

8 December 2023

Green Zone, Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates



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## Background

- It is increasingly recognized that education is crucial for addressing the climate emergency through building capacities for mitigation, adaptation, resilience and sustainable development. However, recent UNESCO findings<sup>1</sup> show that around half of the 100 countries reviewed had no climate change mentioned in their national curriculum frameworks. While 95% of surveyed teachers felt teaching climate change is important, less than 30% felt ready to teach about climate change in relation to their local context. With 70% of youth surveyed saying that they cannot explain climate change or only in broad principles and are frightened about their future. Hence, commitment to action at the highest level of decision-making is crucial to accelerate the implementation of quality climate change education.
- In 2021, the political commitment at the first-ever ministerial session on climate change and education held at COP26 in Glasgow, where 27 countries pledged to increase cross-sectoral collaboration on climate action, was amplified by youth through the Milano Conference of Youth calling upon governments to transform education for green social transition. In 2022, the second

<sup>1</sup> *Learn for our Planet* (2021), *Getting every school climate-ready* (2021) and *Teachers have their say* (2021)

ministerial session on climate change education held at COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, highlighted the crucial need to embed climate change education as a core curriculum component by 2025 and created momentum in the lead-up to COP28.

- In September 2022, at the UN Transforming Education Summit, the Greening Education Partnership (GEP) was launched as a direct response to the Youth Declaration and the Call to Action during the Summit to transform the world through transforming education. As an open and inclusive community of practice, the GEP aims to deliver coordinated action between all relevant stakeholders including governments to 'get every learner climate-ready' through 4 pillars of action: *Greening Schools; Greening Curriculum; Greening Teacher Training, and Education System's Capacities and Greening Communities*. With its rapidly growing membership of 82 Member States and 1,100+ partners engaged in its four pillars of action, the Partnership is increasingly recognized as a powerful alliance to accelerate global and country-level progress.
- This year's COP 28, hosted by the United Arab Emirates, aims to underscore the vital role of education and establish a lasting legacy that future COPs will uphold. At COP 28, the GEP will convene its first Annual Meeting of the GEP on 8 December on the occasion of Youth, Children, Education and Skills Day in the Greening Education Hub. The meeting will encompass a high-level plenary session, followed by a technical session of the 4 GEP working groups. Youth members of the GEP will play a leading role in the dialogue and paving next steps.

## Objectives

- To mobilize and strengthen political commitment on greening education;
- To share good practice and solutions;
- To generate opportunities for synergetic action on greening school, curriculum, the capacities of teachers and systems and communities.

## Organizer

- Greening Education Partnership

## Time and Venue

- 8 December 2023 (High-level: 11:30 – 12:45, Concurrent sessions: 14:00 – 18:00 GST)
- 9 December 2023 (Working group meetings: 10:00 – 14:00 GST)
- Greening Education Hub, Expo City, Dubai, UAE hybrid event
- Register and join online: [https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZLrs3CAaTSCjTHc6HY16jw#/registration](https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZLrs3CAaTSCjTHc6HY16jw#/registration)

## High-level session on Greening Education

Friday 8, December  
11:30 - 12:45 (UAE time)

Room: Plenary room, Greening Education Hub

### Moderated by:

- **Ms Sahana Kaur**, Youth representative, YOUNGO-the Official Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC
- **Mr Antonio Díaz Aranda**, Youth representative, UNESCO Youth Climate Action Network (YoU-CAN)

11:30 - 11:35

### Setting the scene: Voice of children and youth

Speakers:

- **Mr Lucas Andriantsimba**, Youth representative, World Scouts Movement
- **Ms Sofia Faghihy**, Representative of children, UNICEF

11:35 - 12:35

### High-level panel on getting every learner climate-ready

- **Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa**, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, Morocco

#### Round 1: Greening schools and curriculum

*How can we ensure that every school and curriculum is greened, particularly by fostering synergy and collaboration through the GEP?*

Speakers:

- **H.E. Ms Athena Michaelidou**, Minister, Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Cyprus
- **H.E. Mr Madad Ali Sindhi**, Minister, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Pakistan
- **Ms Khady Diop Mbodji**, General Secretary, Ministry of Education, Senegal
- **H.E. Ms Nura Mustaf Mukhtar**, State Minister, Ministry of Education Federal, Somalia
- **H.E. Mr Mohammed AlSudairi**, Vice Minister for Universities, Research and Innovating, Ministry of Education, Saudi Arabia
- **Mr Khomraj Koirala**, Joint Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Office of the Council of Ministers, Nepal
- **Ms Tuula Yrjölä**, Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, Finland
- **Ms Stefania Giannini**, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
- **Ms Jennifer Cooper**, Teacher, UK National Teacher Union, Education International
- **Ms Diana Ürge-Vorsatz**, Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

	<p><b>Round 2: Greening teacher training and education systems’ capacities and communities</b></p> <p><i>How can we ensure that every education system and community is greened, particularly by fostering synergy and collaboration through the GEP?</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr Camilo Santana</b>, Minister, Ministry of Education, Brazil</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr Tahir Mamman</b>, Minister, Ministry of Education, Nigeria</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms Baroness Barran</b>, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for the School System and Student Finance) for the Department for Education, United Kingdom</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr Aziz Abdulkhaimov</b>, Minister, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Republic of Uzbekistan</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms Awut Deng Achuil</b>, Minister, Ministry for Education and General Instruction, South Sudan</li> <li>• <b>Ms Kilo Vivian Asheri</b>, Secretary of State for Basic Education, Cameroon</li> <li>• <b>Mr Hayder A. Dhahad</b>, Deputy Minister for Scientific Research Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Iraq</li> <li>• <b>Mr Robert Jenkins</b>, Global Director of Education and Adolescent Development, UNICEF</li> <li>• <b>Ms Yasmine Sherif</b>, Executive Director, Education Cannot Wait</li> <li>• <b>Mr Charles North</b>, Deputy CEO, Global Partnership for Education</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:35 - 12:40</b></p>	<p><b>Launch of the Building the Climate Resilience of Children and Communities through the Education Sector project (BRACE) initiative</b></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Charles North</b>, Deputy CEO, Global Partnership for Education</li> <li>• <b>Ms Susan Nicolai</b>, Global Director for Education/Learn, Save the Children</li> <li>• <b>Ms Hong Paterson</b>, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Green Climate Fund</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:40 - 12:45</b></p>	<p><b>Endorsement of the Member States Declaration on Education and Climate Change</b></p> <p>Group photo among Member State representatives</p> <p>Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi</b>, Minister, Ministry of Education, UAE</li> </ul> <p>*End of the high-level session</p>

<b>Boosting Greening Education Partnership</b>	
<b>Concurrent sessions on financing, research, communication and advocacy, monitoring and evaluation</b>	
<b>Concurrent session 1: Financing Greening Education</b> Friday 8, December <b>14:00 - 15:30</b> (UAE time) Room: Al Fanar Room (Workshop 4)	
<b>Description</b>	<p>The success and impact of the Greening Education Partnership hinges on securing sufficient financing. Additional resources are necessary to channel targeted support to the objectives of the Partnership at country-level.</p> <p>Despite the pivotal role of education in addressing the climate crisis, climate funds are seldom allocated for education financing. Furthermore, education budgets often lack explicit articulation of climate change issues, highlighting a critical gap in aligning financial resources with the urgent need for greening education.</p> <p>To move forward, several funding avenues exist for financing greening education, including multilateral financing mechanisms on climate change and education, bilateral international cooperation, philanthropies and private sector and the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund financing modality.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>This session aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore various avenues of financing for greening education both from climate change and education financing mechanisms and ways to strengthen global efforts to finance greening education;</li> <li>• Identify the key priority issues requiring financing within the greening education agenda; and</li> <li>• Discuss collaboration to accelerate financing of greening education through the Greening Education Partnership.</li> </ul>
<b>Moderated by: Mr Chris Castle</b> , Director, Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO	
<b>14:00 – 14:05</b>	<b>Opening</b>

<p><b>14:05 – 14:30</b></p>	<p><b>Strengthening global landscape on financing climate change and education</b></p> <p><i>Panel discussion on overview of global landscape of climate and education finance, the current mechanisms available and the challenges and opportunities to financing climate change education.</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms Jennifer Topping</b>, Executive Director, UN MPTF Office</li> <li>• <b>Ms Virginie Delisee-Pizzo</b>, Director, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Albert Compaore</b>, Senior Advisor for West Africa, UNITAR</li> <li>• <b>Ms Saliha Dobardzic</b>, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund</li> <li>• <b>Ms Anna-Maria Tammi</b>, Education Specialist, Global Partnership for Education</li> </ul>
<p><b>14:30 – 15:10</b></p>	<p><b>Small group discussion on Greening Education Financing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the top priority areas for financing under the greening education agenda?</li> <li>• What possible financing mechanisms and avenues should be considered for the greening education agenda?</li> <li>• How can the Partnership strategically enhance its value proposition to leverage these financing avenues in support of activities of the Greening Education Partnership?</li> <li>• How can greening education initiatives be strategically aligned with key priorities of the global climate change agenda to access climate financing?</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:20 – 15:30</b></p>	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <p>Report back from the breakout groups.</p>

## Meeting outcomes

- Member States Declaration on education and climate change
- Work plan of four working groups of the Greening Education Partnership

## Technical specification

The sessions will be open for online and onsite participation. High-level segment is open for external audiences. Concurrent sessions for members of the Greening Education Partnership only.

## Contact

### Greening Education Partnership Secretariat

Section of Education for Sustainable Development  
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<https://www.unesco.org/en/education-sustainable-development/cop28>