

2 February 2022, 1500-1550 EST

Concept Note

As of 27 January 2022

Organizers: NGO Major Group, African Regional Mechanism for Major Groups & other Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples Major Group, Education & Academia Stakeholder Group, Together 2030 and the National Planning Development Commission of Ghana.

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the most severe disruption to global education in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 per cent of the world's student population, up to 99 per cent in low and lower-middle income countries.

At the same time, education has moved into the “virtual world”, using digital and ICT tools to bridge the gaps in learning. But the prolonged pandemic has raised further and more serious issues, such as the ‘digital divide’, disruption of the provision of essential services to children and communities, reduction in access to nutritious food, challenges for many parents to work, and an increase in the risk of violence against women and girls.

In addition, education curriculums should support gender equality, anti-discrimination and wider anti-extremist approaches to support future generations to build upon what has been achieved so far regarding access for all.

About the session – The session aims to provide different perspectives on the current challenges facing the education system in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; as well as good practices on the engagement of stakeholders and resilient models for providing quality free education for all to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guiding questions:

- What has been the impact of COVID 19 on the right to free education for all?
- How can stakeholders work with governments to ensure broad access to effective and accessible education provision?
- How could education systems anticipate, respond to and mitigate the effects of the pandemic and similar crises?
- In light of the COVID-19 challenges, how can we ensure that learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development?

Outline:

Panel discussion

- Welcome & Intro: 5 mins – *Co-Moderator, Oli Henman, Action for Sustainable Development*
- Speaker 1 (6 mins): Sharing good practice on education policies, Member state perspective – *Dr Richard Osei Bofah, Deputy Director, Development Policy and Planning, National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ghana*
- Speaker 2 (6 mins): Access to education during the Covid-19 pandemic in the African context - *Kofi Kankam, Co-chair Africa Regional Mechanisms of Major Groups & Other Stakeholders*
- Speaker 3 (6 mins): Providing access to education that respects and complements indigenous knowledge – *Avilinia Reyes García, Network of Indigenous Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean*
- Speaker 4 (6 mins): Education in fragile contexts - *Rawan Abukhadrah, World Vision Syria emergency response*
- Speaker 5 (6 mins): Lifelong learning in times of COVID-19: education for resilience and transformation - *Katarina Popovic, International Council for Adult Education*
- Speaker 6 (6 mins): Support to education as a route to leaving no one behind – *Hagar Monsif, Maat for Peace*
- Q&A: 10 mins – *Co-Moderator, Rosario Diaz Garavito, The Millennials Movement*