency

- ▶ **Other stakeholders:** Regional statistical agencies and organizations – UNESCO offices and UN specialized agencies – International organizations – Aid agencies - Civil Society Organizations and NGOs – Foundations - Private sector

- ▶ UIS covers the expenses of up to:
 - 2 participants from low-income countries
 - 1 participant from lower middle and upper-middle-income countries

Nomination of TCG observers and Conference participants

- ▶ Starting 2022, Member States were invited to nominate TCG observers to:
 1. Be informed of progress and decisions
 2. Avoid gaps in communication
 3. Build a community of practice
 4. Establish robust and representative member rotation process

- ▶ In October 2023, letters were sent to National Commissions (copy to Permanent Delegations) to:
 1. Inform them about the Conference
 2. Invite them to nominate national experts to participate in the Conference: names of previously appointed TCG observers were included for reference

Nominations from over 30 Member States were received (as of 24 October).

Regional consultations and preparatory meetings underway

Regional Meetings (Oct.-Nov. 2023)

Update on the preparation process
Consultation on position papers
Definition of regional priorities

TCG -10 (11 Dec. 2023)

Completion of position papers to reflect regional priorities
Revision of indicator framework
Final preparations for Conference

Conference on Education Data and Statistics (7-9 Feb. 2024)

Discussion of position paper and setting agenda
Validation of standards and recommendations
Adoption of outcome documents

Thank you

Read more at: <https://ces.uis.unesco.org/>

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