

The SDGs in time of crisis: A sustainable inclusive and resilient recovery from Covid-19 as an opportunity to realize the SDGs.

Tuesday 6th July 9:30-12:00 (New York time).

**Refat Sabbah
President
Global Campaign for Education**

Thank you Chair:

Our response to crises often deepens existing injustices and widens opportunity gaps, specifically when this response is rushed and dismisses social issues. It is imperative that we look for the root causes and not merely content ourselves with immediate results. With every intervention, we need to ask a persisting question: what if this crisis occurs again in the future?

This pandemic has revealed that the lack of solidarity is the real crisis. In the absence of solidarity, we were forced to face the outcomes of our educational systems and stop reproducing the cycles of poverty. We had to reevaluate our education systems and its values and began to merge and enact them in our daily lives

Solidarity leads to justice and only justice guarantees foundations for solidarity.

So, What do we need now?

At the institutional level, institutions need to honestly reflect on their state of affairs if they're willing to commit in **restoring their balance and evaluate their work rhythm.**

Solidarity has to be reinforced not only as a value but also as a practice in daily life. Solidarity is essential for a vibrant citizenship. Therefore, it is imperative to revisit the role of our educational systems in supporting and strengthening solidarity as daily behavior and systematic action, not as a definition, but to be expressed.

In reality, our educational systems have promoted a status of disorder by hiding the simplest element of an active citizenship: which is solidarity.

This crisis instantly exposed how weak partnerships are. Distrust, suspicion and vague principles are, unfortunately, present and vibrant. We are in partnership with governments in theory, but not in practice.

Partnership, as this crisis has unveiled, requires that we participate in (re)creating meaning for concepts and are fully involved in developing solutions, especially for overcoming poverty. This requires trusting our abilities in critical historical moments. Without a solid collective value system that built on trust, solidarity and mutual responsibility, societies are at risk of destruction and violence.

Excellences: We need to invest in restoring and building trust in people's power. People and especially teachers have the capacity to develop tools and generate creative solutions

to our problems. With trust and support, teachers can lead us through this crisis with their innovative and creative minds and skills.

Until we fully face and admit the work, we need to put in solving these issues, we will not liberate ourselves from theoretical exaggeration and empty assurances. This crisis is not about courage, but about will, clarity, science, and professionalism. It is time to revisit our intentions before we revisit our tools.