



**FOLLOW-UP ON
CONFERENCE ON
EDUCATION DATA
AND STATISTICS:
DECISIONS AND NEXT
STEPS**

12 APRIL 2024

**2024 CONFERENCE ON
EDUCATION DATA
AND STATISTICS**

INTRODUCTION

Following the [decision](#) of the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG4 indicators (TCG) to strengthen the participation of all Member States in the vital debates regarding SDG 4 progress monitoring, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) has established a mechanism for wider collaboration in education statistics by organizing the first-ever [Conference on Education Data and Statistics](#) in February 2024 at UNESCO headquarters, in Paris. This historical meeting marked the launch of a series of conferences on education data and statistics that will be held every three years and gathered focal points from over 130 Member States and 80 international and regional organizations.

The objectives of the first session of the Conference were to:

- Establish an international community of practice of education statisticians guiding the Technical Cooperation Group (TCG) on SDG 4 indicators;
- Communicate, discuss, and reach consensus on concepts, definitions, methodologies, and operational aspects of indicator measurement in the form of recommendations and guidelines for adoption as international standards;
- Debate the impact of technological developments on education statistics and ways in which the community of education statisticians can benefit from opportunities and address challenges.

Prior to the Conference, the UIS had prepared position papers highlighting the major issues and challenges in education data and statistics and proposing an agenda forward: the position papers covered administrative data, teacher data, expenditure data, learning assessments and skills survey data, household survey data, national SDG 4 benchmarks, and integration of statistics. The UIS then organized a series of regional consultations to deliberate on these papers with Member States, regional partners and other stakeholders aiming to identify regional priorities and present them to the Conference. These position papers may be consulted on the [Conference website](#), under the section on Official documents.

Over 30 [decisions](#) emerged from the Conference and will be taken forward by the TCG, the implementing body of the Conference, which will be renamed as the ‘Education Data and Statistics Commission’. Six overarching themes, summarized in the Rapporteur’s [presentation](#), also emerged as the Conference stressed on the costly nature of producing data and hence the need to collect and utilize them judiciously; pointed to the demand for technical support, harmonization, standard-setting, production of manuals and guidelines and capacity-building; highlighted the importance of integrating data sources to make full use of the education ecosystem; and finally stressed the importance of linking data to policy-making and planning and engaging all stakeholders.

Recognizing the critical need to capitalize on the momentum generated by the Conference, the UIS is organizing the global meeting entitled **‘Follow-up on the Conference on Education Data and Statistics: decisions and next steps’**. This meeting aims to showcase the decisions, main takeaways and next steps of the Conference.

OBJECTIVES

The overall purpose of the global meeting **‘Follow-up on the Conference on Education Data and Statistics: decisions and next steps’** is to ensure all education stakeholders are on the same page vis-à-vis what was accomplished following the first session of the Conference and what needs to be done. More specifically, the meeting has the following objectives:

- Offer a concise overview of the main steps that paved the way to the Conference;
- Shed light on the proceedings of the Conference;
- Present the main takeaways from the Conference;
- Engage in a dialogue to discuss the next steps.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The following main groups will be invited to attend the global meeting **‘Follow-up on the Conference on Education Data and Statistics: decisions and next steps’**:

- Focal points from Member States focal points that have attended the Conference on Education Data and Statistics in Paris;
- Focal points from Member States who were appointed but could not attend the Conference in person;
- Members of the TCG in its new composition;
- Representatives of the following constituencies who attended the Conference as observers: regional statistical agencies and organizations; United Nations specialized agencies; other international organizations; aid agencies; foundations; other private partners; non-governmental organizations; and the teaching profession.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The **'Follow-up on the Conference on Education Data and Statistics: decisions and next steps'** global meeting will have the following expected outcomes:

- Provide a comprehensive picture of the main takeaways from the Conference, ensuring that participants gain a thorough insight into the key findings and outcomes;
- Discuss the agenda forward following the Conference while achieving a consensus on the priorities and focus areas and proposing steps for future initiatives with the involvement of participants;
- Discuss mechanisms for ongoing knowledge sharing to sustain momentum generated by the Conference and facilitate continuous improvement in education data and statistics.

MODALITY

The **'Follow-up on the Conference on Education Data and Statistics: decisions and next steps'** global meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on 12 April 2024 from 8:30 to 10:00 (Montreal time)¹. The meeting will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation to French and Spanish. The link to join the meeting will be provided by email.

¹ See <https://bit.ly/3DgxrXD> for information on the time of the meeting in your time zone

DRAFT AGENDA

Time	Agenda item
8:30 – 8:35	Welcome and introduction
8:35 – 8:45	Main steps leading to the Conference on Education Data and Statistics
8:45 – 8:55	Proceedings of the Conference
8:55 – 9:10	Main takeaways
9:10 – 9:25	Next steps
9:25 – 9:50	Discussion
9:50 – 10:00	Closing

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