This paper is an extract from the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee 4th Meeting Report. The report summarized the deliberations, the main recommendations adopted, and the decisions made at the 4th meeting of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee (Paris, 28 February - 2 March 2018).

While recognising that a great deal is being done in all regions to take forward the SDG4 agenda to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee has identified a number of bottlenecks in several policy areas that continue to hamper progress towards global targets and commitments.

Some bottlenecks relate to education in the broader development context and include:

- insufficient attention to gender equality; the closing of civil society space; and
- the persistence of violence, conflict and situations of emergencies.

Other bottlenecks more specific to education include:

- an inadequate policy focus on SDG4 targets and commitments;
- a narrowing of the broad SDG4 agenda with neglect of youth and adult education and skills development, both formal and non-formal;
- insufficient attention to the conditions and status of teachers;
- inadequate financing of education;
- limited capacity for policy design and implementation informed by research and evidence; as well as
- poor mainstreaming of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education.
In light of these bottlenecks, the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee made the following recommendations with respect to SDG4 policy and strategy:

- **Governments are encouraged to address these bottlenecks**, as relevant to their national contexts and priorities, and in accordance with national legislation.

- While prioritization of SDG4 targets is necessary to reflect national policy context and needs, **governments should ensure that the commitment to equal opportunity to effective and quality learning is pursued at all levels and strands of education and training**.

- **Governments, co-convening agencies, regional organizations and civil society networks should strengthen national ownership of the 2030 Framework for Action**, the SDG4 targets and commitments and indicative strategies through national and regional education consultations and mainstreaming of the SDG4 targets in their education systems.

- **Governments are encouraged to strengthen education sector-wide and inter-sectoral coordination**, mobilizing the range of ministerial departments involved in the achievement of SDG4 targets and commitments.

---

The **SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee** is the global multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Its primary objective is to harmonize and strengthen support to countries and their partners for the realization of the global education goal and targets. The Steering Committee is composed of members representing a majority from countries, the World Education Forum 2015 convening agencies (UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women, ILO, the World Bank), the Global Partnership for Education, the OECD, regional organizations, teacher organizations, civil society networks, the private sector, foundations and youth organizations.

SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee Secretariat
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris France

---

email: education2030@unesco.org

web: www.sd4education2030.org

twitter: @Education2030UN