

TECHNICAL COOPERATION GROUP ON SDG 4 INDICATORS (TCG)

WORKING GROUPS AND WORKPLANS FOR 2024-2026

CONCEPT NOTE

29 APRIL 2024

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 ([GA Resolution 71/313](#)). This framework is seen as a voluntary and country-led instrument including an initial set of indicators to be refined annually and to be reviewed comprehensively by the Commission in [2020](#) and 2025.

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.

Objectives of the TCG

The TCG plays a crucial role in establishing standards and developing methodologies making recommendations on the necessary actions to improve data quality and availability¹. Its main objectives are:

- SDG 4 global and thematic indicator framework development
- Other indicator development
- Quality assurance
- Support to global and regional entities
- Benchmarking process
- Reporting to the SDG 4 High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) through its Functional Area 2 on data and monitoring.

¹ For more information on the TCG, please refer to its [Terms of Reference](#) revised in 2023 and to the major decisions it took since 2016 in Annex 1.

Ways of working of the TCG, rotation of members, and EDS Conference decisions

The TCG is **co-chaired by the directors** of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, and its **secretariat** is the UIS. The TCG is composed of **28 UNESCO Member States**. It also includes **observers**, notably from UNESCO, multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, UN regional economic commissions, and regional organizations, providing expert technical advice and support. Two **Sherpas** of the SDG 4 HLSC, who co-chair the Technical Committee of Functional Area 2 on data and monitoring, act as liaisons with the global education cooperation mechanism.

The work of the TCG is carried out by **Working Groups (WG)** focused on data sources and **Task Forces (TF)**. The WGs generally develop standards, classifications, or norms and are composed of TCG members and non-members experts in the field or domain. The TFs are scope-specific, time-framed and focus on methodology; members of a TF provide vision, direction, and coordination of statistical activities in education.

Each selected TCG Member State serves for **three calendar years** and the latest [rotation of TCG members](#) was completed following the EDS Conference for the period 2024–2026². The **Bureau** of the Conference was constituted of TCG members selected according to the [Rules of Procedure](#)³.

The Conference endorsed the following **decisions** with regards to the TCG⁴:

- The TCG will be renamed ‘Education Data and Statistics Commission’ (**EDS Commission**)
- It will remain the **primary body for the coordination of the global education data and statistics**
- It will **take forward the recommendations** of the EDS Conference between sessions.

Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting

‘**TCG Working groups and workplans for 2024-2026**’ marks the first TCG meeting in its new composition for 2024-2026 and will gather TCG members from the 28 Member States and the TCG co-chairs. It aims at:

- Initiating new TCG members to the work expected
- Defining the workplans of Working Groups and Task Forces based on the agenda set by the EDS Conference and its decisions

² See Annex 2 for the new composition of the TCG. Outgoing members are: Canada, Sweden, Russian Federation, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, China, Indonesia, Angola, Zambia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia.

³ See Annex 3 for the composition of the Bureau of the EDS Conference.

⁴ See document [1 UIS/EDS/1.1](#)

The meeting has the following expected outcomes:

- Induction of newly elected TCG members
- Taking forward the recommendations of the EDS Conference by defining working groups, task forces and their respective workplans for the period 2024-2026.

Meeting modalities

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on **29 April 2024** from **8:30 to 09:30** (Montreal time)⁵. It will be held in English with interpretation to Arabic, French, and Spanish.

The meeting is by invitation only. To obtain the meeting link, please contact the TCG Secretariat at uis.tcg@unesco.org.

Draft Agenda

Time	Agenda item
5 min.	Welcome
10 min.	Round table to introduce all members
25 min.	Workplans and composition of Working Groups and Task Forces
15 min.	Discussion
5 min.	Closing

⁵ Kindly check the correct hour in your time zone at <https://bit.ly/3DgxrXD>

Annex 1. Main decisions taken by the TCG (2016 – 2023)

TCG decisions 2016–2023



Annex 2. Composition of the TCG for 2024 – 2026

TCG membership 2024-2026						
Electoral groups	GROUP I Western Europe and North America	GROUP II Eastern Europe	GROUP III Latin America and Caribbean	GROUP IV Asia and the Pacific	GROUP V(a) Africa	GROUP V(b) Arab States
2024-2026 (28 Member States)	 Cyprus	 Armenia	 Argentina	 Bangladesh	 Benin	 Iraq
	 France	 Estonia	 Brazil	 Lao PDR	 Côte d'Ivoire	 Oman
	 Germany	 Romania	 Chile	 Malaysia	 Equatorial Guinea	 Tunisia
	 Norway		 Guatemala	 Pakistan	 Gambia	
			 Jamaica	 Sri Lanka	 Nigeria	
				 Thailand	 South Africa	
				 Tonga		

Note: New TCG Member States for 2024-2026 are in **bold**.

Annex 3. Composition of the Bureau of the first session of the Conference on Education Data and Statistics

Title	Electoral Group	TCG member
Chair	I	France
Vice-chair 1	III	Brazil - Chair of WG on household surveys
Vice-chair 2	Va	Gambia - Chair of WG on administrative data
Member	II	Armenia
Member	IV	Bangladesh
Member	Vb	Oman
Member	---	Director of GEM Report (TCG co-chair)
Member	---	Director of UIS (TCG co-chair)
Rapporteur	---	RTI – GAML chair