

TECHNICAL COOPERATION GROUP ON SDG 4 INDICATORS (TCG)

NINTH MEETING

CONCEPT NOTE

24 November 2022

Introduction

The past year was marked by major events and a number of developments impacting global cooperation in education. Lately, the [Transforming Education Summit](#) (TES) (16-19 September, 2022) was convened in response to a global crisis in education inviting all stakeholders to put education at the top of the global political agenda.

The Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 indicators (TCG) has always played a crucial role in the discussion and development of education indicators and will continue to be instrumental in this era of ‘transforming education’.

In November 2021, the [Global Education Cooperation Mechanism](#) (GCM) was established in support of SDG 4, calling for stronger collective action towards the shared global education goal and joint accountability to achieve it. The benchmarking process serves as the linchpin of the GCM and supports its data and monitoring functions.

Great progress has been made over the past year, with 7 in 10 countries setting national SDG 4 benchmarks for 2025 and 2030, marking their contribution to the global education goal

and fulfilling a long-neglected commitment made in 2015 as part of the Education 2030 Framework for Action. The results of the benchmarking process are available on various platforms, including the [Global Education Observatory](#) (GEO) website and a number of [reports and blogs](#).

The next step is to develop a simple, transparent, and fair methodology to monitor the achievement of the benchmarks as an accountability mechanism. A proposed approach was developed but needs to be consulted and then applied to all SDG 4 benchmark indicators. Results will be shared in reports and dashboards to feed into peer dialogue on observed progress.

Objectives

Following the recent developments, the ninth meeting of the TCG comes at a turning point characterized by a focus on ‘transforming’ education and putting it at the top of the political agenda. Hence, the TCG will have the following objectives:

- Review the decisions taken in TCG 8
- Brief on the discussions and decisions of the Working Groups including, among others, the following topics: ISCED-T; metadata on national definitions of trained and qualified teachers; UIS new data collection mechanism; source of population data; ISCED review panel; out-of-school and completion rate modeling; educational attainment; connectivity; greening; nutrition; expenditure indicators sources; and progress in monitoring learning
- Provide an update on the benchmarking process and discuss the next steps, including a methodology to monitor progress and the use of the benchmarking process to monitor TES commitments
- Provide an update on the Global Education Observatory (GEO)
- Discuss regional averages of SDG 4 indicators and their challenges
- Update on the nomination of 2 observers from each country to participate in the TCG meetings and the membership rotation process
- Discuss the preparation and agenda of a super-plenary in 2023

Modalities

The Secretariat of the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 indicators is inviting its members to its ninth meeting. This year, the meeting will be held virtually and in English, with simultaneous translation to French and Spanish.

The meeting will take place on **Thursday 24 November 2022** from 8:30 to 12:30 ([Montreal time](#)). It will be preceded by the meetings of the different working groups on **Tuesday 22 November** from 8:30 to 14:00 ([Montreal time](#)) and **Wednesday 23 November** from 8:30 to 12:30 ([Montreal time](#)).

Agenda and other documents

The agenda and all related documents will be uploaded shortly on the [TCG website](#).

Overview of the TCG meetings

The following working groups will meet prior to the TCG meeting to discuss issues pertaining to their mandate as per the schedule below.

MEETING	DATE AND TIME ¹	THEMES
WORKING GROUPS		
Teachers	22 November 2022 8:30 – 9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ISCED-T ➤ National definitions of trained and qualified teachers ➤ Global minimum standard of teacher qualifications
Administrative data / EMIS	22 November 2022 9:45 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implementation of the new UIS data collection mechanism ➤ Population data ➤ Discussion of SDG 4.2.4 ➤ ISCED review panel
Joint EMIS and Surveys	22 November 2022 11:00 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Out-of-school model ➤ Completion model ➤ Educational attainment ➤ Other indicators ➤ Connectivity ➤ Greening ➤ Nutrition
Finance	22 November 2022 13:00 – 14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SDG indicator 1.a.2 ➤ Sources of expenditure indicators

¹ The hours are indicated in Montreal time. Please check the correct hour in your time zone at <https://bit.ly/3DgxrXD>.

<p>Global Alliance to Monitor Learning</p>	<p>23 November 2022 8:30 – 12:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MPLs and the International Standards Setting Exercise ➤ Harmonization of methodologies ➤ Tools to measure and report on learning outcomes ➤ Foundational learning ➤ Methodological developments for some indicators and in regional averages
<p>TCG PLENARY</p>		
<p>TCG meeting</p>	<p>24 November 2022 8:30 – 12:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decisions of working groups ➤ Benchmarks ➤ Global Education Observatory ➤ Regional averages ➤ Nomination of observers ➤ Membership rotation ➤ TCG super-plenary meeting

TCG Background

The 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 UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), Silvia Montoya, and the Director of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, Manos Antoninis, co-chair 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 for the TCG. For more information on the full TCG composition, please visit this [page](#).

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*”². Within this context, the aim of the TCG is to efficiently coordinate efforts to implement SDG 4

² Paragraph 100, Education 2030 Framework for Action.



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monitoring, particularly in respect to the 43 indicators in the thematic monitoring framework on education (which also includes the 12 SDG4 and one SDG1 global indicator).

