



41st session

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Highlights

- The General Conference of UNESCO, at its 41st session, has elected Ms Audrey Azoulay, for a second mandate, as Director-General of the Organization, with the overwhelming support of 155 votes, out of a total of 169 ballots cast, by Member States of UNESCO.

Yesterday, Tuesday 9 November 2021

- The **opening of the 41st session of the General Conference** was inaugurated in a formal ceremony by H.E. Mr Ahmet Altay Cengizer, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Turkey to UNESCO and President of the 40th session of the General Conference. During this session, the agenda of the 41st General Conference was adopted and H.E. Mr Santiago Irazabal Mourao, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Brazil to UNESCO was elected as President of the 41st session of the General Conference. H.E. Mr Agapito Mba Mokuy, Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Director-General introduced the General Policy Debate.
- At the first meeting of the **Nominations Committee (NOM)** H.E. Ms Tamara Rastovac Siamashvili, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Serbia to UNESCO, was elected as Chairperson of the Committee and H.E. Ms Maria Lorena Sol de Pool, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of El Salvador to UNESCO, as Vice-Chairperson.
- The first meeting of the **Legal Committee (LEG)** proceeded to the election of its Chairperson Mr Pierre Michel Eisemann of France, Vice-Chairperson, H.E. Ms Marcela Miriam Losardo of Argentina and Rapporteur, Mr Nadim Souraty of Lebanon. The Committee adopted its timetable and examined the credentials of the delegations for the 41st session of the General Conference.

Today, Wednesday 10 November 2021

- The event '**Indigenous knowledge in the Pacific Islands and the Decade of the Ocean**' will take place from 07:00 to 08:00, [online](#) (Zoom Passcode: 461468). It will comprise a round table and a presentation on: How to value traditional knowledge in the framework of the Decade of Ocean Sciences; Ancestral voyaging knowledge of women and men in the Pacific as a key resource for achieving SDGs; Building resilience and enhancing Ocean knowledge in the context of the UN Ocean Decade.
- The high-level session '**Investing in partnership for education: Lebanon 5 Year Education Plan**' will take place from 08:00 to 09:30 at UNESCO's restaurant on the 7th floor, **by invitation only**. It aims to generate high political momentum and mobilize technical and political support towards a more resilient education system in Lebanon; mobilize international resources and partnerships aligned towards the achievement of the 5YP; highlight the strategic and upstream institutional role of UNESCO as the trusted partner of choice in ensuring the implementation of the 5YP.
- The launch of the '**Futures of Education Report**' will take place from 13:30 – 14:30 in room I and online. The event will present the key ideas and recommendations of the new flagship report *Reimagining our futures together: a new social contract for education* to Member States and kick off the mobilization of the global education community and UNESCO strategic partners to take forward the global debate and action on the futures of education.
- UNESCO will co-host, with the Government of France, the high-level segment of the **2021 Global Education Meeting: Invest now for the recovery and the futures of education** from 14:30 to 18:00 in Room II and online. This event aims to galvanize political commitments to raise the profile of and investment in education, as a catalytic driver for the world's COVID-19 recovery, acceleration of the Education 2030 agenda and the futures of education.
- **The Global Teacher Prize Ceremony** of the Varkey Foundation will be awarded from 19:00 to 20:00 in Room I and online. This Prize rewards one exceptional teacher who made an outstanding contribution to the profession and shined a spotlight on the important role teachers play in society. More information on the Prize can be found [here](#).

Tomorrow, Thursday 11 November 2021

- The **CapED ministerial meeting** (by invitation only) will take place 8:00- 9:30, at the restaurant on the 7th-floor, bringing together Education Ministers and representatives from 26 CapED beneficiary countries and donors supporting UNESCO's CAP ED programme. The meeting will focus on lessons learned from the COVID-19 education response and serve as a platform for participants to share good practices and common challenges.
- Co-hosted by UNESCO and Sweden, **Healthy & educated: the double dividend of investing in health and well-being through education** will take place 14:00-15:00 in Room X and online, highlighting education's positive and transformative effects for health and well-being. This event

will explore the main health and well-being challenges children and young people face, the recommended approach to school health, and UNESCO's role in driving forward comprehensive sexuality education and safe school environments.

- The Bureau of Human Resources Management (HRM) will offer an opportunity for delegates participating in the General Conference to interact with HR officers to get a better understanding of the profile of candidates UNESCO is looking for, how to submit an application and prepare for a competencies-based interview. During this briefing taking place from 14:00 – 15:00 in Hall Saxe (in front of the bank), HRM will offer a presentation on the different types of talent programmes (Loans and Secondments, Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme, sponsored trainees, etc..) that are implemented in partnership with Member States, academic, civil society and private sector entities. This information session will take place in English. Another information session in French will take place on Friday 19 November 2021 in French.
- Two years after the adoption of the **Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education**, this event co-organized by the Governments of Norway, Tunisia and the United Kingdom in cooperation with UNESCO at 18:00 - 19:00 in Room X will renew momentum around this global treaty and support Member States' efforts to both ratify and implement it. The event will highlight the key benefits of joining the Global Convention, including facilitating the recognition of qualifications and the mobility and circulation of knowledge and research between countries.
- **The Award Ceremony of the UNESCO-Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman International Prize for the Creative Economy** will take place 18:30 – 19:15 in Room I. This Prize recognises and rewards exceptional initiatives of an entity that supports business skills development for young people in the field of the creative economy. More information on the Prize can be found [here](#).

Schedule of meetings

Today - Wednesday, 10 November 2021

Time	Organ	Room
09:00 a.m.		
	BUR First Meeting	X
10:00 a.m.		
	Plenary Meeting Report by the President of the General Conference on the first meeting of the Bureau General Policy Debate	I

Joint Meeting of Commissions	XI
<p>First Meeting</p> <p>Item 3.1 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4)</p> <p>Item 4.3 Adoption of the provisional budget ceiling</p>	
NOM Committee	IV
<p>Second Meeting</p> <p>Item 1.4: Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Conference and of the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the commissions and committees</p> <p>Item 14.1 – Election of Members of the Executive Board</p> <p>Items 14.2 to 14.15 – Elections of members of Headquarters Committee, Legal Committee and other subsidiary organs of the General Conference</p>	
LEG Committee	IX
<p>Third Meeting</p> <p>Consideration of any additional items that may be submitted to the Legal Committee in accordance with Rule 35.1(d) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference</p>	
3:00 p.m.	
Plenary Meeting	I
<p>General Policy Debate continued</p>	
APX Commission	XI
<p>First meeting</p> <p>Item 1.2 Report by the Director-General on communications received from Member States invoking the provisions of Article IV.C, paragraph 8(c), Article V.A, paragraph 1(b), and Article V.C, paragraph 14(b), of the Constitution</p> <p>Item 4.1 Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41 C/5)</p>	
LEG Committee	IX
<p>Fourth Meeting</p>	
ED Commission	II
<p>Ministerial meeting</p>	

Tomorrow - Thursday, 11 November 2021

Time	Organ	Room
10:00 a.m.		
	Plenary Meeting General Policy Debate	I
	ED Commission First Meeting	II
	APX Commission Second Meeting	XI
	NOM Committee Third Meeting	IV
3:00 p.m.		
	Plenary Meeting General Policy Debate continued	I
	ED Commission Second Meeting	II
	APX Commission Third Meeting	XI
	LEG Committee Fifth Meeting	IX