

## Virtual Sub-regional Consultations on the Report on 5-Year Progress Review of SDG4 (Education 2030) in Asia-Pacific

### CONCEPT NOTE

Recognizing the important role of education, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights education as a stand-alone goal (SDG4). Five years after the formal adoption of the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 in May 2015, the Regional Thematic Working Group (RTWG) – Education 2030+, through its co-chairs UNESCO and UNICEF, has undertaken the Progress Review of SDG4 in Asia-Pacific.

In the latter half of 2019, a series of meetings and consultations with SDG4 coordinators, relevant stakeholders, experts and RTWG-Education 2030+ members were held to discuss the purpose and focus of the progress review. It was clear that while the region has made significant progress on access and participation, education opportunities continue to be unequally distributed and many are still excluded. Hence it was endorsed that inclusion and equity will be used as a frame for the analysis of the region's progress on SDG4.

And now with severe social and financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected that the different forms of exclusion in education will be further exacerbated. Many countries were already stretched to provide adequate support for education before the crisis, with many children already out of school or not learning. Therefore, this current crisis will have severe impact on national education systems' approaches and progress towards attaining SDG4.

The 5-Year Progress Review of SDG4 in Asia Pacific was conducted with the following objectives to: (a) assess the overall progress of the Asia-Pacific region since 2015 and to draw lessons for and insights into the implementation of SDG4; and (b) prepare a regional report and present its key findings as main discussion input at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Education Minister's Meeting (APREMC-II) on Education 2030 in 2021.

To produce the draft report, the analysis undertaken between January – July 2020 comprised:

- (1) A review of a large number of documents, including government reports, development agency assessments and analyses, research articles, blogs and newspaper articles;
- (2) A quick survey on the links between SDG4 and national education policies, strategies and actions;
- (3) A quantitative analysis to gauge region's progress in terms of the 10 SDG4 targets
- (4) A range of key informant interviews with respected and knowledgeable educators from each of the sub-region to gain a better understanding of education trends

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- (5) A selected number of case studies to showcase country level SDG4 implementation; and
  - (6) Detailed successive reviews by the thematic peer review groups composed of focal points from agencies/organizations concerned with one or more of the 10 SDG4 targets.

In parallel with the SDG4 progress review, UNESCO and UNICEF in collaboration with Cambridge Education, are also undertaking a “Rapid Situation Analysis on the Effects of and Responses to COVID-19 on the Education Sector in Asia”. The results of the rapid assessment will serve as input and will be included in the report once available.

As part of a broader review process, these virtual sub-regional consultations will be carried out in the following sub-regions to validate the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft report on 5-Year Progress Review of SDG4 in Asia-Pacific and gather feedback and comments from member countries:

<b>Sub-regions</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (GMT+7) Bangkok Time</b>
• Southeast Asia	26 October 2020	10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
• East Asia and Central Asia	27 October 2020	12:00 PM – 2:30 PM
• South Asia	28 October 2020	3:00 PM – 5:30 PM
• Pacific	29 October 2020	9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Each virtual sub-regional consultation will invite (a) national SDG4 (Education 2030) Coordinators; (b) relevant officials from Ministry of Education from selected Member countries, and (3) sub-regional bodies in the Asia-Pacific region. The results of the consultations will represent a major contribution towards the finalization of the report. The key findings of the final report will be presented to the Ministers and government officials at its planned Virtual High Level Meeting in December 2020 and APREMC II in 2021.

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

**26-29 October 2020**

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Time	Sessions
5 minutes	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Remarks by UNESCO and UNICEF</li> </ul>
15 minutes	<b>Background and Introduction of the 5-Year Progress Review of SDG4 in Asia Pacific</b>
<b>Highlights, Findings and Recommendations of the 5-Year Progress Review of SDG4 in Asia-Pacific</b>	
45 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation 1</b> (30 minutes): Presentation on key highlights and findings of the 5PR</li> <li>• <b>Comments and Q&amp;A</b> (15 minutes)</li> </ul>
25 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation 2</b> (10 minutes): Presentation on key recommendations</li> <li>• <b>Comments and Q&amp;A</b> (15 minutes)</li> </ul>
45 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group discussion or Plenary Discussion</b> (depending on the number of the participants) <b>and Reporting</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Group Discussion (30 minutes)</b></p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What policies on SDG4 (Education 2030) in your country have been effective in addressing equity and inclusion in education</li> <li>2) To what extent does the SDG4 targets have contributed directly to any new government policies in your country?</li> </ol> <p><b>Reporting (15 minutes)</b></p>
15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next Steps</b></li> <li>• <b>Closing</b></li> </ul>

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**Annex A: List of Countries**

<b>Sub-Region/Countries</b>	<b>Sub-Region/Countries</b>
<b><u>Southeast Asia (26 October 2020)</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Brunei Darussalam</li><li>2. Cambodia</li><li>3. Indonesia</li><li>4. Lao People's Democratic Republic</li><li>5. Malaysia</li><li>6. Myanmar</li><li>7. Philippines</li><li>8. Singapore</li><li>9. Thailand</li><li>10. Timor-Leste</li><li>11. Viet Nam</li></ol>	<b><u>East Asia and Central Asia (27 October)</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>12. China</li><li>13. Democratic People's Republic of Korea</li><li>14. Japan</li><li>15. Mongolia</li><li>16. Republic of Korea</li><li>17. Kazakhstan</li><li>18. Kyrgyzstan</li><li>19. Tajikistan</li><li>20. Turkmenistan</li><li>21. Uzbekistan</li></ol>
<b><u>South Asia (28 October)</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>22. Afghanistan</li><li>23. Bangladesh</li><li>24. Bhutan</li><li>25. India</li><li>26. Maldives</li><li>27. Nepal</li><li>28. Pakistan</li><li>29. Sri Lanka</li><li>30. Iran</li></ol>	<b><u>Pacific (29 October)</u></b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>31. Australia</li><li>32. Cook Islands</li><li>33. Fiji</li><li>34. Kiribati</li><li>35. Marshall Islands</li><li>36. Micronesia (Federated States of)</li><li>37. Nauru</li><li>38. New Zealand</li><li>39. Niue</li><li>40. Papua New Guinea</li><li>41. Samoa</li><li>42. Solomon Islands</li><li>43. Tonga</li><li>44. Tuvalu</li><li>45. Vanuatu</li><li>46. Palau</li></ol>