

## 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4-Education 2030 (TCG)



### CONCEPT NOTE

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is pleased to announce the [Seventh Meeting of the Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4-Education 2030](#) (TCG 7) on 27-29 October 2020.

2020 is a pivotal year for the international community as it introduces the [decade of action](#) towards 2030 to accelerate sustainable solutions to address the world's multiple and biggest challenges through global, local and individual actions. During the UN Statistical Commission's (UNSC) 51st session on 3-6 March 2020, a review of the global indicators framework for Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – established by UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) [in 2017](#) – was conducted and adopted. This revision includes an approved set of changes to the global indicator framework as an outcome of the [2020 Comprehensive Review](#) conducted by the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). The revised framework now includes 36 “major changes” to the framework, namely the replacement, revision, addition and deletion of some of the current indicators. The revised framework now includes a total of 231 indicators – approximately the same number of indicators as in the original global indicator framework.

During the 7th TCG meeting, members will review impending methodological developments, refinements and challenges linked to the implementation of the SDG 4 Thematic Monitoring Framework. The TCG will also review regional benchmark implementation strategies led by regional bodies and assess how they can help stimulate and emphasize the importance of achieving SDG 4 as envisioned by the Education 2030 Framework for Action in the [Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4](#), which called on countries to establish “appropriate intermediate

*benchmarks (e.g. for 2020 and 2025)” for the SDG indicators, which were deemed “indispensable for addressing the accountability deficit associated with longer-term targets” (parag. 28).*

Finally, TCG members will assess the impact of the global COVID-19 crisis by reviewing the various experiences of multiple stakeholders. They will then discuss how best to proceed to produce a set of recommendations to monitor SDG 4 through these trying times based on their exchanges during the TCG’s 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The TCG’s 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (TCG 7) will take place over three days. Each day will roll out 3-hour long virtual meetings to achieve consensus on decisions and share recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic with the international community. Prior to the TCG 7, preparatory meetings will be conducted for each of the [TCG working groups](#) to maximize the TCG 7 plenary meeting time.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To REVIEW and ENDORSE the methodological developments and refinements from the previous TCG meeting (TCG 6), including the outputs prepared by each of the [TCG working groups](#) established in 2020 that were focused on specific issues and types of data, as established by the TCG;
2. To REVIEW and ENDORSE recommendations to track and monitor the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
3. To REVIEW and ENDORSE technical definitions related to the benchmarking of indicators and share regional approaches on how to establish benchmarks;
4. To REVIEW and FINALIZE the list of indicators to be published in 2021.

## PARTICIPATION

Day 1 and Day 3 of the three-day meeting will be open to TCG members and all registered observers.

Day 2, which will focus on the COVID-19 crisis impacts and mitigation strategies, will be open to the general public, including education statisticians from ministries of education, regional organizations, partners and all interested stakeholders.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Information on how to connect to the virtual meeting will be communicated to all registered participants ahead of time.

The meeting will be held in English. Simultaneous interpretations into French and Spanish will be provided.

## DOCUMENTS

Documents will be available on the meeting webpage (<http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/seventh-meeting-of-the-tcg/>) prior to the meeting.

## ANNEX

### TCG background, context and composition

The [Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4 – Education 2030 \(TCG\)](#) was formed in early 2016 to lead the development and implementation of the global and thematic indicator frameworks to monitor the education targets in SDG 4. The Director of the UIS and the Director of the Division of Education 2030 Support and Coordination of UNESCO's Education Sector (UNESCO ED/ESC) co-chaired the group to guarantee an efficient articulation between UNESCO divisions and units and other international stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda. The UIS acts as the Secretariat of the TCG.

The SDG 4 - Education 2030 Framework for Action ratified that the UIS remains *“the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education”*. It also clearly recognised that *“in addition to collecting data, the UIS will work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to better assess progress across the targets related to UNESCO's mandate, working in coordination with the Education 2030 Steering Committee.”*<sup>1</sup> Within this context, the aim of the TCG is to efficiently coordinate efforts to implement SDG 4 monitoring, particularly as it relates to the 43 indicators in the thematic monitoring framework on education – which also includes the 12 global SDG 4 indicators.

The TCG is currently composed of representatives from 22 Member States and 8 organizations, including representation from all regions as well as from civil society organizations and international organizations, such as OECD, UNICEF, the World Bank and UNESCO itself. Members of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee are invited to participate as observers.

### TCG past meetings and updated summary of results

The TCG has met [six times](#): in Washington, DC, USA (May 2016), Madrid, Spain (October 2016), Montreal, Canada (June 2017), Dubai, United Arab Emirates (January 2018), Mexico City, Mexico (November 2018), and in Yerevan, Armenia (August 2019). At these meetings, the group:

- Revised the thematic indicators proposed in the Education 2030 Framework for Action taking account of changes proposed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG);
- Reached agreement on the list of indicators to report in 2018, 2019 and 2020;
- Shared national and regional experiences in the development and implementation of the SDG 4 monitoring process;
- Advanced the establishment of benchmarks, thresholds and minimum proficiency levels;
- Discussed capacity building needs of countries and the best ways to meet these needs.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 100, *Education 2030 Framework for Action*.