

TECHNICAL COOPERATION GROUP ON SDG 4 INDICATORS (TCG)

TENTH MEETING

CONCEPT NOTE

11 December 2023

1. Introduction

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and the Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA) at the UNESCO General Conference in November 2015, attention has turned to the development of processes and plans to monitor progress towards the targets associated with SDG 4 on education. At the level of global monitoring, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) developed a global indicator framework which was agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016, further refined in March 2017 and formally adopted by the UN General Assembly in July 2017.

The Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 indicators (TCG) was established in May 2016 to lead the development and implementation of the global and thematic indicator frameworks, providing a platform to discuss and develop the indicators used for monitoring the Education 2030 targets in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, involving the main stakeholders. Since its inception, the TCG took major decisions following consultation with its members, allowing to monitor progress and to report on SDG4 indicators (see Annex 1).

The TCG plays a crucial role in establishing standards and developing methodologies: it worked extensively to ensure that all education indicators move from Tier III (with no methodology, no data) or Tier II (no methodology, with data) to Tier I (with methodology and data). The TCG continues to address the demand for adding new indicators to the framework to encompass emerging issues. For instance, following the 9th TCG meeting, a couple of indicators were added, namely:

- SDG 4.5.6: Expenditure on education by source of funding (public, private, international) as a percentage of GDP
- SDG 4.a.4: Proportion of school attending children receiving school meals.

An important decision was taken, unanimously, following this 9th TCG meeting: the organization of the first session of the UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics (see Annex 2).

The Conference will have the following objectives:

- reflect on experience and lessons of SDG 4 benchmarking process
- promote common understanding of recent methodological developments
- reach broader constituency and capture Member State needs and demands
- provide opportunity to the community of practice to meet
- identify potential process improvements
- discuss future agenda

The TCG will act as the executive body of the Conference and the co-chairs of the TCG and chairs of working groups will act as the bureau of the Conference.

The 10th meeting of the TCG will be dedicated to this first session of the UNSECO Conference on Education Data and Statistics.

2. Objectives of the TCG meeting

The 10th meeting of the TCG will be held **virtually** on **11 December 2023** and will focus on the **UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics** (Paris, 7 - 9 February 2024).

The objectives of the TCG meeting will be as follows:

- update participants on the preparations for the Conference, including nominations of delegates by Member States and side events
- discuss the position papers and finalize them prior to the Conference
- present the findings and conclusions of the preparatory regional meetings that helped identify regional priorities and concerns
- discuss TCG organization, including rotation of members and define agenda forward.

3. Meeting Modalities

The TCG meeting will be held **virtually on 11 December 2023** and the agenda and all related documents will be uploaded on the [page](#) dedicated for the meeting on the TCG website.

The TCG meeting will be preceded by the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) which will be held in-person on Monday and Tuesday, in Paris, on 6 and 7 December 2023. Apart from GAML, there will be no other working group meeting ahead of TCG10.

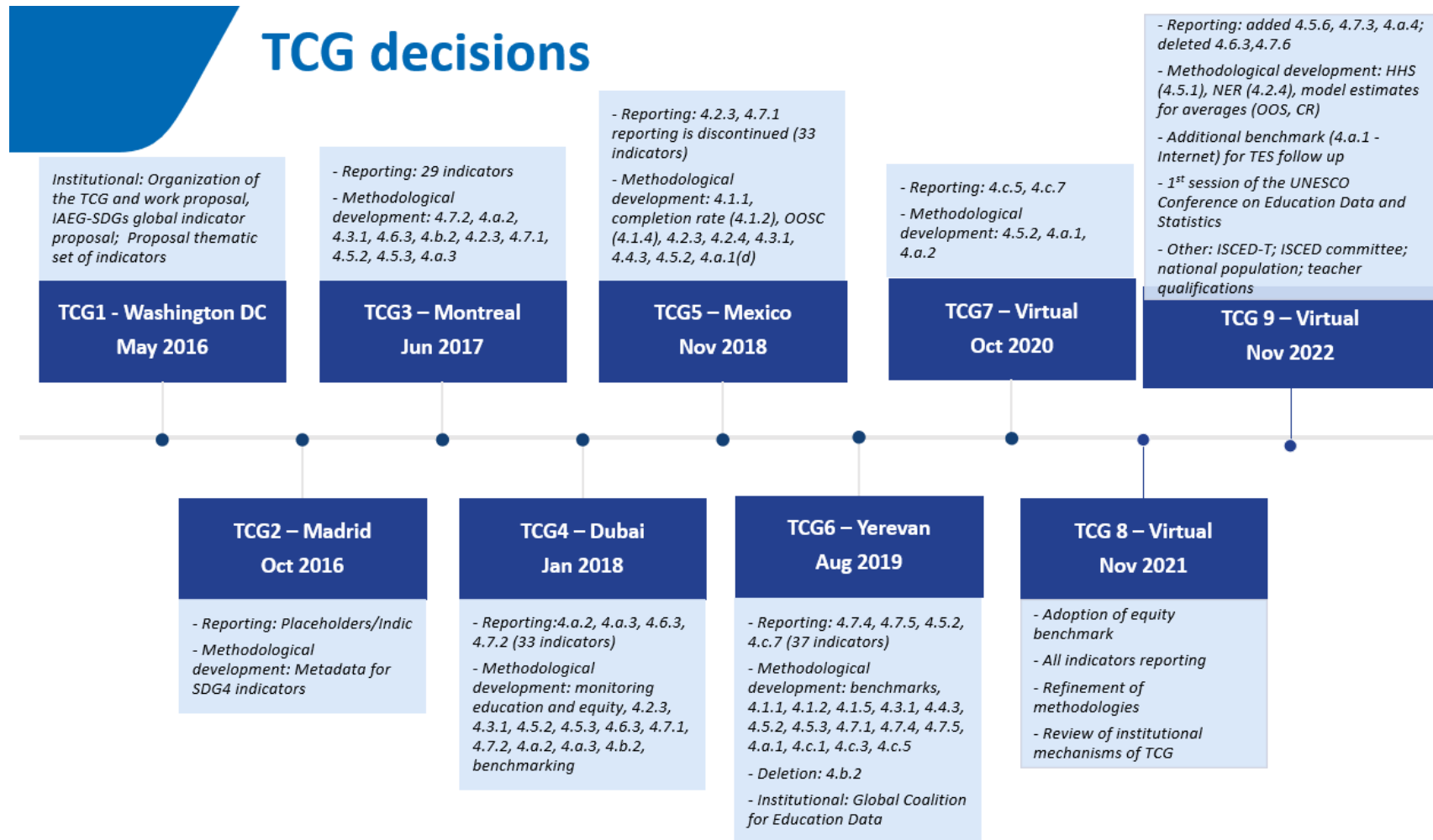
Annex 1: TCG Background and main decisions since 2016

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”*¹. Within this context, the aim of the TCG is to efficiently coordinate efforts to implement SDG 4 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).

¹ Paragraph 100, Education 2030 Framework for Action.

Main decisions taken by the TCG (2016 – 2022)



Annex 2: First session of the ‘UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics’ (7-9 February 2024)

The first session of the ‘UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics’ will be held as an **in-person** event at UNESCO Headquarters in **Paris**, France from **7 to 9 February 2024**, comprising three full days of activities. For more information, please refer to the [concept note](#) of the event.

The Conference is envisioned as a regular dialogue and peer learning platform for the international community of practice among education statisticians. Among its objectives are:

- Discuss and reach a consensus on key issues regarding concepts, definitions, methodologies, and operational aspects of education statistics in the form of recommendations and guidelines for adoption as international standards to improve comparability.
- 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.

Participants will include: three delegates from each UNESCO Member State representing the education ministry, the national statistical office, and the national learning assessments unit; regional statistical agencies and organizations; United Nations specialized agencies and other international organizations; aid agencies, foundations, and other private partners, non-governmental organizations, and the teaching profession.

The **position papers** of the Conference cover the following key issues: education data ecosystems; ISCED; administrative data; teachers; education expenditure; household surveys; learning outcomes; benchmarking process; and technology and data for the future. These papers will be discussed prior to the Conference during **regional preparatory meetings** in October and November and refined during the **TCG and GAML meetings** in December so that the final position papers of the Conference will reflect all the important elements including regional priorities and concerns identified. Please refer to the timeline below to see the main dates leading to the Conference.

Timeline reflecting the main dates related to the UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics

