



EDSC/11/2025/CN/1

Education Data and Statistics Commission Annual Meeting¹ (Paris, 27-28 February 2025)

**Preceded by the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) meeting
(Paris, 25-26 February 2025)**

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

In February 2024, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) held the first-ever Conference on Education Data and Statistics ([EDS Conference](#)) at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The Conference objectives were to establish an international community of practice of education statisticians; communicate, discuss and reach consensus on concepts, definitions, methodologies and operational aspects of indicator measurement; and debate the impact of technological developments on education statistics and ways to benefit from mutual opportunities and to address challenges.

The Conference decisions included renaming the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 indicators ([TCG](#)) as the 'Education Data and Statistics Commission' (EDS Commission). The latter will remain the primary body for the coordination of the global education data and statistics and will take forward the recommendations of the EDS Conference between sessions. It will continue to lead the development and implementation of the global and thematic indicator frameworks and to play a crucial role in establishing standards and developing methodologies, making recommendations on the necessary actions to improve data quality and availability.

The EDS Commission is co-chaired by the directors of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report and is [composed](#) of 28 Member States². The work of the EDS Commission is carried out by working groups (WG) and task forces (TF). The Commission in its new composition has already met virtually twice this year ([29 April](#) and [4 July](#)) and its WGs and TFs are planning to meet in January 2025, before the in-person meeting in Paris on 27 and 28 February 2025, which will be preceded by a 2-days meeting of the Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML) on 25 and 26 February.

The EDS Commission meeting follows a series of important international meetings on education, notably: the [High-Level Steering Committee meeting](#) 'Accelerate Progress Towards SDG4: Stocktake

¹ The EDS Commission was formerly known as Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 Indicators or TCG.

² The latest rotation of the EDS Commission members for the period 2024–2026 was completed following the EDS Conference. Refer to Annex 2 for the new composition of the TCG. Outgoing members are Canada, Sweden, Russian Federation, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, China, Indonesia, Angola, Zambia, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.

of Transformative Actions in Education' (17 June); the [Summit of the Future](#) (20-23 September); the 15th IAEG-SDG meeting in Oslo (21-23 October) that focused on the [2025 Comprehensive Review Process](#); and the [Global Education Meeting](#) (31 October-1 November). It precedes the United Nations Statistical Commission's [56th session](#) planned for 4-7 March 2025.

The EDS Commission working groups and task forces

The work of the EDS Commission is carried out by its 5 working groups (WG) and 2 task forces (TF)³.

The WGs generally develop standards, classifications, or norms and are composed of EDSC members and non-members experts in the field or domain. They are the following:

- [Administrative data/EMIS](#)
- [Teachers](#)
- [Education expenditure data](#)
- [Household surveys](#)
- [Global Alliance to Monitor Learning \(GAML\)](#)

The TFs are scope-specific, time-framed and focus on methodology; members of TFs provide vision, direction and coordination of statistical activities in education. They are the following:

- [Education in Emergencies](#)
- [Teachers](#)

Objectives of the EDS Commission meeting

The EDS Commission is the primary body for the coordination of the global education data and statistics and is entrusted to take forward the recommendations of the EDS Conference in-between sessions. The objectives of its meeting will include, inter alia, discussions related to the 2025 Comprehensive Review Process and the benchmarking process; progress in monitoring learning, with a specific focus on early grades; measurement of literacy; school life expectancy; teachers' indicators; model estimations for out-of-school and completion rates; estimation of out-of-school rates in protracted crises.

Expected outcomes of the EDS Commission meeting

- Discussions revolving around the 2025 Comprehensive Review Process will feed into the UNESCO UIS report presented to the Statistical Commission 56th meeting early 2025.
- Discussions related to the benchmarking process will help guide the next steps of monitoring progress towards achieving the national targets that countries set for 2025 and 2030.
- Discussions of the meetings of the WGs and TFs will advance the agenda of the EDS Conference,

Modalities

The EDS Commission meeting will take place from **27 to 28 February 2025** in Paris. It will be held in English, with simultaneous translation to Arabic, French and Spanish.

The meeting will be preceded by the meeting of the GAML on **25 and 26 February 2025**.

³ There is a discussion of a new Task Force on ISCED.

Both meetings are in hybrid mode.

For more information, please visit the EDSC meetings [page](#) (in development).

Agenda of the EDS Commission meetings (Working groups, task forces and plenary)

MEETING AND DATES	TIME ⁴	THEMES
Days 1 and 2: 25 and 26 February 2025		
Global Alliance to Monitor Learning (GAML)	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress in measuring learning: focus on early grades • Update on IAEG-SDG decision on SDG indicator 4.6.1
Days 3 and 4: 27 and 28 February 2025		
EDS Commission meeting	TBD	Administrative data/EMIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • ISCED review panel • School Life Expectancy • School meals • Report on Greening (Update on metadata decision)
	TBD	Education in Emergencies Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol/Estimating out-of-school rates in protracted crises
	TBD	Teachers / Teachers Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained teachers • Update on teachers' data collection with proposed metadata
	TBD	Household Surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handbook of household surveys • ECLAC • TVET • SDG 4.3.3 • Model estimates of out-of-school and completion rates/Joint modeling
	TBD	Education expenditure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the education expenditure questionnaire (UIS/ED/B) • SDG indicator 4.5.4
	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Comprehensive Review Process • Benchmarks

⁴ The hours will be indicated in Montreal time. Please check the correct hour in your time zone at <https://bit.ly/3DgxrXD>.