Consultation on the Futures of Teaching in the Arab States

**Date – Time**
Tuesday, 20 April from 13.00 to 14.30 pm (CET - Paris time)

**Venue**
Visio-conference (Zoom)

**Languages**
English, French and Arabic - interpretation provided

**Key objective**
The consultation meeting aims to examine the futures of the teaching profession, in light of - and beyond - the global pandemic, and its effect on teachers’ roles and the nature of the profession.

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda items and speakers:</th>
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| 13.00 -13.10 (10 mins) | Welcome and introductions  
By Sobhi Tawil  
*Director of the Futures of Education initiative, UNESCO* |
| 13.10 - 13.55 (45 mins) | Panel discussion  
Malak Zaalouk (Moderator)  
*Director of the Middle East Institute of Higher Education and Professor At the American University in Cairo*  
Antonio Novoa  
*Ambassador of Portugal to UNESCO*  
Elisa Guerra  
*Founder, Colegio Valle de Filadelfia, Mexico*  
Najwa Al Hosani  
*Acting Dean of College of Education, UAE University*  
Christine Safwat  
*Educate Me Foundation, Egypt*  
Hilmi Hamdan  
*Educational expert and trainer at the General Union of Palestinian Teachers, Palestine* |
| 13.55 - 14.25 (30 mins) | Q & A  
Malak Zaalouk (Moderator) |
| 14.25-14.30 (5 mins) | Closing remarks  
By Carlos Vargas Tamez  
Chief, Section for Teacher Development & Head of the Secretariat for the International Taskforce on Teachers for Education 2030 |
Speakers

**Najwa Al Housani** is a university associate professor in Curriculum and Instruction. She is currently the Acting Dean at the College of Education at United Arab Emirates University. Dr. Alhosani received her Master and Ph.D. degrees in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University, USA. She is a Board of Trustees member at Rabdan Academy, Board of Trustees member at Emirates College for Advanced Education, Board of Trustees member at the Arabic Center for Educational Research for Gulf Council Countries, Kuwait, Board member, Zayed House for Islamic Culture. Dr. Alhosani is a founder member of Fatima Bint Mubarak Motherhood and Childhood Research Center. She was a member of the Emirati Women Leaders Delegation to Washington, DC meeting their USA Women counterpart at the White House and US Congress.

**Elisa Guerra** is the founder of Colegio Valle de Filadelfia in Mexico, as well as Director for Latin America for The Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential. She was awarded the 2015 “Best Educator in Latin America” prize by the Inter-American Development Bank and Fundación ALAS and has also been a finalist for the Global Teacher Prize. She has authored 26 books and textbooks and is passionate about early education, global citizenship and innovative teaching.

**Hilmi Hamdan** has spent more than 18 years of supervising, teaching, training & researching in many educational organisations; Ministry of education and higher education, Alquds Open University, Birzeit university, Al-Qattan Foundation, the National Center for studies, Researches & Training, Center of Continuing Education, Open learning center in Al-Quds Open University and Birzeit, National Institute for Educational Training (“NIET”). He has trained teachers and heads of schools and educational supervisors, developing hundreds of students and organizations to realize their full education using modern strategies in learning and teaching, especially E-learning, student-centered learning and teaching, authentic assessment, project based learning, vocational and technical education and training.

**António Nóvoa** is Honorary President of the University of Lisbon, having been its President between 2006 and 2013. A professor of education, he holds PhDs from the University of Geneva and the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne. He has conducted seminars and delivered lectures in more than 40 countries and is the author of more than 200 academic works. Nóvoa currently serves as the Portuguese Ambassador to UNESCO.

**Christine Safwat** received her bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Networks Engineering from the German University in Cairo and worked as a Researcher and Lecturer assistant at the same university. Christine was one of the founders of CISCO Networking Academy at the GUC and for QMAC, responsible for quality control, worked in Curriculum Accreditation for the faculty, in addition to leading the curriculum committee for faculty for a few years. She is a certified trainer, and has experience in training & lecturing. She is currently the Executive Director of Educate Me Foundation which won the 2020 UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers. She has been on the RISE Egypt fellowship 2015-2016 and was recognized as one of the top 20 young leaders in Africa in 2017. She became the first Egyptian to ever become a member of the Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance. She has also been selected as a WISE Voice Learner for Program 2017-2018, graduate of Education in Emergencies & Forced Migration Program.

**Sobhi Tawil** Sobhi Tawil (PhD) is currently Director of the Future of Learning and Innovation Team at UNESCO where he leads the Futures of Education initiative, as well as work in technology and innovation in education. He has some 30 years of experience in teaching, education policy analysis, research and program management with diverse institutions and organizations.
Carlos Vargas Tamez is a sociologist of education who specializes on global education policy. His research and publications focus on the relationship between education, human rights and wellbeing; the orientations and discourses of public policy and their effects on society. He has worked for universities, civil society, international organisations and local governments in Latin America and Europe. Since 2015, he works for UNESCO, where he has coordinated research on the social relevance and cultural pertinence of education in five continents. At present, he leads the Section of Teacher Development at UNESCO’s Headquarters and the Secretariat of the International Taskforce on Teachers for Education 2030.

Malak Zaalouk is Professor of Practice and the Director of the Middle East Institute of Higher Education at the American University in Cairo. Dr. Zaalouk has previously served as UNICEF Regional Senior Education Adviser for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Her position entailed participation and advising on National Reform Strategies and the establishment of regional frameworks for quality education and teacher professional development. Prior to that she founded the Egyptian community schools and has promoted girls’ education and quality education reform, and has been a noted global leader on issues of human rights and gender equity. Dr. Zaalouk has published widely on issues of development in both English and Arabic. She currently leads a number of international development projects involving teachers. She holds a diploma in educational planning from the International Institute of Educational Planning IIEP in Paris, a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Hull, an MA in Sociology from the American University in Cairo, and a BA in political science from the American University in Cairo.