CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION DATA AND STATISTICS

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CONFÉRENCE SUR LES DONNÉES ET STATISTIQUES DE L'ÉDUCATION

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UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, FRANCE
Setting and monitoring national SDG 4 benchmarks: what are the challenges going forward?
Uses of national SDG 4 benchmarks

- Capture the contribution of each country to the global education goal
- Make progress monitoring context-specific, per countries’ starting points
- Link national, regional and global education agendas: coherence and common language
- Focus attention on data gaps on key indicators that every education system needs for management purposes
- Strengthen national planning: all plans should include targets
## Benchmark indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy area</th>
<th>SDG 4 benchmark indicator</th>
<th>Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic education</td>
<td>4.1.1 Minimum proficiency in reading/maths</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1.2 Completion rate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.1.4 Out-of-school rate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-primary</td>
<td>4.2.2 Participation in organized learning a year before primary education entry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>4.c.1 Teachers with minimum required qualifications</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>1.a.2/FFA Education as % budget / % GDP</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>Gender gap in upper secondary completion rate</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectivity</td>
<td>4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to Internet for pedagogical purposes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coverage of SDG 4 benchmark indicators

Participation in benchmarking process

- Submitted at least one benchmark: 70%
- Regional benchmarks (CARICOM and EU): 11%
- Did not submit benchmarks but some targets were extracted from national plans: 9%
- Did not submit benchmarks: 10%

Distribution of potential 2025 benchmark values

- Missing
- Extracted
- Regional
- Submitted

Regions:
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Northern Africa
- Central and Southern Asia
- Eastern and Southern Asia
- Oceania
- Latin America
- Europe and North America
- World
Challenges

► Missing benchmarks
  ▪ Countries that only submitted national targets for some benchmark indicators
  ▪ Countries that are yet to participate in the national SDG 4 benchmarking process

► Quality of benchmarks
  ▪ National targets may indicate a level of ambition that is too high or too low

► Monitoring progress
  ▪ Benchmark setting varies by indicator and is still low for some indicators
    (gender gap in completion; school internet connectivity)
  ▪ Availability and updating of data
  ▪ Insufficient exchange with countries when clarifications are needed
Agenda forward to work with Member States

- Carry out a sustained communication campaign
  - Familiarize ministries of education and the public with national SDG 4 benchmarks
  - Clarify indicator definitions and data sources
  - Improve data availability on the benchmark indicators
  - Improve the benchmark data browser website
  - Improve national sector plan target setting

- Introduce an assessment process
  - Give countries the opportunity to receive transparent updates on assessment of their progress and to contest, seek clarifications or propose corrections to this assessment

- Introduce a linking process
  - Develop a process that links assessment of progress to the monitoring of laws and policies influencing the pace of movement toward national targets
Proposed decision (1)
National SDG 4 benchmarks: challenges and solutions

- Noting the information presented in the report ‘National SDG 4 benchmarks: Challenges and ways forward’ (1 UIS/EDS/9);

- Welcoming the efforts of Member States to fulfil the commitment they made in 2015 to set SDG 4 benchmarks;

- Acknowledging the release of the second SDG 4 Scorecard that monitors progress towards the national SDG 4 benchmarks;

- Noting the decision of the SDG 4 High-level Steering Committee to have three additional benchmark indicators developed to reflect the priorities of the Transforming Education Summit;
Proposed decision (2)
National SDG 4 benchmarks: challenges and solutions

The UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics

- *invites* Member States to complete submission of national benchmarks, especially on the equity indicator, and to include them consistently in national sector plan, regional dialogue, and global cooperation processes.
- *invites* the UIS to strengthen its efforts to improve the quality of the benchmark database.
- *invites* the UIS and the GEM Report to propose a mechanism enabling countries to seek clarifications and propose corrections to the SDG 4 Scorecard assessment.
- *requests* the TCG/EDS Commission to:
  - refine and approve the proposed SDG 4 Scorecard review mechanism.