



UNESCO's Structured Financing Dialogue (SFD) with Member States

14 April 2022 - Plenary Meeting

19 - 21 April 2022 - Dialogues with Major Programmes and ADM (on UNESCORE)

Agenda

I Background

The 209th Session of the Executive Board agreed that biennial financing dialogue with Member States should take place at a time when Member States could simultaneously review the resource mobilization strategy linked to the funding gap in the 41C/5 and take stock of resource mobilization for the previous biennium, namely immediately after the Spring Session of the Executive Board in 2022¹, and thereafter every two years.

Structured Financing Dialogue (SFD) is an important element in the reform process of the UN Development System and complies with General Assembly resolution 71/243, which calls for periodic funding dialogues within the framework of UN system-wide funding and collaboration. The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) recognizes that the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a more sustainable funding approach and has thus called upon the UN Funds and Programmes to organize regular SFDs (with their Executive Boards) which look at past funding trends, future directions and challenges, and where the Secretariats can advocate for quality funding that is flexible, predictable and well aligned with their strategic plans. Within the context of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, collective action and cooperation through flexible and predictable funding for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals has never been more critical. This SFD offers opportunities to address these challenges and find solutions so that UNESCO can better plan and implement programs.

This discussion takes place at a moment when through the UN Funding Compact, result of a series of in-depth Funding Dialogues between governments and the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), Member States committed to increase the share of multi-year contributions, and double the levels of resources channeled through development related inter-agency pooled funds and single agency thematic funds. Fulfilling the funding compact commitments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, through adequate and flexible resources, is critical now more than ever to ensure

¹ See [209 EX/5.II.C](#) ("Structured Financing Dialogues") and Decision adopted by the Executive Board: "The Executive Board, (...) 3. Stresses the need to further harmonize and coordinate all fundraising efforts and emphasizes that all resource mobilization should contribute to the realization of the priorities in UNESCO's four-year Programme; 4. Takes note that henceforth the structured financing dialogue (SFD) with Member States will be held on a biennial basis; 5. Requests the Director-General to hold the next structured financing dialogue (SFD) with Member States immediately after its 214th session and once every two years thereafter" (209 EX/SR.6). The 214th session of the Board will be held on 30 March-13 April 2022.

that the United Nations system can respond to complex development challenges, while reducing response times, transaction costs and competition for resources.

In line with IOS' recommendations², the SFD with Member States will be framed in an organizational narrative for UNESCO's contribution to Agenda 2030, within the context of launching the newly adopted Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2027 (41 C/4), setting out in an evidence-based manner UNESCO's comparative strengths including through its interdisciplinary approaches for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Further, specific attention should be dedicated to the global priorities Gender Equality and Africa. The SFD with Member States will be fully complementary to the Partners' Forum scheduled to be held in October 2022, which will focus primarily on diversifying UNESCO's donor base, notably by attracting new private partners.

II Objectives

- To provide UNESCO Member States, including donors and programme countries with a holistic view of how UNESCO is engaging with donors on its programme, how the programme is funded, as well as to sensitize Member States about funding needs and where strategic opportunities for synergy lie;
- Foster institutional commitment to the achievement of the resource mobilization targets embedded in the programme and budget (41 C/5) and set the scene for further collective and bilateral consultations with donors throughout the biennium targeting optimal alignment of financial resources to planned strategic outcomes, as well as a higher proportion of flexible, predictable funding.

III An inclusive dialogue on funding gaps in the 41 C/5 – overall approach

The SFD should engage the UNESCO Secretariat, Member States including key donors and development agencies and stakeholders from programme countries in an action oriented and inclusive discussion on the resourcing of UNESCO's programme and budget (41 C/5), not only to increase the level of resources for UNESCO's programme but also to highlight the need for 'quality' funding that is closely aligned with UNESCO's 41 C/5. By providing transparency on funding patterns and trends, it should help foster synergies between donors and mobilize support for areas of UNESCO's programme that require a strengthened resource mobilization effort.

The SFD will be organized as a virtual event starting with a plenary session on 14 April 2022 to optimize the participation of key stakeholders in the capitals. The Plenary will primarily focus on good practices to achieve funding that is well aligned and sustainable, the Global Priorities and the Intersectoral Programmes. Between 19 and 21 April, it will be followed by for a more in-depth dialogue on specific funding gaps and needs for each Programme Sector and the Sector for Administration and Management (ADM) on the UNESCO programme.

Along the lines of the SFD of other UN agencies it should build momentum around mutual commitments and position UNESCO as a trusted partner that responds effectively to organizational imperatives of transparency, accountability, efficiency, learning, and results reporting.

The SFD should complement and not replicate the debate at the 214th Session of the Executive Board on the resource mobilization strategy for 2022-2023 ([214 EX/5.II.B](#)) and resource mobilization performance in 2020-2021 ([214 EX/4.II.A.INF.2](#)).

² Recommendations of IOS Evaluation, September 2019 (IOS/EVS/PI/180).



IV Programme

14 April – Plenary Session (Online)

10.00- 10.10	Opening statement , by Xing Qu , Deputy Director-General of UNESCO
10.10-10.30	“Where do we stand on the SFD principles at UNESCO?” , by Jean-Yves Le Saux , Director of Strategic Planning, UNESCO
10.30-11.30	<p>“Partnerships and best practices: aligning with the SFD principles”</p> <p>Session introduced and moderated by Jean-Yves Le Saux, Director, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO</p> <p>Through the testimonies of a cross section of UNESCO donor partners, this segment will illustrate how the SFD principles can be placed as the service of UNESCO outreach and partnership development efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cecilia Scharp, Director, Department of International Organizations and Policy Support, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden) • Didier Lenoir, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the European Union to UNESCO (EU) • Cecilia Piccioni, Deputy Director General for integrated promotion and innovation (DGSP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Italy). • Atsuyuki Oike, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Japan to UNESCO (Japan) <p>Q & A (30 minutes)</p>
11.30- 12.30	<p>“Mobilizing for the Priority Africa Flagships - Opportunities and challenges”</p> <p>Session introduced and moderated by Lidia Arthur Brito, Director, Regional Office for Southern Africa, UNESCO</p> <p>This session will explore how building on UN system wide programming, and key contributions from UNESCO’s existing partners, UNESCO can scale up its cooperation with funding partners and African Member States through its new five Priority Africa flagship initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edouard Firmin Matoko, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO: Opportunities for synergies with existing partners under the Africa Flagships • Hubert Gijzen, Director, Regional Office for Eastern Africa, UNESCO: The key role of UNESCO field offices in mobilizing for the Africa Flagships <p>Q & A (30 minutes)</p>
14.30-15.30	<p>“The value of partnering with UNESCO for SDG 5 on Gender Equality”</p> <p>Session introduced and moderated by Lidia Arthur Brito, Director, Regional Office for Southern Africa, UNESCO</p>



	<p><i>This session, building on UNESCO’s proposal to launch and establish an international Gender Experts Facility designed to support mainstreaming and actions in the areas of capacity-building, knowledge production and advocacy, will discuss the value of partnering with UNESCO for SDG 5 with reference to UNESCO’s gender transformative initiatives in areas such as women’s and girls’ rights to education, protection of women journalists, masculinities, and the promotion of women in science.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Cliche, Director a.i, Gender Equality Division, UNESCO: Creating a Global Experts Facility for Gender Equality to improve gender transformative programming and boost gender equality initiatives <p>Q & A (30 minutes)</p>
<p>15.30-17.00</p>	<p>“Partnering for UNESCO’s Intersectoral programmes”</p> <p><i>Session introduced and moderated by Xing Qu, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO</i></p> <p><i>This session will make the case on why partnering with UNESCO on its programme for 2022-2025 is an attractive proposition for partners, with reference in particular to the platforms for (multi-stakeholder) partnerships offered by the five new intersectoral programmes (IPs), as well as focusing in on the need for catalytic funding in key areas in order to bring UNESCO’s programme to scale. Presentations will highlight how these programmes represent a relevant framework for developing a response to address complex and interconnected needs and challenges.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youn Kyong Kang, Director, Division of International Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (Republic of Korea): Views on “Learning for Diversity: Strengthening synergies between culture and education for inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies” (IP1) • Samira Benabdallah, Responsible Quality and Development, Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection (Morocco): Views on “Advancing scientific and environmental education for sustainable and resilient societies” (IP2) • Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, President of the Association of Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (Chad): Views on “Promoting indigenous knowledge, culture and languages as a pathway to inclusion” (IP3) • Divina Frau-Meigs, Professor, University of Sorbonne Nouvelle (France): Views on “Media and information literacy and digital competencies: empowering learners of all ages with skills to navigate an evolving information and knowledge landscape in the digital age” (IP4) • John Shawe-Taylor, Director, International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (United Kingdom): Views on “Artificial Intelligence: ethics and digital innovation” (IP5) <p>Q & A (30 minutes)</p>
<p>17.00- 17.10</p>	<p>Closing remarks on the Plenary Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Yves Le Saux, Director of Strategic Planning, UNESCO

19 - 21 April 2022 Dialogues with Major Programmes and ADM (Online)

Discussions on funding needs with Programme Sectors and ADM (on UNESCORE) will serve to address:

- the funding pattern of each Major Programme under the 40 C/5, including lessons learned and areas which have enjoyed strong support from named donors and those requiring a strengthened resource mobilization effort;
- the strategy for ensuring the funding gap under the 41 C/5 is fully resourced, with information on needs, as well as concrete opportunities and entry points for partners to engage with UNESCO in 2022 and 2023.

Tuesday 19 April

10.00-11.30	Social and human sciences (SHS)
14.30-16.00	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Wednesday 20 April

10.00-11.30	Culture (CLT)
14.30-16.00	Administration and Management (ADM)

Thursday 21 April

10.00-11.30	Education (ED)
11.30-13.00	Communication and information (CI)
14.30-16.00	Natural sciences (SC)

Supporting materials:

- **Concept notes**
 - Intersectoral programmes
 - Priority Africa Flagships
 - The Global Experts Facility for Priority Gender Equality
- **Working document** “A UNESCO that is fit for purpose - New tools, policies and practices of high relevance to donors”
- **Background documents**
 - Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 ([41 C/4](#))
 - Approved Programme and Budget for 2022-2023 ([41/C5](#))
 - UNESCO Resource Mobilization Strategy for 2021-2023 ([214 EX/5.II.B](#))
 - Financial Management Report for 2020-2021 -Status of the Funding of the Gap ([214 EX/4.II.A.INF.2](#))

Online registration for the SFD:

<https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/93022148302>

Webcast: <http://webcast.unesco.org/events/2022-03-SFD/>

SFD Webpage: <https://www.unesco.org/en/partner/sfd>