West and Central Africa  
Consultation on the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism  
6 May, 09:00-12:00 Dakar / 11:00-14:00 Paris  
Meeting platform link

**Agenda**

**Background**

UNESCO, with the Governments of Ghana, Norway and the United Kingdom, convened the extraordinary session of the Global Education Meeting (2020 GEM) in October 2020, aiming to protect education as a catalytic force for the COVID-19 recovery and sustainable development. The 2020 GEM also triggered a dialogue and mobilized high-level commitment to reform the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism (GCM), for greater efficiency, stronger synergies and better delivery, so that the countries accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). By the [2020 GEM Declaration](https://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-topics/), the international community mandated UNESCO to lead a consultation process with all relevant stakeholders, with a view to developing a concrete proposal for an improved global cooperation mechanism, to be presented for endorsement at the next extraordinary Global Education Meeting, scheduled for July 2021.

Following the launch of a multi-stakeholder Working Group in January 2021, a series of consultations with the Working Group members, the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, multilateral partners and the donor community took place during the first quarter of the year. Moreover, an in-depth analysis of the current state of GCM as well as a country survey on global, regional and country-level coordination in education have been conducted. All these inputs served as the basis for the deliberations of the Working Group, which has developed a draft scenario paper for an improved GCM.

The draft scenario paper covers three issues in sequence:

- The problems/challenges with the current GCM identified through the in-depth review and consultations, as validated by the Working Group.
- Suggested solution areas in response to the identified problems.
- A description of the proposed new global structures, illustrating the main functional areas in which solutions can be organised and pursued.

The draft scenario paper (Version 3) is now presented for broader consultations among all geographic regions and constituencies, including civil society organizations, the teaching profession, the Education in Emergency partners, and private sector partners, to be organised in the first half of May. The results of these regional and constituency consultations, to be submitted by 14 May 2021 will feed into the scenario paper (Version 4), which will be proposed to the final WG meeting on 27 May.

**Meeting objective and expected outputs**

This regional consultation aims to: (i) reach a shared understanding of the existing problems, suggested solutions and an improved GCM proposed in the current draft scenario paper (V3) and (ii) receive specific inputs from this region to ensure clear linkages between global- and regional-level cooperation in education is improved and better coordinated, so that the improved GCM will contribute effectively to accelerating progress towards SDG 4 targets at the country level.

By the end of this consultation process, it is expected that we have answers to the following questions:
1. The scenario paper proposes that the GCM should focus on specific global SDG 4 thematic priorities for the next two to three years; which should these thematic priorities be (please select 5 from the list below)?

2. Thinking back to international (global or regional) cooperation initiatives, platforms or projects that have provided your country/region with effective support to ensure progress toward SDG 4, what worked and why? How can this be further strengthened?

3. To what extent do the proposed functions and institutional structure of the improved GCM fit for the purpose of accelerating country progress toward SDG 4?

We will ask each country and partner organization to answer an online survey-https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gcmwca

Please have your responses ready for ONE person from each country/organization to respond. The survey will remain open until Tuesday 11 May 2021 at 18:00 (CET).

   i. Quality teaching profession;
   ii. Safe Inclusive Conducive Learning Environment
   iii. Harness ICTs For Education Systems
   iv. Skills For Work And Life, Including Digital Skills
   v. Improve School Completion Rates
   vi. Eliminate gender and other disparities in education
   vii. Improve youth and adult literacy
   viii. Strengthen STEAM education opportunities
   ix. Expand TVET Opportunities
   x. Expand Tertiary Education Opportunities
   xi. Expand peace and sustainable development education
   xii. Other area (please specify) if you consider among your country’s top 5 priorities for 2021-2024 but not listed above.
## Agenda

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| **9:00-9:10 (10 min)** | Welcome remarks | Opening/welcoming remarks from:  
- **Mr. Dimitri Sanga**, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for West Africa  
- **Mr Nicholas Ouma**, Senior Youth Advisor, African Union Commission, Working Group member  
- **Dr. Elyas Abdi**, Director-General of Education, Kenya, Working Group member |
| **9:10-9:45 (30 min)** | Rationale for rethinking the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism | **Ms. Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa**, Director, Division for Education 2030, UNESCO |
| **9:45-10:00 (15 min)** | Presentation of the proposed reform of the global education cooperation mechanism  
- Presentation of the scenario paper (15 min)  
- Q&A (15 min) | **Ms. Hauda Najem**, MDF Training and Consultancy |
| **9:45-10:00 (15 min)** | Question 1:  
*The scenario paper proposes that the GCM should focus on specific global SDG 4 thematic priorities for the next two to three years; which should these thematic priorities be (please select 5 from the list below)?*  
- Presentation of SDG 4 and CESA themes – relationship between the two agendas  
- Survey instructions  
*Survey link will remain open until Tuesday May 11* | **Mr. Georges Boade**, Senior Regional Advisor, UNESCO Institute for Statistics  
**Ms. Hauda Najem**, MDF Training and Consultancy |
| **10:00-11:00 (60 min)** | Question 2:  
*Thinking back to international (global or regional) cooperation initiatives, platforms or projects that have provided your country/ region with effective support to ensure progress toward SDG 4, what worked and why? How can this be further strengthened?*  
- Introduction/explanation of Question 2  
- Break out rooms instructions | **Mr. Abdoulaye Salifou**, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Abuja Office  
**Ms. Hauda Najem**, MDF Training and Consultancy |

**Breakout group discussion (30 min)**

*Three* breakout groups moderated by:  
**Breakout Group 1 (English) - Dr. Elyas Abdi**,  
Director-General of Education, Kenya, Working Group member
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<td>11:00-11:10</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>11:10-11:55</td>
<td><strong>Question 3</strong> &lt;br&gt;To what extent do the proposed functions and institutional structure of the improved GCM fit for the purpose of accelerating country progress toward SDG 4? &lt;br&gt;<em>Plenary discussion, participants to raise hand to participate in discussions</em></td>
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| 11:55-12:10 | **Wrap up and the way forward** <br>Wrap up and closing remarks by: <ul>  
  - **Mr. Salah Khaled**, UNESCO Regional Director for Central Africa  
  - **Dr. Elyas Abdi**, Director-General of Education, Kenya, Working Group member |