



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Sustainable
Development
Goals

Draft Concept Note (21 Oct 2019)

UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

Education for achieving the SDGs

2 – 4 June 2020
Berlin Congress Center
Berlin, Germany

1. Background

- Our planet and its inhabitants are under increasing pressure: Human-induced climate change, limited and recklessly exploited resources, rising temperatures and sea levels, poverty and unsustainable economic structures are just a few of the challenges governments and populations face around the world.
- In response to these challenges, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) supports efforts to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to contribute to a more inclusive, just, peaceful and sustainable world. In 2017, the UN General Assembly reaffirmed UNESCO's role as the lead agency on ESD in its Resolution 72/222 and recognized ESD as 'an integral element of the SDG on quality education and a key enabler of all the other SDGs'.
- In order to further enhance ESD efforts, UNESCO launches the new framework 'Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs' (*ESD for 2030*)¹ and its roadmap for implementation at a major two and a half day conference. The conference will take place in Berlin from 2-4 June 2020 and is organised by UNESCO in cooperation with and generously supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research Germany.
- The new framework *ESD for 2030* (2020-2030) builds on the Global Action Programme on ESD (2015 – 2019), which followed the UN Decade on ESD (2005-2014) and will focus on streamlining ESD with Agenda 2030 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within the next ten years.

2. Overall goal

- *ESD for 2030* aims to build a more just and sustainable world through strengthening ESD and contributing to the achievement of the 17 SDGs and to build education systems that support learners of all ages to be active contributors to more peaceful and sustainable societies and

¹ The framework is subject to approval by the 40th UNESCO General Conference in November 2019.

develop a sense of responsibility for our planet.

3. Objectives

- Raise global awareness on sustainable development challenges and the crucial role of ESD as a key enabler for the successful achievement of all SDGs.
- Launch the new global programme *ESD for 2030* for the period of 2020-2030 and its roadmap for implementation, including:
 - Adopt the *Berlin Declaration* which will include a call for urgent action and commitments from the participants of the conference;
 - Foster stakeholder commitments to *ESD for 2030*, including *nationwide multi-stakeholder initiatives* (NAMSI);
 - Expand and reinforce partnerships and networking opportunities for ESD.

4. Outcomes

- Global awareness about ESD is increased. The participants, including the representatives of Member States, understand the importance of ESD and increase their efforts in their professional capacities.
- The new global programme *ESD for 2030* is successfully launched;
 - The Berlin Declaration is adopted;
 - Concrete commitments, including for NAMSI, are made;
 - A strong basis for the *ESD for 2030* Global Network of ESD policy-makers and stakeholders is established.

5. Format

The format of the conference will include interactive plenaries for debate and dialogue and concurrent sessions for in-depth discussion, workshops, exhibitions and dialogue corners. Interaction will be key to the whole programme in order to provide a learning experience for all.

6. Programme elements

Please find the draft programme attached

7. Date and place

2 - 4 June 2020,
Berlin Congress Center,
Alexanderstraße 11, 10178 Berlin, Germany

8. Participants

800 stakeholders from all regions of the world especially policy-makers working in education and other areas related to sustainable development; ESD practitioners, NGOs, experts and members of the development community and the private sector will also participate. All UNESCO Member States will be invited (participation by invitation only).

9. Working languages

English, French, Spanish, Arabic and German (languages tbc) with simultaneous interpretation available for all plenary sessions and some concurrent sessions. Please note that not all languages will be provided for all concurrent sessions.

10. Organizers and Partners

The conference is organized by UNESCO in cooperation with and generously supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany, and with the German Commission for UNESCO as advisory partner.

11. Contact

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