



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



## Cracking the Code: Girls' and women's education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

### Side-event to the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference

10 November 2017 | 08:00 – 09:45

UNESCO Headquarters  
Restaurant, 7th Floor  
7 Place Fontenoy, Paris, France

### Background

Despite progress towards gender equality in education, deep disparities remain, within countries and across regions. Far too few girls are in school, and far too few pursue studies of their choice. This is a particular concern in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. Even fewer women go on to lead STEM careers.

On the occasion of World Science Day for Peace and Development, UNESCO is holding a side-event to the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference to share the latest findings on the factors hindering and facilitating girls' and women's participation, achievement and continuation in STEM education. It will seek to engage, inform and support Member States in their efforts to promote gender equality in education, and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Objectives

More specifically, participants will:

- Learn about the key findings of UNESCO's cutting-edge global report [Cracking the code: Girls' and women's education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics \(STEM\)](#)
- Discover the outcomes of UNESCO's [2017 International Symposium and Policy Forum](#) on the same topic
- Gain knowledge on relevant tools and programmes developed by UNESCO to promote girls' and women's education in STEM
- Discuss future initiatives and cooperation opportunities in this area

### Format

The event will be held during breakfast and will include presentations, roundtable discussions and testimonials. Videos and other audiovisual materials will also be screened during the event, and participants will have the opportunity to engage in social media efforts to help #GirlsCrackTheCode. Light breakfast will be served.

## Participants and Registration

The event welcomes members of UNESCO Permanent Delegations and National Commissions, NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, education experts, researchers and practitioners, civil society and private sector representatives, as well as teacher and student representatives from UNESCO's Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

For planning purposes, we invite participants to register in advance **before 6 November 2017** via [gender.ed@unesco.org](mailto:gender.ed@unesco.org).

## Agenda

<b>08:00 – 08:10</b>	<b>Arrival of participants</b>
<b>08:10 – 08:15</b>	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> Opening video Master of Ceremony, Theophania Chavatzia, UNESCO HQ
<b>08:15 – 08:25</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b> Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General
<b>08:25 – 08:35</b>	<b>Key findings from UNESCO's cutting-edge global report, <i>Cracking the code: Girls' and women's education in STEM</i></b> Soo-Hyang Choi, Director of the Division of Education for Inclusion, Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO HQ
<b>08:35 – 08:50</b>	<b>Outcomes of the UNESCO International Symposium and Policy Forum</b> Video of the STEM International Symposium and Policy Forum Remarks by Heekyung Jo Min, Executive Vice President, CJ Group Testimonials by Geneviève Decarre, ASPnet teacher and Amandine Clerc, ASPnet student
<b>08:50 – 09:20</b>	<b>Moderated discussion 'The way forward: Tools, initiatives and cooperation'</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saniye Gülser Corat, Director, Division of Gender Equality, UNESCO HQ</li> <li>• Chris Hegadorn, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., US Mission to UNESCO</li> <li>• Anatheia Brooks, Programme Specialist, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO HQ</li> <li>• Renato Opertti, Programme Specialist, UNESCO International Bureau of Education</li> <li>• Farah Ouechtati, UNESCO-L'Oréal International Fellow, Tunisia</li> <li>• Keiko Bang, Founder and CEO, Bang Singapore Pte Ltd.</li> </ul>
<b>09:20 – 09:40</b>	<b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b>
<b>09:40 – 09:45</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b> Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General, Education, UNESCO HQ