



*“The time to learn and act for our planet is now.”*

## Background

- Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution have led to a planetary crisis that requires an urgent response. The UN Secretary-General calls the climate crisis ‘a battle for our lives’, as we struggle to transform our societies to reach the 1.5-degree path recommended by the Paris Agreement. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world with a real, existential threat such as climate change, there is a growing call for education to enable individuals, as agents of change, to acquire knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that lead to for the green transition of our societies, as enshrined in SDG Target 4.7, and, indeed, in the entire 2030 Agenda.
- However, recent findings show that [around half of the 100 countries reviewed](#) had no climate change mentioned in their national curriculum frameworks. While 95% of [surveyed teachers](#) felt teaching climate change is important, less than 30% felt ready to teach about climate change in relation to their local context. In particular, with 75% of youth saying that they are frightened about their future, young people were at the forefront at COP26 and the [Conference of Youth](#) (COY16) in Glasgow, and the [pre-COP Youth4Climate event](#) in Milan in 2021, calling upon governments to change education systems to teach the future.

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as UN lead agency on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), is leading the global efforts together with partners and stakeholders to promote transformative education to tackle the planetary crisis, through the new global framework for the period 2020-2030, entitled “[Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs \(ESD for 2030\)](#)”. In May 2021, over 70 ministers and 2,800 education and environment stakeholders committed to taking concrete steps to transform learning for the survival of our planet by adopting the [Berlin Declaration on ESD](#), which includes climate change at its core, and at [COP26 first-ever joint Ministerial Session of Ministers of Education and Environment](#) was held on climate change education.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) article 6 and article 12 of Paris Agreement calls for [Action for Climate Empowerment](#) (ACE), which includes the key role of education to facilitate a green societal transformation. Following the establishment of the new ten-year [Glasgow work programme ACE](#), Parties to the Convention and other stakeholders are further expected to collaborate on, promote, facilitate, develop and implement formal and non-formal education and training programmes focused on climate change at all levels. Specific recommendations include integrating climate change learning into the curricula of schools and other institutions that provide formal education; supporting non-formal and informal education on climate change, including respect for and inclusion of indigenous and traditional knowledge; and strengthening education, training, and skills development in national institutions to deliver action on climate change learning.
- In the light of the above UNESCO and UNFCCC efforts to mobilize action on climate change, UNESCO and UNFCCC are launching a series of monthly conversations on climate change education for social transformation.
- This series builds on the success of the [‘On the road to Berlin’ series of 7 online workshops](#) organized between 2020-2021 in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany, and with the German Commission for UNESCO as advisory partner, which brought together over 15,000 stakeholders to discuss cutting-edge ESD issues. The webinars feed into the ACE [Hub](#), an initiative launched by UNFCCC and the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia in 2022 to foster education and public awareness, training, public access to information and participation in climate change action.
- The series consists of initially 8 webinars, one every month from April to November, on the road to COP27 which will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in 7-18 November 2022. The webinars are dedicated to the goal of greening every education policy and curriculum to be climate-ready, in leading up to education session at COP27 on this topic. In 2023, a further series of webinars will be organized focusing on greening every school on the road to COP28.

## Objectives

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- To highlight the critical role of education in promoting social transformation to address climate crisis
- To discuss ways to harness the transformative power of climate change education in relation to the implementation of *ESD for 2030* framework and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) of UNFCCC

## Date

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The series of the webinar is planned every last Tuesday of each month, starting April 2022 until November 2022, when the COP27 will be held.

To make the webinars accessible to participants in different time zones across the world, three different time slots will be used on rotational basis (for details, please see overview below).

After each webinar, a recording, and short article summarizing the discussions will be made available online.

## Audience

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All stakeholders in education and/or sustainable development, including policy makers, practitioners, educators, young people, academics, civil society organisations, private sector, media and learners.

## Programme of the series

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Outline	
<b>26 April</b> <b>10:00 CET</b>	<b>Why climate change education for social transformation?</b>  Launches the series with a joint systems thinking on climate crisis and the role of climate change education for social transformation. The discussion will explore the gaps in education policies and curriculum, and where we want to go in view of the needed social transformation towards decarbonization and sustainability as well as the renewed understanding of climate change education today.
<b>31 May</b> <b>14:00 CET</b>	<b>How climate change knowledge can become action</b>  Reviews the core skills, values and actions as well as knowledge that are required for transformative climate change education that will bring about social change.
<b>28 June</b> <b>12:30 CET</b>	<b>Education for post-carbon green economies</b>  Discusses structural transformation towards post-carbon green economies and a 1.5-degree lifestyle, as well as how knowledge, skills, values and actions relevant to economic transition can be integrated into education policies and curricula.
<b>26 July</b> <b>10:00 CET</b>	<b>Now or never: Adapting teaching and learning in a changed climate</b>  Reflects on our new realities shaped by the inevitable consequences of climate change. Within this context, the conversation will examine the teaching and learning that are needed to help learners adapt and live in the changed climate, including the importance of social and emotional learning.
<b>30 Aug</b> <b>14:00 CET</b>	<b>Our future starts with you: How to become a climate change champion</b>  Reviews transformative pedagogies for civic action and the role of youth, educators and women as agents for social change.

<p><b>27 Sept</b> <b>12:30 CET</b></p>	<p><b>The ancient futures: Un-learning and re-learning our way towards a post-carbon future</b></p> <p>Discusses the values and practices of harmony embedded in traditional knowledge and indigenous communities across the world, and how they help us visualize a post-carbon future. Good practice stories will be shared to inspire a brighter future for collective efforts fighting against climate change.</p>
<p><b>25 Oct</b> <b>10:00 CET</b></p>	<p><b>Getting ready to scale up climate change education at COP27</b></p> <p>Reviews the gaps, challenges and opportunities in promoting climate change education for social transformation in education and sustainable development policies and curriculums. The discussion will present concrete strategies to promote the greening of every education policy and curriculum, particularly around COP27.</p>
<p><b>29 Nov</b> <b>14:00 CET</b></p>	<p><b>Post-COP27 climate change education: Where do we go from here?</b></p> <p>Closes Season 1 by looking back at COP27 and its key takeaways, achievements, and commitments made related to climate change education.</p>

## Working languages

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The webinars are conducted in English. Live interpretation in French will be provided. Written interactions during the webinar are available in English and French.

## Technical specifications

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The webinars are organized on the platform Zoom and a YouTube livestream will be provided. The detailed agenda of each session and the link to access the session are shared in advance through the online page for the series.

## Organizers and partners

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The series of webinars is co-organized by UNESCO and UNFCCC.

## Contact

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- Section of Education for Sustainable Development, Education Sector, UNESCO at [future.esd@unesco.org](mailto:future.esd@unesco.org)
- Action for Climate Empowerment team, UNFCCC at [ace@unfccc.int](mailto:ace@unfccc.int).

More details will be made available on the [UNESCO ESD webpage](#) and UNFCCC ACE [Hub](#).