

Expert Group Meeting
5-Year Progress Review (5PR) on SDG4 (Education 2030) in Asia-Pacific
14 – 15 November 2019
Landmark Hotel, Bangkok Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and Rationale

The adoption of the Incheon Declaration at the World Education Forum in May 2015 and the Education 2030 Framework for Action in November 2015, signaled the crucial need for governments and international community to work together toward “ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030.

Education is at the forefront of global discussions this year, being one of the goals reviewed at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York last July 2019, along with other SDGs (8, 10, 13, 16 and 17)¹. Under the theme empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality, education or SDG4 was a major contributor to this HLPF discussions. A total of 47 countries conducted their Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF, of which almost 1/3 or 13 countries² are from the Asia-Pacific region.

At the regional level, the Asia-Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group on Education 2030+ which is co-chaired by UNESCO and UNICEF, is actively leading the SDG4 efforts and initiatives in this region and regularly contributes to global discussions both at High Level Political Forum and Global Steering Committee meetings. This group has also been leading the yearly conduct of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED) which is a convening platform for government officials and range of partners and stakeholders in the region to collectively discuss the progress, challenges and monitoring of SDG4. This year’s APMED confirmed that the Asia-Pacific region is not on track in achieving SDG4. The issues on quality, equity and inclusion persist which hinder the achievement of targets. The discussions centered on the need to comprehensively understand why the region is lagging behind, and the crucial importance of addressing the key emerging challenges, and showcase the good practices where countries can learn from each other, for better planning and fast tracking of SDG4 implementation at the local level.

After almost 5 years since the adoption of the agenda, the Regional Thematic Working Group on Education 2030+ led by UNESCO Bangkok and UNICEF will embark on its first regional progress review of SDG4 to: a) contribute in shaping the agenda and discussions of the Asia-Pacific ministerial meeting on education in 2020; b) fast-track SDG4 implementation at the national level; d) contribute to the global discussions on SDG4; and c) prepare countries for the midterm review in 2023. Taking into consideration the inputs gathered during the last APMED, a small group expert meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand to further discuss the methodologies and scope of the 5-year progress review.

Objectives of the Expert Meeting

As agreed by the Member States during the APMED 5 meeting, an expert group meeting will be held with relevant experts, selected country representatives and stakeholders to discuss how to systematically conduct the 5-year progress review. Specifically the meeting intends to:

¹ Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the goals)

² Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Timor Leste, Turkmenistan and Vanuatu

- 1) Discuss the scope, methodology, and relevant tools and instruments in systematically conducting the progress review;
- 2) Identify and agree on relevant institutional partners and experts who can contribute in the preparation of the 5-year Progress Review (5PR) Report; and
- 3) Collaboratively prepare a doable workplan in conducting the progress review and agree on key tasks and responsibilities, to ensure that 5PR Report is ready ahead of the ministerial meeting on education 2030 (APREC) in 2020.

Participants

25-30 regional and national experts and stakeholders on SDG4

Date and Venue of the Meeting: 14 – 15 November 2019, Bangkok Thailand

AGENDA

DATE	TOPICS	Focal Person
Day 1: 14 November 2019 (Thursday)		
09:00 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening • Presentation on the background and context of the 5-year Progress Review (5PR) 	Nyi Nyi Thuang
10:00 – 10:30	Morning Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Session 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on SDG4 Progress in Asia-Pacific • Presentation of the proposed structure of the 5PR Report • Discussion on the structure of the 5PR report 	Aureli Acoca Nyi Nyi Thuang
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 – 15:00	Session 2: Group discussion on the development of relevant tools and instruments to prepare the 5 PR report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Groups 1&2:</u> Template for the session on SDG-4 targets (key guiding questions and structure on the progress on SDG-4 Targets) • <u>Groups 3&4:</u> Identification of regionally relevant thematic areas and preparation of the section of those identified areas (key guiding questions and structure) 	5PR Team
15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon Break	
15:30 – 17:00	Session 3: Group feedback and discussion on Session 2	
Day 2: 15 November 2019 (Friday)		
09:00 – 10:30	Session 4: Plenary Discussion on gathering of countries' good practices, case studies as part of 5PR report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the proposed template for countries' good practices and case studies • Discussions on gathering of countries' good practices, case studies and other inputs (template, information to be gathered, approach and mechanisms, role of field offices, etc.) 	5PR Team
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Break	
11:00 – 13:00	Session 5: Plenary Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and Timeline (Who, How and When) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5PR Peer Reviewers/Team - Target Analysis - Thematic Studies - Case Studies/Good Practices - Validation Workshop 	Akihiro Fushimi
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	Session 5: Continued and Closing Remark	Maki Hayashikawa