

8 SEPTEMBER 2022
#UNLOCKLEARNING



Dear Excellencies,

The COVID-19 crisis has dealt a massive blow to the education of children and youth worldwide, reversing decades of hard-won progress and undermining countries' efforts toward SDG4. Before the pandemic, over 260 million children were out of school, and half of all 10-year-olds could not read a basic text. That proportion could now [increase to 70%](#), and an additional [24 million children](#) may drop out of school entirely.

As you know, the year-long mobilization building for the Transforming Education Summit will arrive at the United Nations' headquarters in New York on 19 September. This important [political moment](#) "will seek to renew our collective commitment to education and lifelong learning as a pre-eminent public good".

We invite you - or someone in your delegation to the Summit, preferably a Youth Delegate - to join us at [Unlock the Future of Learning](#) on 19 September from 10:00 to 20:00 EDT at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice. The event is the culmination of a youth-led process to engage in and amplify the political mobilization generated by the Summit. It provides a powerful, intergenerational platform to call to action the urgency to give all people the skills they need to thrive in the future. It is designed to boost the outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit and include participation from young changemakers, education champions, the private sector, and governments.

The decisions inspired by the Summit will shape our lives and our children's lives. We need to act with urgency. When presenting national visions for transforming education during the Summit, we ask you to consider the priorities of youth people when delivering their national vision for transforming education:

As UN Foundation Next Generation Fellows, we hope that you will take **our suggestions outlined in the Annex below** with utmost consideration. We look forward to your commitment and efforts to transform education and make this world sustainable for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Unlock the Future of Learning event to support the UN Secretary-General's work to reimagine the future of global cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thaís Queiroz".

Thaís Queiroz

*UN Foundation, Next Generation
Fellow: Transforming Education*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Mukashyaka".

Alice Mukashyaka

*UN Foundation, Next Generation
Fellow: Transforming Education*

ANNEX

1. HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEAD AND INFLUENCE THE SUMMIT AND THE 2023 SUMMITS

- Bring young people as part of your official delegation to the Transforming Education summit and ensure that they are prepared to actively engage throughout the Summit mobilization.
- Actively provide space throughout the Summit mobilization for diverse speakers and experiences to be shared and considered in the formal process leading up to and during the Summit. This includes working with children and youth organisations, movements, and networks to help facilitate this outreach and representation and ensuring that young teachers, particularly young female teachers, are represented.
- Establish avenues for children and youth to engage in the presentation of all three [Work Streams](#) throughout the Summit days.
- Ensure youth input is valued, recognised in official outcomes documents, and considered in all preparatory and implementation processes.
- Formally respond to submissions and declarations made by young people and children.
- Design a “Roadmap” that outlines the implementation of resolutions and outcomes, and the roles that young people will play during and after the Transforming Education Summit.
- Initiate a process to elect young representatives to support Member States deliver in the national commitments and vision for transforming education presented at the Summit. These youth representatives can also join the children and youth working group to coordinate with many young representatives.
- Develop targeted and official social media national campaigns following the Summit with inputs from young communication experts to ensure national commitments made during the Summit will resonate with diverse youth networks.
- Recognise the importance of grassroots mobilization and hotspots of growing education activism when engaging young people in the delivery of commitments made during the Summit.
- Place young people at the heart of all mobilization efforts linked to the Summit of the Future and SDG Summit in 2023 to ensure that the voices of children and young people are mainstreamed across all policy discussions.

2. PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LIFE AND WORK

- Develop value-based curricula that provide young leaders the skills that can be adapted to the jobs and challenges of tomorrow.
- Encourage education systems that promote holistic learning by breaking down silos between science and humanities, including learning about climate change, gender equality, and civic engagement.
- Train young people with 21st-century skills such as digital literacy, critical and entrepreneurial thinking, financial literacy, communication, people management and other social skills, as well mental health-awareness.
- Provide skills-building, mentoring, and networking opportunities to help young people build the skills needed to secure a stronger livelihood and successful career.

3. RECOGNISE NON-FORMAL EDUCATION (NFE)

- Encourage young leaders to develop soft, transferable skills before entering the workforce, such as religious-based education, economic, and life skills, especially for girls and those living in patriarchal and conservative communities.
- Anchor NFE as an integral part of the right to education in national legislation, policies, strategies, and funding.
- Promote a system of recognition, validation, and accreditation of learning outcomes acquired through NFE and informal learning.
- Set up a [common framework](#) for formal and non-formal structures that allows for equivalencies between formal and non-formal learning outcomes.

4. FORGE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR A STRONG EDUCATION SYSTEM

- Encourage joint planning, investment, and implementation that spans government ministries and multiple sectors to ensure that education systems are resilient and provide continuity of learning when faced with unexpected shocks or emergencies.
- Draw on the knowledge and skills of partners from outside the education system, including local groups to share creative hands-on learning methods, employers to advise on the skills needed for the world of work, and business to increase digital and media literacy.
- Leverage global partnerships to find new and creative ways to build more robust education systems and reach the most vulnerable young people.

5. PROVIDE EDUCATION THAT IS GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE

- Ensure children and young people, particularly girls, have a seat at the table in the design of gender-transformative education programmes and policies to close gender gaps in education.
- Update curricula to better prepare girls and young women for the reality of the world of work and equip them for a successful livelihood.
- Increase support and investment for girls to access digital devices, build digital skills, and transform the harmful gender stereotypes that prevent girls from taking up STEM subjects and careers.

6. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING AND INVESTMENT

- Prioritise education systems in national budgets and harness the Global Partnership for Education to recognise and invest in NFE.
- Target funding to support the most marginalised learners, including families with no economic means, girls, children with disabilities, and displaced and refugee children.
- Put the needs of educators first and offering them better remuneration compatible with the importance of their work.
- Enable young people to shape funding and support structures, especially those from marginalised communities who are often excluded from decision-making opportunities and spaces.
- Invest in high-quality, accessible digital content that is adapted to local contexts and caters to the diverse needs of young people, including those with disabilities, possibly through a global compact with technology companies.



OurFutureAgenda.org/NextGenerationFellows

[@NxtGenFellows](https://twitter.com/NxtGenFellows)