



**Mr. Liu Zhenmin**

**Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs**

**Video Message**

**Global Education Meeting**

**“Education in an interconnected world: Ensuring inclusive and equitable development”**

**Brussels, Belgium, 3-5 December 2018**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, I am honoured to address this important Global Education Meeting which is taking place at a very important time.

We will complete the first, four-year review cycle of the 2030 Agenda next year, in 2019. This is when the High-level Political Forum will meet both under the auspices of ECOSOC in July, and under the auspices of the General Assembly at the Summit level, in September.

SDG 4 will be reviewed in depth in July. And this will inform the Summit level review of the entire 2030 Agenda in September.

It is therefore a good opportunity to take stock – not just of how to accelerate progress towards SDG 4 – but also of how central it is to the rest of the 2030 Agenda.

If we can succeed in delivering quality education for all, we will also make great strides towards other goals –such as reducing inequalities, strengthening institutions and preparing for the jobs of the future.

At the same time, advances towards these other goals will help speed up progress towards SDG 4.

We know that significant challenges remain. For example, more than half of children and adolescents globally are below minimum standards in reading and mathematics.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our focus now must be on how to overcome these challenges by working together.

Let us concentrate on implementation. Let us mobilize partnerships, commitments and actions. Let us learn from each other.

Only then can we build momentum towards the 2019 SDG Summit, and set the stage for bold action.

I am confident that this meeting will inspire the reflection and commitment to action needed to energize the multi-stakeholder efforts at the 2019 HLPF.

I am happy that my Department is working closely with you to support and advance this.

I also encourage you to submit your examples of good practices and success stories through my Department's website so that we can facilitate the process of learning from each other.

Thank you again for the invitation to address this important meeting.

I look forward to the outcomes.

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