



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Futures of Education

LEARNING TO BECOME

A global initiative to reimagine how knowledge and learning
can shape the future of humanity and the planet

Thinking together so we can act together to make the futures we want

UNESCO's *Futures of Education* initiative aims to rethink education and shape the future. The initiative is catalyzing a global debate on how knowledge, education and learning need to be reimaged in a world of increasing complexity, uncertainty, and precarity.

THE CONTEXT

With accelerated climate change, the fragility of our planet is becoming more and more apparent. Persistent inequalities, social fragmentation, and political extremism are bringing many societies to a point of crisis. Advances in digital communication, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology have great potential but also raise serious ethical and governance concerns, especially as promises of innovation and technological change have an uneven record of contributing to human flourishing.

THE AIM

Looking to 2050 and beyond, the *Futures of Education* initiative seeks to reimagine how education and knowledge can contribute to the global common good. The initiative will catalyze a global debate on how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity and the planet.

THE VISION

Knowledge and learning are humanity's greatest renewable resources for responding to challenges and inventing alternatives. Education does more than respond to a changing world. Education transforms the world.

A GLOBAL CONSULTATION

This initiative mobilizes the many rich ways of being and knowing in order to leverage humanity's collective intelligence. It relies on a broad, open consultative process that involves youth, educators, civil society, governments, business and other stakeholders. The work is being guided by a high-level International Commission of thought-leaders from diverse fields and different regions of the world. In November 2021, the commission will publish a report designed to share a forward-looking vision on how education and learning can enable us to become what we want to become.

AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

The Director-General of UNESCO has convened an independent International Commission comprised of thought-leaders from the worlds of politics, academia, the arts, science, business, and education. Working under the leadership of Her Excellency Ms Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the commission will carefully consider inputs received from the consultation process and collectively rethink the role of education, learning and knowledge in light of the tremendous challenges and opportunities of predicted, possible, and preferred futures of humanity and the planet.

GLOBAL REPORT TO BE RELEASED IN 2021

Building on a broad process of consultation with diverse stakeholders, as well as a comprehensive review of existing evidence, the commission will present analysis and recommendations in the form of a report, which can serve as an agenda for policy dialogue and action at multiple levels. Looking at the year 2050 and beyond, the *Futures of Education*

will be the latest in a series of global reports commissioned by UNESCO at key historical junctures of societal transformation to reframe the purpose of education in a changing world.

BUILDING ON A HUMANISTIC TRADITION

The global 2021 report on the futures of education will build on the humanistic approach to education laid out in previous UNESCO reports. The first of these reports, *Learning to Be: the world of education today and tomorrow* (1972) already warned of the risks of inequalities, privation and suffering, and emphasized the need for the continued expansion of education and for lifelong learning. This was followed by the 1996 *Learning: The treasure within* report that proposed an integrated vision of education around the four pillars: learning to be, learning to know, learning to do, and learning to live together in a lifelong perspective. More recently, the 2015 *Rethinking Education: Towards a Global Common Good* report reframed the purpose of education as enhancing and sustaining the dignity and capacity of the human person in relation to others and to nature.

TIMELINE AND PHASES

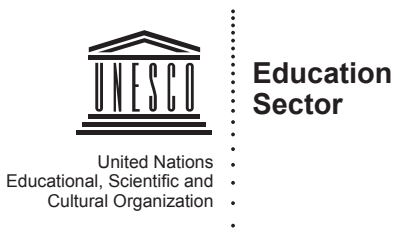


UNESCO Education Sector

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation on which to build peace and drive sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education and the Education Sector provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens national education systems and responds to contemporary global challenges through education with a special focus on gender equality and Africa.

Get involved

The process of developing the *Futures of Education* global report is about sparking conversations on how knowledge and learning can shape the futures we want. Inputs from individuals, networks, and organizations will inform the work of the International Commission and shape the global debate. For more information on how to get involved visit our website: <http://unesco.org/futuresofeducation>



Futures of Education

LEARNING TO BECOME

Stay in touch

✉ futuresofeducation@unesco.org

🌐 <http://unesco.org/futuresofeducation>

🐦 @UNESCO
#FuturesofEducation

📘 @UNESCO

UNESCO Education Sector
Education Research and Foresight
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris France