

DECLARATION ON THE COMMON AGENDA FOR EDUCATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE AT COP28



Building on the achievements at COP26 and COP27, we, as committed member states, adopt this declaration on the common agenda for education and climate change in advance of/at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in December 2023.

- Recognising that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts children, especially girls and marginalized groups, and weather-related disasters are already causing mass disruption to learning, education systems must urgently adapt to ensure children and young people can survive and thrive in our changing world.
- Emphasising that Education for Sustainable Development as part of SDG 4 on quality education from early childhood to lifelong learning provides the knowledge and skills required for a changing world and plays an essential role to powering the shift at scale to more sustainable, equitable, just, and climate-resilient societies, as highlighted in the Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development, we must maximize the co-benefits of efforts to achieve inclusive quality education for all and advance environmental sustainability.
- Recalling Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, we call upon countries to enhance climate change education to support transitions to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies and societies.
- Acknowledging the concerning funding gap in climate education and emergency preparedness planning compromising the ability to develop adequate education strategies to tackle the climate emergency, we welcome existing efforts of international education funds and climate education mechanisms - including multilateral development banks, the Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, and the UN-Multi Partner Trust Fund for the Greening Education Partnership – in supporting sustainable education systems and getting every learner climate ready.
- Recognising the focus on education, youth, and skills at COP28 and future COPs, we mobilize opportunities to redress the above issues by driving cohesion, deepening collaboration, and securing tangible commitments on education as a tool to mitigate the climate crisis on a global scale.

To further global efforts to build climate-smart education systems through the four pillars of action of the Greening Education Partnership (Greening schools, Greening curriculum, Greening teacher training and education system's capacities, and Greening communities), we commit to targeted actions to adapt, mitigate, and invest, including:

Commitment Area 1: ADAPT

1.1. We pledge to identify vulnerabilities and implement national education strategies to address climate risk, adopt adaptation measures and build more resilient education systems. We will evidence our commitment by including education in our national adaptation strategies.

1.2. We pledge to emphasize the role of education in supporting all learners to develop adequate knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to adapt to new climate realities and develop innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

Commitment Area 2: MITIGATE

2.1. We pledge to develop comprehensive education sector strategies to build climate-smart and resilient education systems that prepare all learners to actively engage in climate mitigation. We will evidence our commitment by encouraging the inclusion of education in our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

2.2. We pledge to leverage the role of education to achieve net zero emissions in the education sector.

Commitment Area 3: INVEST

3.1 We pledge strong cross-sectoral collaboration in support of increased global finance for education including through climate funds and institutions, to support education recovery and promote climate adaptation and mitigation measures in and through education systems.

3.2 We pledge to encourage both domestic and international education financing that helps address existing gaps and creates systems and learners that are climate-ready, including through investing in global education funds, partnerships, and innovative financing mechanisms.

We stand united in our commitment to listen to and respond to the demands of children and youth related to education and climate change and commit to revisiting the implementation of this declaration at subsequent Conference of the Parties. We call on other states/governments to endorse this declaration, to accelerate country-level implementation, and to enhance international cooperation towards our shared objectives of a more just, safe, sustainable, prosperous planet through securing every learner's right to quality climate education fit for the needs of the 21st century.

The declaration draws from contributions made by member countries and stakeholders of the Greening Education Partnership, and partner countries from the Global Partnership for Education. It has received support from the UK as an Advisory Group member of the Greening Education Partnership and the host of COP26. The list of countries endorsing the declaration is arranged chronologically based on the date of endorsement. Founding partners comprise countries that endorsed the declaration at COP28.