

## Renewing Education to Transform the Future

UNESCO International Forum on the Futures of Education 2024

Suwon, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea, 2-4 December 2024



“ It is by actively engaging in the dialogue and practice to build a new social contract for education that we can renew education to make just, equitable and sustainable futures possible. ”

*Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education* (2021, p.146)

### Background

Our world faces complex disruptions, unique opportunities and uncertain futures. How must education rise to the challenges ahead – not only to react but to help shape the future? Education and learning systems are at a critical juncture. The climate crisis, the pervasive rise of Artificial Intelligence, growing inequality and societal divisions compel us to rethink the role of education in shaping shared futures.

We face an existential choice between continuing on an unsustainable path or radically changing course. But no trend is destiny. There is an urgency to shape alternatives and reimagine possible futures. Education is crucial to this change of course. It has great potential to help shape more just, inclusive and sustainable futures by rebalancing our relationships with each other, the living planet and technology. Yet, to do so, education itself must be transformed.

In November 2021, the International Commission on the Futures of Education issued a report titled [“Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education”](#) following a two-year worldwide process of consultation and reflection. *Reimagining Our Futures Together* presents a long-term vision and a set of principles to realize the transformative potential of education at this critical juncture of societal transformation. It provides insights and proposals on renewing education to shape more just and sustainable futures. Describing the aims of the Report, H.E. Ms Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chair of the International Commission, has said, “Our hope is that the proposals this report presents – as well as the public dialogue and collective action it calls for – will serve as a catalyst to shape futures for humanity and the planet, that are peaceful, just and sustainable.”

---

The report provided a solid point of departure for recent United Nations calls to continue evolving the transformative visions into a new ecosystem for education. In 2022, the International Commission’s report was a key reference and foundation for the extensive, consultative preparatory process leading up to the [Transforming Education Summit](#) (TES) and the United Nations Secretary-General’s Vision Statement on Transforming Education.<sup>1</sup> In their work to translate commitments to action, Member States have been invited to consider the levers of transformation addressed in the International Commission’s report, with a clear line of accountability between vision, commitments, resources, actions and results.

There is a need to nurture and sustain the momentum created by the International Commission, as well as by the Transforming Education Summit, as we look to 2050 and beyond. The UNESCO International Forum on the Futures of Education 2024 provides an opportunity to continue framing, inspiring and reinvigorating global dynamics to remain publicly and politically active around the urgency to renew education to transform the future. The Forum addresses and integrates the most recent global debates of the post-TES follow-up process and the 2024 Summit of the Future, in the lead-up to the 2025 World Social Summit.

The Forum is an invitation to continue strengthening the public dialogue, collective engagement and co-construction to contextualize the ideas and proposals anchored in the report and translate them into policy, research and action in different settings. While country conditions are unique, the educational issues we need to consider as we aim to shape our collective futures are not specific to any one context. Solutions can be found when diverse constituencies from different countries and regions come together and engage in a collaborative dialogue to address these shared challenges.

Collaborative efforts become crucial as the Forum’s participants reflect on the three essential questions posed to education by the Futures of Education Report – “What should we continue doing?, What should we abandon? and What needs to be creatively reimagined?” Sharing and learning from the wealth of more specific and contextualized responses to these questions is key in our collective efforts to renew education to transform the future.

## Objectives

---

- To exchange and share contextualized experiences in innovative policy, practice and research to transform education in line with the recommendations of the 2021 report of the International Commission on the Futures of Education.
- To provide a platform through which Member States and the global community can strengthen knowledge sharing, peer learning and cooperation in relation to the Futures of Education initiative.

---

<sup>1</sup> UN (2022). *Transforming Education: An urgent political imperative for our collective future*. New York, United Nations. (Vision Statement of the Secretary-General on Transforming Education.)

---

## Expected Outcomes

---

- **Forum Synthesis Report:** The Forum Report will synthesize the main insights from the three-day event.
- **Thematic Futures of Education Briefs:** The Forum Synthesis Report will be complemented by 10 thematic Futures of Education Briefs, each succinctly encapsulating a framing of the core themes serving as the focus of the parallel sessions. Insights gleaned from the contextualized experiences and dialogue at the parallel thematic sessions will be integrated into the Briefs, providing a holistic overview of the Forum's deliberations. The thematic Futures of Education Briefs will serve as a knowledge-sharing resource to a wider range of education practitioners, researchers and policy makers beyond the participants of the Forum.

## Organization

---

This first edition of the UNESCO International Forum on the Futures of Education is co-organized with the Ministry of Education (Republic of Korea), the Gyeonggido Office of Education (Republic of Korea) and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

**Languages:** English / French / Korean for plenary sessions. English / Korean for parallel sessions.

## Participants

---

The forum anticipates approximately 1,000 participants, including government ministers and senior policy makers from participating Member States, representatives from United Nations partner agencies and other international organizations, academic experts, representatives of teacher associations, civil society organizations, youth organizations, and various other stakeholders.

## Programme

Day 1 2 December 2024			
#	Time	Session	Hall/Room
1.1	09:30 – 10:00	Opening ceremony	Convention Hall A
1.2	10:00 – 10:30	Keynote address: Renewing Education to Transform the Future	Convention Hall A
1.3	10:30 – 11:00	Cultural event/performance	Convention Hall A
1.4	11:00 – 12:00	Ministerial panel: The Futures of Education in Diverse Contexts	Convention Hall A
	12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	Convention Hall B
1.5	13:30 – 15:00	Parallel thematic sessions 1	Session rooms
		Pedagogies of cooperation and solidarity	
		Reimagining curricula	
		Unleashing the potential of teachers	
		The future of universities	
	15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
1.6	15:30 – 16:30	Special session 1: National Policy and Strategy to Transform Education in the Republic of Korea	Convention Hall A
1.7	16:30 – 17:30	Special session 2: Public Initiative to Renew Education in a Local Context: The Case of Gyeonggido, Republic of Korea	Convention Hall A
1.8	17:30 - 18:00	Orientation session for Day 2 site visits to schools and educational centres	Convention Hall A
	18:00 – 20:00	Welcome dinner: Commemorating the 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO	Convention Hall B

Day 2 3 December 2024			
#	Time	Session	Hall/Room
2.1	08:00 – 14:30	Site visits to schools and educational centres in Gyeonggido	
	14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break Reconvene from site visits to schools and educational centres	
2.2	15:00 – 16:00	<b>Plenary session:</b> <b>Reporting Back from Parallel Thematic Sessions 1</b>	Convention Hall A
2.3	16:00 – 17:30	<b>Parallel thematic sessions 2</b>	Session rooms
		Rethinking educational leadership	
		Lifelong learning: Networks of learning spaces throughout life	
		Greening schools and communities	
		Citizenship and peacebuilding in an interconnected world	
		Futures literacy and education	
2.4	17:30 – 18:30	<b>Special session 3:</b> <b>Youth Perspectives on the Futures of Education</b>	Convention Hall A

Day 2 3 December 2024 Side event			
#	Time	Session	Hall/Room
	10:00 – 14:00	National Meeting of the Korean ASPnet	Convention Hall A

---

**Day 3**  
**4 December 2024**

#	Time	Session	Hall/Room
3.1	09:00 – 10:00	Plenary session: Reporting Back from Parallel Thematic Sessions 2	Convention Hall A
3.2	10:00 – 11:00	Plenary session: Looking to 2050 and Beyond: Emerging Development Challenges and Opportunities	Convention Hall A
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
3.3	11:30 – 12:30	The Way Forward	Convention Hall A
3.4	12:30 – 13:00	Closing Ceremony	Convention Hall A