DRAFT PROPOSAL

DECLARATION OF BUENOS AIRES 2022

III REGIONAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

"The right to education in context: recovering and transforming"

26 and 27 May 2022, Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic

PREAMBLE

- We, Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean and government representatives, together with the representatives of the Regional Steering Committee of SDG 4 – Education 2030, meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on May 26 and 27, 2022, thank UNESCO and the Ministry of Education of the Argentine Republic for convening this meeting that represents a milestone in cooperation. educational of the region.

- We recognize and renew our commitment to the agreements reached at the First Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires 2017), which established the regional vision of education towards the year 2030, reaffirming our commitment with SDG 4. In particular, we confirm our determination to reduce social and educational inequality, considering that education is a Universal Human Right and a social public good to which all individuals are entitled. We put all our efforts to continue working for the quality and relevance of education throughout life, from early childhood to higher and adult education, the expansion of coverage at all educational levels and the commitment to enrich the educational content and practices of educational systems for the development of the XXI century skills, following a rights-based and sustainable development approach, and looking towards a culture of peace. We furthermore insist on our commitment to strengthen and diversify the national and regional mechanisms for the evaluation and monitoring of the E2030 Agenda, in accordance with the reality of the countries in order to have reliable and timely information to guide our actions.

- We recognize and reaffirm as well the agreements established at the II Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean (Cochabamba 2018), which prioritized four themes for the region: the quality of education, equity and inclusion, teachers and teaching staff, and lifelong learning.

- We understand that to move forward with these commitments we have a Regional Roadmap for the implementation of SDG 4 – Education 2030 and a regional coordination mechanism made up of: the Regional Steering Committee (CDR),
the Executive Secretariat, exercised by OREALC/UNESCO Santiago, and working groups to support its implementation.

- We value the joint and collaborative work carried out to promote regional actions of advocacy, political dialogue and exchange of experiences and good practices, developed during the pandemic to secure the continuity of education during the time in which schools remained closed. The statement of the Regional Steering Committee "Prioritizing the right to education will save the present and future of Latin America and the Caribbean" reflected the regional perspective on the challenges of COVID-19 and the commitments made in the framework of the World Education Meeting (GEM 2020).

- We value the work carried out by UNESCO, UNICEF and ECLAC that in response to the guidelines of the Regional Steering Committee produced the Regional Monitoring Report of SDG 4 – Education 2030, a rigorous technical work that provides us with evidence on the current educational situation in the region.

- We highlight the importance of the initiatives that we have jointly promoted, such as our regional learning evaluation program coordinated by the Latin American Laboratory for the Evaluation of Educational Quality (LLECE). Also, the achievements made in terms of educational care, information systems and regulatory frameworks to face the challenges implied by a growing human mobility in the region. This good practice of regional cooperation has achieved a harmonious and fruitful work between representatives and technical teams of our countries and other relevant actors. In this sense, we are committed to giving continuity to the regional initiatives that we have developed together, and to the development of new initiatives where collaboration between countries can provide solutions to the urgent challenges we face.

- We appreciate the leadership and work of the Ministries of Education of the Argentine Republic and of the Republic of Colombia, together with the Organization of Ibero-American States – OEI, to represent the Latin American and Caribbean region in the High-Level Steering Committee of SDG4-Education 2030 (HLSC), a reference instance for educational cooperation worldwide.

- We thank the members of the Regional Steering Committee who have served in the period 2018 – 2022, and its Executive Secretariat, led by OREALC/UNESCO Santiago, for having developed a participatory and consistent process to update, reform and strengthen the Regional Cooperation Mechanism, with a view to the objective of having a more relevant and effective educational cooperation.

AGREEMENTS

- We recognize that we are living an EDUCATIONAL EMERGENCY, derived from the serious impact of the pandemic on our educational systems. We agreed to take urgent action to recover and transform our education systems so as to restore hope to an entire generation of children and young people who could see their future compromised if we do not act decisively and quickly.
• We recognize that recovery cannot mean returning to the same thing. The slowdown, and in some cases stagnation and/or setback in several educational targets of SDG 4 before the pandemic, as evidenced by the Regional Monitoring Report of SDG 4 – Education 2030, shows the need to promote a deep transformation that addresses the structural and systemic factors that have contributed to the great debt and educational injustice that drags the region.

• We also commit to strengthen educational work to guarantee access to all girls, all children and young people in our country, and to provide students with knowledge, tools and values to face the global challenges we face as humanity and that threaten the sustainability of our life on the planet. we are obliged to promote regional actions to exchange experiences, develop models and pedagogical proposals around sustainable development that can provide inputs to national plans.

• We make explicit our will to consolidate a regional voice that recognizes as an ethical imperative the need to PRIORITIZE EDUCATION in the public agenda, guaranteeing financing, effective use of resources and political will to achieve EDUCATIONAL RECOVERY and avoid a generational catastrophe. We call on the entire educational community to reinforce its commitment to educational recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean.

• We support all cooperation and strategic actions that in the immediate term help the programs and projects of our Ministries of Education focused on recovering lost learning, particularly in foundational areas, reintegrating children and young people who interrupted and / or left school due to the pandemic, establish early warning systems to identify and assist students at risk of dropping out of school, strengthen the socio-emotional and integral well-being of the entire educational community, and value, support and train teachers.

• We reaffirm our commitment to guaranteeing the right to education of people in a situation of mobility. The solidarity that has characterized countries' educational responses to the intraregional movements of the past decade must remain at the forefront of national efforts. We are committed to advancing collective and intergovernmental actions such as the Education and Human Mobility Working Group for the coordination and exchange of experiences and the Regional Monitoring Framework on students in a situation of mobility.

• We welcome the report's proposal "Reimagining our futures together: a new social contract for education" to consider the current context as an opportunity to reinvent ourselves. We can take advantage of this historical moment in which many of the roles and ways of relating in the educational context changed, to re-imagine and implement a more relevant education, which convenes the co-responsibility of all the actors of society, which is inspired by the trust of our students, whilst working pragmatically to improve the educational systems and the capacities of all professionals and processes that interact in they.

• We support and promote the continuity of the work developed by the cooperation agencies to carry out a comprehensive monitoring of the set of goals of SDG 4 –
Education 2030, and we call for it to be carried out periodically. Hence, we commit to supporting projects that allow strengthening the national and regional production of data and information, which has the necessary disaggregation to make visible the educational situation of the entire population, in particular those groups that see the exercise of their right to education violated.

• We renew the commitment to educational cooperation, through the adoption of the new Regional Roadmap for the implementation of SDG 4 in the period 2022-2025. To make the content of this instrument operational, the OREALC/UNESCO Santiago is entrusted with the preparation of the proposed Statute of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism and facilitation of the process of installing the new Regional Steering Committee for the period 2022-2025.

• We agreed to present the conclusions of this meeting of ministers, as a message from the region, at the Summit on the Transformation of Education, convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations for September 2022.