Why is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) important for Education in the post-2015 development agenda?

Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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The Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education For All (EFA)

• Despite considerable progress, the education agenda remains unfinished.

• Focus of the education-related MDGs and of EFA on access and gender parity too narrow → post-2015 agenda needs different focus.

• Approach needs to be holistic, rights-based and universal, being relevant for developing and developed countries alike.

„It matters what is actually taught and how we teach and learn“
Why should ESD play a key role?

• Sustainable development cannot be achieved alone through political agreements, financial incentives or technological solutions

• Sustainable development requires change in the way citizens think and act

• Everyone should have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future
ESD affects learners

- ESD is highly transformative. It emphasizes
  - Creative and critical approaches
  - Long-term thinking
  - Innovation
  - Problem-solving
  - Collaborative decision-making

- ESD engages formal, non-formal and informal education and promotes lifelong learning
ESD affects learners

- ESD is **inclusive**: it reaches out to people from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds
- ESD is **motivating**: Learners can directly apply lessons learned to their daily lives and immediately see results
- ESD **emphasizes the importance of young people** and supports youth in their role as **change agents** for sustainable development
ESD affects learning environments

- ESD is **holistic** and **interdisciplinary** in its approach
- ESD relates to **all pillars of sustainable development** in an **integrated, balanced and holistic manner**
- **All disciplines** can **equally contribute** to ESD
- ESD pioneers the “**whole-institution approach**” as it develops educational institutions as a whole, not curricula or subject matters
A strong mandate for ESD

- **The Future We Want** (Rio+20): **Strong political mandate** to improve “the capacity of our education systems to prepare people to pursue sustainable development“

- ESD can help **produce vital transferable skills** such as problem solving, analyzing complexity, anticipating future developments and addressing risks
Thank you for your kind attention!

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