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Teachers at the Forefront of Crisis and Change: Examining the Relevance of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers

Tuesday, 6 October 2020 from 16:00 to 17:30 (GMT +2)

English, French, Arabic, and Spanish interpretation available for plenary discussions.

Registration

Context

Abstract: Teachers are the foundation for quality education and lifelong learning, and their essential roles as leaders in classrooms, schools, and communities have been made more apparent during the COVID-19 crisis. There have been many international emergencies during the 50 years since the adoption, in 1966, of the *ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers*¹. The current pandemic has placed unprecedented responsibilities on the

¹The [ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers](#) (1966).

Monitoring reports on the implementation of the Recommendation are available at http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13084&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

shoulders of teachers around the world, and World Teachers' Day provides a good opportunity to examine how the instrument is relevant in light of these extraordinary challenges. The *Education 2030 Framework for Action* explicitly commits the global community to ensuring that "teachers and educators are empowered, adequately recruited, well-trained, professionally qualified, motivated and supported within well-resourced, efficient and effectively governed systems." In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, can teachers' rights still be safeguarded and responsibilities upheld through the application of the 1966 Recommendation (R66)?

Objectives and expected outcomes

This panel will take up the question of the relevance of R66 in light of the current challenges facing teachers, with a particular focus on teacher leadership in the contexts of curriculum development, virtual and face-to-face instruction, governance, policymaking, and monitoring. These key issues will be explored by the keynote speaker and three panellists with different perspectives on the 1966 Recommendation and its relevance for today's teaching contexts. The keynote will be presented by Frances Vavrus, the current Chair of the Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART). She will present an overview of the work of the Committee, including the monitoring of allegations of non-application of the R66 provisions, and will highlight provisions related to teacher leadership. The first panellist, Beatrice Avalos, is a former member of the CEART and will discuss the relevance of the Recommendation in the formation of teacher policy in Latin America. The second panellist, Pedi Anawi, is a member of Education International based in Ghana, and he will address R66 in relation to the work of the teachers' unions. The final speaker, Päivi Lyhykäinen, is a Special Advisor in The Trade Union of Education in Finland. She will explain how R66 can be used as a tool to promote social dialogue between government and teachers' organizations using Finland as a case study.

Following the presentations, there will be four breakout sessions with each of the four panellists serving as the moderator for one of them. Attendees will be invited to join one of these sessions based on their interest in one of the four themes, all of which are aimed at a forward-looking orientation for the 1966 Recommendation:

- 1) R66 and the professional freedom of teachers (Dr. Vavrus);
- 2) R66 and the development of national teacher policy (Dr. Avalos);
- 3) R66 and the involvement of teachers' organizations in education policy (Dr. Anawi); and
- 4) R66 and teachers as leaders in periods of crisis (Päivi Lyhykäinen).

Following the breakout sessions, each of the four panellists will present 2-3 main points from these sessions and their concluding remarks.

How to register

To register, click on the 'Registration' link above.

Agenda

6 October 2020	
16:00 – 16:05	Welcome Borhène Chakroun, Director Division for Lifelong learning systems (UNESCO)
16:05 - 16:40	Panel discussion Moderator: Oliver Liang, Head, Public and Private Services Unit (ILO) Keynote: Dr. Frances Vavrus, Professor, University of Minnesota Overview of the 1966 Recommendation and the CEART Dr. Beatrice Avalos, Professor, University of Chile Relevance of the Recommendation in the formation of teacher policy in Latin America Dr. Pedi Anawi, Regional Coordinator, Education International, Africa Regional Office R66 in relation to the work of the teachers unions Päivi Lyhykäinen, Special Advisor in The Trade Union of Education in Finland Using R66 as a tool to promote social dialogue between government and teachers' organizations in Finland
16:40 – 17:00	Breakout sessions Room 1: R66 and the professional freedom of teachers (Facilitator, Dr. Vavrus) Room 2: R66 and the development of national teacher policy (Facilitator, Dr. Avalos) Room 3: R66 and the involvement of teachers' organizations in education policy (Facilitator, Dr. Anawi) Room 4: R66 and teachers as leaders in periods of crisis (Facilitator, Ms. Lyhykäinen)
17:00 – 17:25	Summaries of breakout room discussions and wrap-up By Breakout sessions facilitators (Beatrice Avalos, Pedi Anawi, Päivi Lyhykäinen, Frances Vavrus)
17:25 – 17:30	Closing Remarks Frances Vavrus and Oliver Liang

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