

# Regional Preparation for the First Session of the Conference of Education Statistics

## Arab States

16 October 2023

## Concept note

### Introduction

Data is the fuel that powers progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has fostered actions to improve UN Member States' capacities to produce and use data for monitoring the SDGs, taking into consideration the new realities. In the case of education (SDG4), two important changes have shaken up the ways progress was measured and traced before. First, new outcome-focused indicators were introduced, notably those related to learning outcomes. Second, multiple data sources started to be considered in estimating of some of the more established indicators. These changes are opening opportunities but also putting fresh demands on national statistical systems worldwide.

Unlike its sister field of labour statistics, education statistics has not benefited from a regular, open forum where major questions about the present and the future of internationally comparable data can be explored.

To fill this gap, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) has been working on establishing the **Conference of Education Statistics** which is envisioned as a mechanism for education statisticians from all over the world to regularly communicate, discuss, and reach a consensus on key issues regarding SDG 4 indicator measurement as well as the impact of technological and other developments and the ways to benefit from them.

The decision about institutionalizing such a mechanism was taken by the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 indicators - Education 2030 (TCG), established by the UIS in 2016 to discuss and develop the indicators used to monitor the Education 2030 Agenda in an open, inclusive and transparent manner. In 2021, the TCG decided to facilitate a wider debate involving all countries. Through 2022-2023, the TCG Secretariat has been accepting from Member States the nominations of TCG observers/focal points who are expected to form the Conference of Education Statistics. The first session of the Conference is planned to take place in February 2024 in Paris and should be preceded by thorough regional discussions to enable the most participative process.

The **Regional Preparatory Meeting** is expected to provide the platform for this discussion, highlighting issues and priorities relevant to Arab states. Thus, the **outcome** of the meeting will be a summary, outlining inputs to the issues which will be presented during the first session of the Conference of Education Statistics (February 2024), with a specific focus on the regional agenda and work prioritizing.

## Meeting objectives

1. To complete the nominations of the delegates for the Conference of Education Statistics.
2. To present the draft background documents of the first session of the Conference of Education Statistics.
3. To define regional inputs/priorities to be reflected in the background documents of the first session of the Conference of Education Statistics.

## Where?

The Regional Preparatory Meeting will be held virtually via the Zoom platform. The link to register for the meeting is:

[https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcO-gqjMqE9TEhxLNIQQtFf8Z\\_53E\\_CC-](https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcO-gqjMqE9TEhxLNIQQtFf8Z_53E_CC-)

## When?

The Regional Preparatory Meeting will take place on October 16, 2023 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Beirut time).

## For whom?

Each UNESCO Member State has been invited to nominate three participants, including one representative from the education ministry, one from the national statistical office, and one from the national learning assessments unit.

In addition, representatives from the following constituencies will be invited: regional statistical agencies and organizations, United Nations specialized agencies, and other international organizations, aid agencies, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and the teaching profession.

## Provisional agenda

The Regional Preparatory Meeting will take place on 16 October 2023 from 2:00 am to 5:00 pm (Beirut time). The timetable will be as follows:

<b>Session</b>	<b>Time (Montreal time)</b>
Opening	7:00 – 7:05
Introductory session	7:05 – 7:15
ISCED	7:15 – 7:25
Administrative data	7:25 – 7:45
Teachers	7:45 – 8:05
Education expenditure	8:05 – 8:25
Household Surveys	8:25 – 8:45
Learning outcomes	8:45 – 9:05
Benchmarks	9:05 – 9:25
Agreements and conclusions	9:25 – 9:45
Closing	9:45 – 10:00