



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



© Dominic Chavez/World Bank

# World Teachers' Day

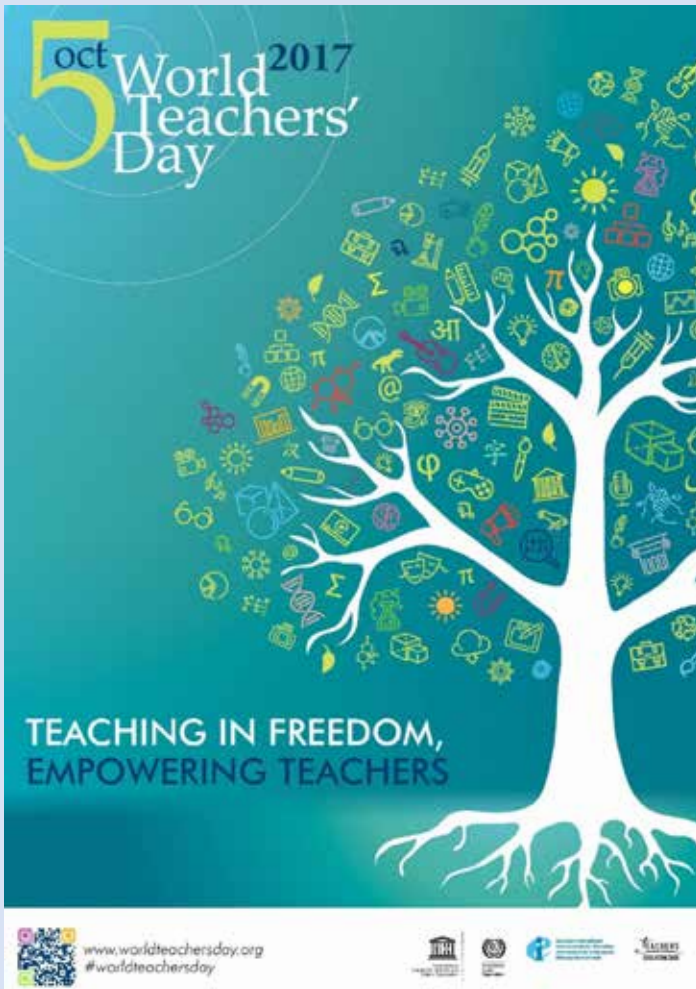
Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers

5 October 2017

Teaching in Freedom,

Empowering Teachers

*Each year, World Teachers' Day focuses on a theme addressing*



*enablers and challenges to the advancement of the teaching profession.*

This year, the chosen theme is: **“Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers.”**

It reaffirms the value of empowered teachers and recognizes the challenges to their freedom encountered across the globe.

This year, we also celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1997 UNESCO Recommendations concerning the status of higher education personnel.

## Teaching in Freedom

**Academic freedom is critical for teachers at every level of education.**

But in many countries, academic freedom and teacher autonomy are under pressure.

Freedom to teach means:

- Having the right to choose the most appropriate teaching methods and approaches that enable effective, inclusive, and equitable education for all learners;
- Being able to teach in safety and security during times of political change, instability, and conflict.



## Empowering Teachers

**For every girl, boy, woman, and man, a highly skilled, valued, and empowered education workforce is the surest path to providing a quality education.**

Being an empowered teacher means:

- Having access to high-quality initial training and opportunities for continuous professional development;
- Having the professional autonomy to make decisions in developing and organizing curricula;
- Contributing to building the profession's knowledge base by innovating, exploring, and engaging in up-to-date pedagogical research.

# Programme

Thursday 5 October 2017 Room II

Morning

9:00 – 10:00	<b>Registration</b>
10:00 – 10:45	<b>Official Opening Ceremony</b> <b>Master of Ceremony:</b> Edem Adubra, Chief, Section of Teacher Development & Head, Secretariat of the International Task Force for Teachers, Education Sector, UNESCO <b>Chair:</b> Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General, Education, UNESCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Opening address</b> by Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO</li><li>• Statement by Oliver Liang, Head of Public and Private Services Unit, Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Organization</li><li>• Statement by David Edwards, Deputy General Secretary, Education International</li><li>• Statement by Anita Lehtikoinen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Finland</li></ul>
10:45 – 11:15	<b>Keynote Speech: 20 Years of Higher-Education Reforms – How the 1997 Recommendation is Helping Countries Achieve SDG4 Targets</b> <b>Chair:</b> Sonia Guerriero, Senior Programme Specialist, Section of Teacher Development, Education Sector, UNESCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nada Moghaizel-Nasr, Professor, Honorary Dean, Delegate of The Rector for Quality Assurance and University Pedagogy, Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon</li></ul>
11:15 – 12:30	<b>Panel 1: Progress and Challenges in Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy</b> <b>Chair:</b> Peter Wells, Chief, Section of Higher Education, Education Sector, UNESCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• James L. Turk, Distinguished Visiting Professor and Director, Centre for Free Expression Faculty of Communication and Design, Ryerson University, Canada</li><li>• Tarek Ahmad, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Heidelberg, Germany</li><li>• Katarzyna Kubacka, Research Officer, Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO</li></ul>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break

14:00– 16:30

#### Panel 2: Higher-Education Responses to New Demands for Quality, Inclusion, and Equity

**Chairs:** Florence Ssereo, Programme Specialist, Section of Teacher Development, UNESCO and Paz Portales, Programme Coordinator, Section of Higher Education, UNESCO

##### Part A. – The Institutional Perspective

- Julio Fernandez Techera, Chancellor, Catholic University, Uruguay
- Blandine Poos, Director, National School for Teachers (ENI), Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
- Elifas Bisanda, Vice-Chancellor, Open University of Tanzania
- Gisela Siririka, Senior Education Officer, Broad Curriculum, Namibia

##### Part B. – Practitioners' Perspective

- Hawa Tagro, Director, CAFOP, Côte d'Ivoire
- Maurice Nkusi, Acting Director, Teaching and Learning Unit, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Windhoek, Namibia
- Ndawula Stephen, Director, Open and Distance Learning, Kyambogo University, Kampala, Uganda

16:30 – 17:00

#### Closing Ceremony

- Concluding remarks by Georges Haddad, President, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France
- **Official closing** by Jordan Naidoo, Director, Division for Education 2030 Support and Coordination, Education Sector, UNESCO

# About World Teachers' Day

---

World Teachers' Day, held annually on 5 October, is a UNESCO initiative devoted to celebrating and highlighting the contribution of teachers to the education and development of our future citizens.

UNESCO proclaimed 5 October to be World Teachers' Day in 1994 to celebrate the great step made for teachers on 5 October 1966, when a special intergovernmental conference convened in Paris by UNESCO in cooperation with the ILO adopted the *UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers*.

The day is celebrated worldwide and brings together governments, multi- and bilateral organizations, NGOs, private sectors, teachers, and educational experts in the field of teaching to mark achievements and reflect on ways to address the remaining challenges for the promotion of the teaching profession.

The yearly event is a natural extension of UNESCO's year-round work in promoting and advocating for teachers, ensuring that this profession continues to play a vital and central role in the sustainable societies we seek by providing every learner with a quality lifelong education.

World Teachers' Day is celebrated in partnership with UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization, and Education International.

# Teachers are at the Centre of the Right to Education

## Sustainable Development Goals 2015 - 2030

The guarantee of the right to education implies a fair distribution of knowledge, information, and skills and access to a quality and equitable education. This is why the **Education 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** entrusts UNESCO to lead and coordinate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which has a target calling for a substantial increase in qualified teachers.

Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015, **SDG4** is dedicated to education. **The dedicated target on teachers** commits Member States to *“ensure that teachers and educators are empowered, adequately recruited, well-trained, professionally qualified, motivated and supported within well-resourced, efficient and effectively governed systems.”*

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Sustainable  
Development  
Goals

4.C Teachers and educators

By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Education  
2030

## UNESCO Education Sector

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation on which to build peace and drive sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education and the Education Sector provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens national education systems and responds to contemporary global challenges through education with a special focus on gender equality and Africa.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Education  
Sector

## The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to *“ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”*

The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



## Stay in touch

 [wtd@unesco.org](mailto:wtd@unesco.org)

 <http://en.unesco.org/themes/teachers/world-teachers-day>

 @UNESCO

#WorldTeachersDay

UNESCO

7, place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris France

