



Futures of Education

LEARNING TO BECOME

Consultation on the Futures of Teaching in the Arab States

20 April 2021 at 13:00-14.30 CET (Paris)

[Registration](#)

Background

The consultation on the futures of teaching in the Arab States is organized by the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, in collaboration with Hamdan Foundation and the Futures of Education initiative.

The International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 (Teacher Task Force or TTF) contributes to the quality and the quantity of teachers and educators globally through appropriate teacher policies.

The TTF's 12th Policy Dialogue Forum (PDF) was held in December 2019 in Dubai, hosted by the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation and the Government of the United Arab Emirates, under the overarching theme "The Futures of Teaching" which was articulated around three areas: (1) Teacher training; (2) Addressing inequalities; and (3) Introducing innovation. The Forum sought to capture and synthesize emerging trends and challenges, generate debate and research on the futures of teaching and further global, regional and country engagement. In particular, the discussions, reflections and recommendations of the PDF were to serve as important input into UNESCO's Futures of Education initiative.

UNESCO's Futures of Education initiative aims to mobilize 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 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 of what education and learning might yet become and offer a policy agenda. The Futures of Education initiative organizes multiple consultations and dialogues to explore diverse perspectives in order to shape the global debate.

The Futures of Teaching in the Arab States

Discussions on the teaching profession in the Arab States organized by the TTF since 2019 have touched on a range of issues, including the use of technologies and artificial intelligence in teacher training and qualifications, the social status of the profession, and teachers' working conditions. Further, the [Policy Dialogue Forum](#) outlined six recommendations to prepare teachers for the future:

1. Update existing teacher education systems and scale up innovative solutions
2. Anchor and better align teacher training and support efforts within national education systems
3. Engage with and empower the education workforce to lead change
4. Invest in increased access of ICTs for teachers and ICT focused teacher-training
5. Review roles and responsibilities, and update professional standards
6. Establish tools for diagnostics, measurement, benchmarking and evaluation

The unprecedented disruption to schools caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting over 63 million teachers worldwide, has shone the spotlight on the challenges of educational systems preparedness to adapt rapidly to changing demands. With sudden switch to distance learning, teachers found themselves in unconventional settings that require more than digitized curricula and adaptive teaching methods and tools. The pandemic has further reinforced the need to ensure continuous teacher professional development, psychological support and socioemotional learning, a reinforcement of teacher's rights and working conditions, as well as ongoing research and assessment of rapidly changing teaching and learning needs through innovative ways to monitor, evaluate and respond.

Objectives

In light of the past discussions and the ongoing disruptions to education systems, and to teaching in particular, the consultation meeting aims to examine the following questions, with a focus on the Arab States:

- What is the future of the teaching profession? In what ways is the global pandemic changing teachers' roles and the nature of the teaching profession?
- Which kind of educational scenarios can be foreseen in the near future? What pedagogical challenges are teachers likely to continue to face in the future in hybrid and uncertain conditions and how can they respond to these?
- How will the experience of the pandemic change the recruitment of new teachers? What can be done to ensure that young talents are attracted to the teaching profession?
- How to educate teachers for changing educational settings? What are the themes, topics or methodologies that teacher education programs should include to respond to these challenges?

Format

The 90-minute consultation session will provide a space for dialogue, between members of the International Commission on the Futures of Education and lead experts from the region and beyond. Participants will include education stakeholders, including teachers and teacher organizations, policymakers, teacher training institutions, national education actors, representatives of regional and international organisations, TTF members, and representatives from the private sector and civil society organisations. It will dedicate time for an exchange of ideas of panelists and engage with online attendees through Q&A. The event will offer simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Arabic.