Regional Meeting of Education Statisticians
"Improving Education Data Ecosystems in Asia"

17-20 October 2023
Bangkok, Thailand

Special Note on the
Regional Preparation for the First Session of the Conference of Education Statistics

1. Context

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 (SDG 4), 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 sources of data started to be considered in the estimation 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 has been working on establishing the Conference of Education Statistics that is envisioned as a mechanism for education statisticians from all over the world to regularly communicate, discuss, and reach consensus on key issues regarding SDG 4 indicator measurement as well as impact of technological and other developments and the ways to benefit from them.

The decision about institutionalizing such 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 Sates 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 late January 2024 in Paris and should be preceded by thorough regional discussions to enable the most participative process.

The Regional Preparation meeting is expected to provide the platform for this discussion, highlighting issues and priorities relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. 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 (January 2024), with a specific focus on the regional agenda and work prioritizing.

2. Objectives and outcomes

i. To complete the nominations of the delegates for the Conference of Education Statistics.

ii. To present the draft background documents of first session of the Conference of Education Statistics.

iii. To define regional inputs/priorities to be reflected in the background documents of the first session of the Conference of Education Statistics.

3. Time and Location

The Regional Preparation meeting will take place on Day 1 of the Regional Meeting of Education Statisticians on 17 October 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

4. Participants

Each UNESCO Member State has been invited to nominate country delegates, representative of the education ministry, the national statistical office, and/or national learning assessments departments.

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