Futures of Education
Learning to Become

Launch Event
Wednesday 25 September, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm
Conference Room 1, United Nations Headquarters
UNESCO’s *Futures of Education* initiative aims to rethink how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity and the planet. Looking to 2050 and beyond, the initiative seeks to reimagine how education and knowledge can contribute to the global common good. The initiative is catalyzing a global debate on how knowledge, education and learning need to be reimagined in a world of increasing complexity, uncertainty, and precarity.

This initiative mobilizes the many rich ways of being and knowing in order to leverage humanity’s collective intelligence. It relies on a broad, open consultative process that involves youth, educators, civil society, governments, business and other stakeholders. The work is being guided by a high-level International Commission of thought-leaders from diverse fields and different regions of the world. In late 2021, the commission will publish a global report designed to share a forward looking vision on how education and learning can enable us to become what we want to become.

This launch event will officially announce the *Futures of Education* initiative, presenting the International Commission and its mandate. The event will also initiate a debate on the futures of education with Heads of State and Government, youth, educators and others to present visions of the policy challenges and opportunities for the way in which learning systems are being, and will need to be, transformed for the future.

**PROGRAMME:**

**HIGH-LEVEL OPENING**

- Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO
- H.E. Ms Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, chair of International Commission on the Futures of Education
- H.E. Mr Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic together with other Heads of State and Government

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“*Futures of Education: Imagination and Aspiration*”
Professor Arjun Appadurai, New York University and Hertie School, Berlin

**INTERVENTIONS BY MINISTERS**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

Representatives of government from, civil society, development partners, educators, youth, civil society and private sector.

*For more information:*

- [https://unesco.org/futuresofeducation/](https://unesco.org/futuresofeducation/)
- Mr. Sobhi Tawil, Head of the Education Research and Foresight Programme at UNESCO (s.tawil@unesco.org)