

United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Terms of Reference

Thematic Working Group on Education 2030+ (TWG-EDU) July 2016

Objective

To support the regional implementation of those elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SDGs 4, 5, 13 and 16, that relate to education by:

- a) Providing regional inputs to the normative and analytical work undertaken at the global level and translating global mandates and norms into regional mandates through coordination of the work of the UN and other partners at the regional level on the implementation of Education 2030.
- b) Supporting regional/sub-regional initiatives in specific areas which require coordinated effort by multiple agencies, with a specific focus on ASEAN, SAARC, the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO).
- c) Ensuring coherence around regional policy and synergy to optimize the impact of the combined efforts of the UN system and other key partners in the education sector with a focus on aligning strategic approaches to education.
- d) Selecting and implementing regionally oriented activities that will have the greatest impact toward moving forward the 2030 Agenda at the country level, wherever possible in alignment with the regional undg Peer Support Group, thereby ensuring integration of common global and regional priorities, commitments and good practices in national and UN country team planning processes including UNDAFs.
- e) Contributing to the coordination efforts of the TWG on Statistics to ensure regional inputs into global processes, and the regional implementation of global mandates, including the monitoring and review of SDG progress.

Functions

The main functions of the RCM thematic working group are as follows:

- a) Regional analyses and knowledge products that can be used for policy and advocacy work at the global, regional and country levels;

- b) Information sharing and mapping of programmes and activities across the region; joint programming, including support to regional sectoral coordination mechanisms and organization of regional meetings;
- c) Mobilizing key partners, including at the country level, in the development of regional analytical, normative and advocacy products and support for their implementation, as appropriate.¹

The core functions of the TWG-EDU will be to:

- a) Map and take stock of progress, as well as persisting and emerging gaps/disparities in education and cross-cutting sectors involving education in the region and to help coordinate technical support by the TWG members, where appropriate;
- b) Serve as a platform for information-sharing, development of shared priorities, joint planning and action, promotion of synergies and compiling promising practices across the region;
- c) Conduct and co-publish joint analytical products and policy briefs covering regional megatrends and themes addressed by global and regional stakeholder communities of SDGs 4, 5, 13 and 16;
- d) Organize regional policy advocacy events and technical meetings, including the launches of global reports on education (e.g. UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report) and major regional education conferences of 2016 (e.g. Asia and Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 – APMED2030)
- e) Undertake joint initiatives in resource mobilization for regional projects in support of the national implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 with reference to SDGs 5, 13 and 16.

Organization

1. UNESCO Bangkok and UNICEF will serve as Co-Chairs, and will act as the joint secretariat to the TWG-EDU. The Co-chairs can make decisions on behalf of the TWG-EDU if required, within the parameters of this Terms of Reference, summary record of previous

¹ RCM Chapeau text for Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), date

meetings, and the TWG-EDU Annual Work Plan [Annex 1].

2. The core members/participants of the TWG-EDU include: ILO, IOM, UNDP, ESCAP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, ADB, World Bank, SEAMEO, Plan International, ASPBAE, Action Aid, Education International, ATD Fourth World and SIL International. The TWG may decide to open participation to representatives of other concerned UN agencies (especially the co-conveners of Education 2030), intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and private sector entities. Such decisions will be made at TWG meetings.
3. Each member agency will designate a focal point and an alternate at the highest level possible to facilitate collaboration. The cost of participation at TWG meetings will be met by each participating agency. Member agencies may send observers to TWG-EDU meetings if they wish. Observers for the TWG-EDU meetings may also be invited on a case-by-case basis by the Co-chairs. The focal points represent their agency and are responsible for providing updates on their activities and plans. The focal point is also responsible for keeping their colleagues in the respective agencies informed on the activities of TWG-EDU.
4. The TWG-EDU will meet as deemed necessary, but at least two times a year. The agenda of each meeting will be circulated to members in advance by the TWG Secretariat, including relevant background documents. A summary record of each TWG-EDU meeting, reflecting recommended actions and outcomes, will be prepared by the Secretariat, endorsed by the members and submitted to the RCM Secretariat for centralized records.
5. The TWG-EDU will prepare an Annual Work Plan (Annex 1) with responsibilities, performance indicators and projected timelines for activities, before the end of the first quarter of each calendar year. The TWG-EDU Co-chairs will report on implementation of planned activities at the meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) as required.
6. The TWG-EDU could decide to establish mechanisms such as Working Groups and Task Forces, drawing on its members, to focus on longer term areas of shared work as well as time-bound specific tasks. These mechanisms will report on their work, including recommendations for consideration where appropriate, to the TWG-EDU. Reports may also be made available to the Co-chairs between TWG-EDU meetings as required. The cost of participation will be met by each participating agency.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The TWG-EDU will regularly assess its organization and functioning, including the mandates, relevance and responsibilities of its task forces and working groups. The TWG will prepare an annual work plan at the beginning of each year with the identification of a specific agenda for discussion at each TWG meeting. Implementation of the annual work plan will be monitored through meetings and reporting. Towards this end, the TWG will produce a summary record of each TWG meeting (prepared by the agency chairing the meeting) which will be circulated to RCM members. A detailed assessment of the TWG's relevance and effectiveness will be conducted after two years.

Thematic Working Group on Education 2030+(TWG-EDU)

2016 to 2017 Work plan

	Expected results	Activity description	Responsible Lead Agency	Delivery time line	Resources/ Budget
1	Capacity of Member States enhanced to align policy and sector plans with SDG4 through regional policy-level meetings	<p>1.1 SAARC Technical Meeting and Ministerial Conference</p> <p>1.2 The 2nd Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2030-II)</p> <p>1.3 The 3rd Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2030-III)</p>	<p>UNESCO & UNICEF & SAARC</p> <p>UNESCO & UNICEF</p> <p>UNESCO & UNICEF</p>	<p>August – September 2016</p> <p>16-18 November 2016</p> <p>TBD 2017</p>	TBC
2	Regional knowledge and evidence base on thematic issues impacting on SDG4-Education 2030+ enhanced and disseminated	<p>2.1 Production of good practices on SRGBV</p> <p>2.2 Production of at least 5 country analytical studies on Out-of-school children</p>	<p>UNGEI, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Women</p> <p>UNICEF & UNESCO-UIS</p>	<p>December 2017</p> <p>TBC</p>	TBC
3	Understanding and awareness of the interlinkages of key areas of SDG4 and other SDGs, notably, SDGs 5, 13 and 16, raised and enhanced.	<p>3.1 Development and endorsement of a “ASEAN Declaration on Out-of-School Children (OOSC)” in ASEAN countries</p> <p>3.2 Organization of the second Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education and adoption of the “Putrajaya Declaration”</p> <p>3.2 Organization of the Regional consultation of Global Alliance 8.7 on combating child</p>	<p>ASEAN, UNICEF, UNESCO</p> <p>UNESCO, UNICEF, ARNEC</p> <p>ILO</p>	<p>June 2016</p> <p>19-21 July 2016</p> <p>14-15 September 2016</p>	TBC

		labour highlighting linkages with SDG4, for Southeast and East Asia and the Pacific and the development of a regional recommendation 3.3 Organization of the fifth International Conference on language and Development	MLE WG (UNESCO, UNICEF, SEAMEO, SIL, ASPBAE, etc)	19-22 October 2016	
4	<i>Engagement of TWG strengthened in the roll-out of SDG4 at national levels</i>	4.1 Support to National consultations on SDG4 4.2 Launching of Global Education Monitoring Reports at national level 4.3 Mapping exercise on the status of national action plans for the implementation of SDG4	UNESCO & UNICEF UNESCO UNESCO & UNICEF	2016-2017 September 2016 TBD 2017 2016/2017	