SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING 2019 (SEM2019)

September 2019
Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 & Friday 27

New York City, USA

“We need to change in order to secure the promise of sustainable development, human rights and peace for our grandchildren. And we have no time to lose.”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

https://millenniumedu.org/sem_nyc_2019/
CONCEPT NOTE

Reinforcing Partnerships (SDG-17)

EDUCATION THAT COUNTS

Investing in Education Pays Well!

Financing@EDU 2.0 - Education Finance in a Data-Driven Society and the EdTech Value Proposal

➢ 6% of GDP to Education and Counting

➢ allocating at least 15% to 20% of public expenditure to education

INCHEON DECLARATION & FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION
SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION, FINANCE, DATA & TECHNOLOGY

Effective Achievements

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Agenda)

The United Nations General Assembly adopted on September 25, 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (UNGA Resolution 70/1.) [https://millenniumedu.org/sustainable-education/] including the SDG 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. As a supportive action, Millennium@EDU SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION PARTNERS signed on September 27, 2015, in New York City, U.S.A., the Sustainable@EDU COMMITMENT [https://millenniumedu.org/sustainableedu/] expressing their support in contributing to the achievement of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs).

Following the Sustainable@EDU COMMITMENT and the six consecutive years of Meetings organized to reinforce partnerships, in 2019 the SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING (SEM2019) aims to reinforce and enlarge the cooperation between stakeholders, in line with “SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development” [https://millenniumedu.org/sdg17/] consolidating its SDGs focused approach.
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019, Report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development

https://millenniumedu.org/financingedu/

“Achieving SDG 4 on quality education for all requires significant additional financing. Annual total spending to achieve the first two and costliest education targets, namely universal pre-primary, primary and secondary education, would need to more than triple in low-income countries.

Three sources of funding are available to fill the gap: Governments, donors and households. Domestic public finance is by far the most important source of funding, accounting for 79 per cent of education spending globally. Poorer countries prioritize education more in their public expenditure, but this still translates into vastly smaller expenditure by student — less than $200 annually per primary school student in low-income countries, compared to around $8,000 in high-income countries.

In response, households have to contribute a much larger share of education financing directly. In some developing countries, households account for more than half of all expenditure, compared to less than 15 per cent in most developed countries. Overreliance on households raises equity concerns.

In developing countries, fiscal and household spending is complemented by aid as a third major source of education funding. Donors account for 12 per cent of education spending in low-income countries. However, over the past decade, education has become less of a
priority for development partners, with the share of education falling from 8.8 per cent of total official development assistance in 2010 to 7.1 per cent in 2017.

A share of aid for education is used for the provision of scholarships. — Means of implementation target 4.b calls for a substantial expansion of scholarships available to developing countries. More than $3 billion were disbursed as aid for either scholarships or as costs incurred by donor-country higher education institutions.

New and emerging technologies are putting additional demands on education systems, as even advanced education is no longer a guarantee for employment due to the automation of cognitive tasks. Continuous and rapid technological change will require provision of opportunities for lifelong learning, but implications of artificial intelligence and related technologies for education systems and practices are only just coming into focus and warrant attention by policy-makers.”

**Financing@EDU AGENDA**

The achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular SDG 4 requires adequate Funding and the creation of specific Financing Models.

The role of private sector on Sustainable Development is a key change in the new international agenda. Recognizing the crucial contribution of job creation and wealth generation for long term development and sustainability are an integrated part for a holistic understanding of development, as clearly stated in the SGDs and in the overall comprehension of Sustainable Development as a symbiotic relation between environmental sustainability, social development and economic growth.
Since 2015, the International Community and the business community have converged in the notion that private investment in developing countries and emerging economies, with a strong focus on profit generation within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, is an integrated tool for long term and self-generating social development and economic growth, that allows individuals and families to improve their living conditions. In fact, a well-paid job allows families to send their children to school, have a roof over their heads, food on their table and strive in better health and social-economic conditions.

Furthermore, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1. "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" highlights the importance and strengthens the relation with the private sector, acknowledging its strategic role for the SDGs as follows:

“Private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. We acknowledge the diversity of the private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals. We call on all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges". ("Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", paragraph 67).

In this context, the United Nations Secretary-General has released on September 24, 2018 “THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S STRATEGY FOR FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2018-2021)” including the following main Guidelines listed below, with a synthesis of our Vision concerning its application to Sustainable Education (SDG 4):

“1. Aligning global financial and economic policies with the 2030 Agenda.”:

It is important, among other actions, to promote budget and tax policies which favor Education and learning;
“2. Enhancing sustainable financing strategies and investments at the regional and country levels.”:

It is important, among other actions, to promote investment in the EdTech Sector;

“3. Seizing the potential of financial innovations, new technologies and digitalization to provide equitable access to finance.”:

It is important, among other actions, to promote Fintech, financial literacy and SDG4-related sustainable finance products and services.

Data@EDU AGENDA

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute a very ambitious plan that requires Data and Accountability in its implementation, which in its turn are tools to support and justify the mobilization of financial resources making possible all necessary investments to achieve and surmount all the Goals and the respective Targets.

To create a vision on Data and its role in Sustainable Development, by initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Report “A World That Counts – Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development” [https://millenniumedu.org/dataedu-predictive-education/] was published on November 2014, in which a clear relation was established between Data and Sustainable Development as described: “Data are the lifeblood of decision-making and the raw material for accountability. Without high-quality data providing the right information on the right things at the right time; designing, monitoring and evaluating effective policies becomes almost impossible.”(...) “As the world embarks on an ambitious project to meet new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is an urgent need to mobilize the data revolution for all people and the whole planet in order to monitor progress, hold governments accountable and foster sustainable development. More diverse, integrated, timely and trustworthy information can lead to better decision-making and real-time citizen feedback. This
in turn enables individuals, public and private institutions, and companies to make choices that are good for them and for the world they live in.” (WTC P.2)

With the aim and vision, described above, as part of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations included in this process the establishment of the “Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 71/313, July 6, 2017 “Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

In what concerns Education: “SDG4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, the UNESCO DOCUMENTS: “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DATA DIGEST: LAYING THE FOUNDATION TO MEASURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4” (SDDD) https://millenniumedu.org/dataedu-predictive-education/ and the “SDG 4 Data Book 2019” https://millenniumedu.org/dataedu-predictive-education/ give an overview on how Education is placed in the SDGs INDICATORS FRAMEWORK:

It is important to underline that “The United Nations Secretary-General’s Synthesis Report (UNSG, 2014) recommends that four levels of monitoring should be considered – global, regional, thematic and national”…“These frameworks complement one another - one has a relatively small number of key measures to be monitored regularly at the global level, and the other has a more comprehensive framework that addresses a wider range of policy issues faced by the education sector in each country.” (SDDD, p.13)
The Table below presents the **GLOBAL AND THE THEMATIC INDICATORS of SDG 4**:

### Table 3. Education targets, global and thematic indicators and key concepts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>No. of indicators</th>
<th>Concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Quality in primary and secondary education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Readiness to learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Elimination of gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education for the vulnerable</td>
<td>Parity indices</td>
<td>Equity across targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6 Adult literacy and numeracy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7 Knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.a Education facilities that provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b Expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.c Increased supply of qualified teachers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Qualified teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Trained teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Motivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: E2030 FFA, 2016
The Four Interlinked Thematic Drivers of SEM2019:
Education, Data, Technology and Finance

The SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING (SEM2019) will focus on Four Interlinked Thematic Drivers of Sustainable Development: SUSTAINABLE Education, Data, Technology and Finance, as follows:

SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION – the SEM2019 will focus on Education for Sustainable Development as well as on the use of technology to improve the access and quality of education and on how the personal and social awareness of the scientific method, data science, coding and technological tools can contribute to a better management of Data, Monitoring and the effective achievement of SDGs.

As a reference for this Topic, the SEM2019 will consider the “UNESCO GUIDE: “Learning Objectives: Education for Sustainable Development Goals”: https://millenniumedu.org/education-for-sustainable-development/ and its role in promoting 21st century literacies with focus on the themes of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – with particular attention to Data, Technology, Finance and Partnerships;
TECHNOLOGY – the SEM2019 spotlights are pointing to technology trends which can support Education and Data such as Cloud-services, Internet of Things - IoT, Self-tracking-data, Data-analytics, Predictive-data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and many others with real value like Coding as a Literacy, STEAM Learning, Measuring Learning. We highlight holistic approach implementations and transformation frameworks such as Sustainable@EDU PROJECTS, Sustainable@EDU CAMPUS & SCHOOL and Sustainable@EDU CLASSROOM. The reference document to this Topic is the “COSN Driving K-12 Innovation series” https://cosn.org/k12innovation.
FINANCE – Adequate Funding of Education Systems is now a priority with many dimensions. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development [https://millenniumedu.org/financingedu/ “(...) encourages countries to consider setting nationally appropriate spending targets for quality investments in essential public services for all, including (...) Education.” and the Incheon Declaration [https://millenniumedu.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/education-2030-incheon-declaration-framework-for-action.pdf] quantifies the investment objectives: “We therefore are determined to increase public spending on education in accordance with country context, and urge adherence to the international and regional benchmarks of allocating efficiently at least 4-6% of Gross Domestic Product and/or at least 15-20% of total public expenditure to education.”
SELECTED BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

Although other selected resources will be used for specific sessions or presentations, there are the following Baseline reference Documents for the SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING 2019:

1. UNESCO GUIDE: Learning Objectives: Education for Sustainable Development
https://millenniumedu.org/education-for-sustainable-development/

2. COSN Driving K-12 Innovation series
https://cosn.org/k12innovation

3. 70/1. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
https://millenniumedu.org/sustainable-education/

https://millenniumedu.org/dataedu-predictive-education/

5. UNESCO DOCUMENT: “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DATA DIGEST: LAYING THE FOUNDATION TO MEASURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4” (SDDD)
https://millenniumedu.org/dataedu-predictive-education/

6. Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
https://millenniumedu.org/financingedu/
7. Incheon Declaration – Education 2030 - Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all”

https://millenniumedu.org/financingedu/

https://millenniumedu.org/financingedu/

10. SDG 4 Data Book 2019
https://millenniumedu.org/dataedu-predictive-education/

CO-HOSTING MODEL

The Meeting is organized in a Co-hosting Model in which different organizations and companies will host sessions on different topics related to the themes of the SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING 2019 (SEM2019) and their own specific focus of activity.
PROGRAM AND PRESENTATIONS

The Program of the SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING (SEM2019) is full of interesting presentations from Millennium@EDU SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS that will be sharing updated information on their Initiatives and Programs offering collaboration opportunities and presentations from the Co-Hosts and their Guests, providing updated views on the most relevant worldwide issues with impact on education, technology and development.

The latest versions of the Program, Presentations and Accompanying Materials can be found at the dedicated SEM2019 Webpage: https://millenniumedu.org/sem_nyc_2019/

WORKING LANGUAGE

The working language of the SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING 2019 is ENGLISH.

DATE and Place – September 2019, Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 & Friday 27, New York City, USA

The SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING 2019 will take place in New York City, USA, on September 2019, Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 & Friday 27.

Every year the Meeting takes place in September, the same week as the opening of the Annual Session of United Nations General Assembly, giving the Stakeholders the opportunity to
live and feel the context of our operational aims as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda.

We also take the opportunity to cooperate with other institutions having events in the same geographical area, during the same week and with similar purposes, as well as to exchanging views within this context.

**VENUE – Microsoft Technology Centre, NYC, Times Square**

As an important contribution from Millennium@EDU SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS, the venues of our events are kindly provided by our partners.

This approach benefits the relations with our partners by providing insight on the hosting stakeholder’s culture, organization and methods.

The SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING 2019 will be hosted by Microsoft and it will take place at the NYC Microsoft Technology Center Times Square

WHO ATTENDS THE SEM2019

Around 50 participants are expected to attend the SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING (SEM2019). The concept of the Event is to give the chance to all participants to know each other and the projects they are engaged in as well as promoting potential opportunities of collaboration and networking.

The participants are leaders from companies or institutions committed to education, technology and sustainable development such as Microsoft (which will host the SEM2019), Intel and others with outstanding international recognized skills in the referred fields, with relevant activity in their country or region and involved in SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION PROJECTS.

PARTICIPATION & REGISTRATION

Participation & Registration are by Invitation Only. The confirmation will be sent after the respective Eventbrite registration.

SPEAKERS & PRESENTATIONS

Speakers will receive a specific Invitation to make a Presentation on a Thematic Session and information on the aim of their Presentations.
SEM2019 WEBPAGE

https://millenniumedu.org/sem_nyc_2019/

To promote stronger participation, a Webpage was created for the SEM2019 - https://millenniumedu.org/sem_nyc_2019/ - with links to the different areas of the Millennium@EDU SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION Website related to the themes in focus and other relevant information.

The participants of the SEM2019 can find information about the speakers, their organizations and main initiatives as well as accompanying materials of the presentations by visiting the Webpage. The information will remain available for future reference.

CONTACTS

Any additional information can be obtained via email: info@millenniumedu.org or website: https://millenniumedu.org/contact/
SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION MEETING 2019 Concept Note

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