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MR. LIU ZHENMIN
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

MESSAGE

Fifth Meeting of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France, 12-13 September 2018

I am honoured to send a message to this important meeting of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has a crucial role to play in connection with the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda.

Indeed, I am impressed at the thorough and inclusive review process put in place for the consideration of SDG 4 at the 2019 HLPF.

Achieving SDG 4 requires the inclusion and the engagement, of all.

Ensuring quality education for all, throughout the life cycle, is at the heart of SDG 4.

If we can do this, we will also make great strides towards other goals – such as reducing inequalities, improving livelihoods and strengthening institutions.

At the same time, achieving other goals – such as those for peaceful societies, improved resilience or better child health – would themselves lead to stronger outcomes for education.

But significant challenges remain. The Secretary General’s 2018 report on SDG progress reminds us that more than half of children and adolescents are not meeting minimum standards in reading and mathematics.

Poverty, malnutrition and ill-health continue to keep many out of school, and to reduce the learning outcomes of others who attend.

Such gaps are alarming and emphasize the need to take urgent action.

The 2019 HLPF, with its theme of “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, will seek to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

Highlighting the gaps and challenges, good practices and synergies will be vital for generating dialogue and commitments towards this end.

In 2019 we will also complete one round of HLPF reviews, with the lessons being taken forward to the General Assembly.

The work of the Steering Committee, and its guidance to the Global Education Meeting in Brussels, will inspire the commitment to action that will further energize the multi-stakeholder efforts at the HLPF.

I applaud the Committee's work to ensure momentum to this end.

Thank you.
