

Education and Academia Stakeholder Group – HLPF 2021 Side event

Education: paving the way out of the pandemic and shaping the new-normal

Proposed Venue: United Nations/ Online

Date: 6th July 2021

Time: 7:30 a.m. (New York time)

Conveners: Education and Academia Stakeholder Group: Global Campaign for Education, International Council for Adult Education, Education International and the Minister of Education of Perú

Language: English with interpretation into Spanish and French

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the most severe disruption to global education systems in history, forcing more than 1.6 billion learners in over 190 countries out of school at the peak of the crisis. All sectors and levels of education and learning were negatively affected: formal and non-formal education, schools, universities, community learning centres, adult literacy courses, etc. Not only learners - teachers, parents and family members were affected too.

There are two obvious ways in which education helped people to cope with the new situation that COVID-19 presents – teaching about health, viruses, prevention measure, and new behaviour

But the pandemic clearly exposed structural and systemic problems, including those in education sector, which have further worsen the consequences of the pandemic. The participation of vulnerable groups has dropped dramatically, also because they couldn't join the virtual world of learning and alternative forms of education became inaccessible for many learners around the globe.

Although some cuts and shift in financing was needed in order to strengthen the health sector, it was used as an excuse in many countries to cut the financing for education, thus worsening already difficult situation.

These analysis and lesson learned serve not only the recovery from the pandemic and building resiliencies in the future, but can also support active shaping of 'new normal' which have to include transformation of many existing paradigms and structures, in order to prevent disastrous consequences of various crises in the future, and enable education to play an active role in this process.

a. Potential contribution to the forum

The event will offer analysis of the role of civic education, media literacy and critical in awareness raising about upholding human rights, freedom of speech and participation of citizens during the pandemic thinking of COVID-19 crises.

Suggestions will be offered to the policy makers for actions and measures to mitigate the negative consequences of the pandemic on vulnerable populations, students and teachers.

The event is to provide a platform to discuss the gaps faced by the government sector and to sharing good practices in place.

The event will also discuss how education plays a role in teaching people how to better use digital technology, as it enables them to continue learning, schooling, learning skills that help them to find a job or to work from home.

a. Speakers/ Format

The event may be carried virtually in a multilanguage platform with interpretation into Spanish, English and French.

The event will gather experts from academia, civil society activists, youth and students, teachers and government officials to discuss the trends, gaps and main features from the perspective of vulnerable populations and human rights standards. The event will also address the education financing during the COVID-19 crises and provide examples of successful action from the government's side.

Instead of usual presentations, participants will exchange opinions in a panel discussion, opening for the audience and interested participants in co-created solutions.

Welcome and introduction: **Refat Sabbah (5 min)** then he gives Sebastian the floor

12 minutes each

1. Intervention of **Ricardo Cuenca**, Minister of Education of Peru.
2. Financing education during COVID-19 crises (EI): **Haldis Holst**
3. Education for human and civic rights during COVID-19 and for the dignified future: **Katarina Popovic**
4. Participation and access to education during COVID-19 crises, esp. for the Dalit community in Nepal: **Rup Sunar**, National Campaign for Education, Nepal.

Moderator and concluding remarks: **Sebastian Berger**, Global Students Forum