

G7 France-UNESCO International Conference

Innovating for girls' and women's empowerment through education

5 July 2019, from 2:30pm to 5:30pm

Room 1, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Background

Despite considerable progress in closing gender gaps in education, 132 million girls remain out of school. Poverty, gender-based violence, early marriage and pregnancy, conflict and restrictive gender norms are among the barriers creating walls of exclusion for far too many girls. Education systems often reproduce rather than challenge gender inequality. As a result, millions of girls drop out before completing their education, or fail to learn the basics. Women represent two-thirds of the adult illiterate population, a proportion unchanged in the last two decades.

Girls' education is one of the most effective investments for development, yielding not only individual but also broader societal benefits. When girls are educated, their lives and those of their children, families, communities and countries improve. Health, education, social, economic and leadership prospects increase while vulnerability to poverty, disease, mortality and violence decreases. Advancing girls' and women's empowerment through education is critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 4 on inclusive, quality education and lifelong learning.

Transformational thinking and action are needed to ensure no one is left behind and that all girls and women can fulfil their right to education. Innovations, new ways of working, expanded cooperation, and a move away from 'business as usual' are required to accelerate progress down the long road towards gender equality in and through education.

Purpose

This international conference comes in the context of the G7 Education-Development joint ministerial meeting. Organized by the French G7 Presidency, in cooperation with UNESCO, the United Nations specialized agency for education which is entrusted with leading, coordinating and monitoring SDG 4 and the Global Education 2030 Agenda, it aims to:

- Highlight concrete and innovative initiatives and solutions to improve girls' and women's access to quality education and learning opportunities that empower and build knowledge and skills for life and decent work.
- Provide space for new collaboration initiatives to advance girls' and women's empowerment in and through education.
- Galvanize collective action to deliver on the 2030 Agenda commitments to girls' education, women's empowerment and gender equality.

Interlinking education, infrastructure, health and nutrition issues, enhancing skills and access to work through science and digital technologies, and innovating to break stereotypes, will be three major themes addressed during the event.

Expected outcomes

- New, tangible policy commitments/programmes/proposals for action for girls' and women's education announced by States, international and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other partners.
- Evidence-based policy and programmatic recommendations shared to advance girls' and women's empowerment in and through education.

Conference format and programme

Following the G7 Education-Development ministerial meeting in the morning, the Conference will be opened by the French Minister for Education and Youth, the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Director-General of UNESCO. It will include interactive panel sessions focusing on actions and policy measures needed to foster and accelerate innovations for girls' and women's education and empowerment, and gender equality in and through education. The Conference will conclude with an address by the French President, Emmanuel MACRON.

To keep the conference lively and ensure that the timeframe is respected, contributions will be kept short (maximum 5 minutes each).

Participants

Over 1,300 delegates will participate in the Conference, including G7 representatives, education and development ministry officials, ambassadors and members of Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council members, researchers and experts, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector stakeholders, development partners and youth organizations.

Working languages

The working languages of the Conference will be the five languages of the G7 (English, French, German, Italian, and Japanese). Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in every language.

Contact information

For more information, contact:

- UNESCO Education Sector for inclusion and gender equality: gender.ed@unesco.org
 - G7 Secretariat: g7educationdeveloppement.dgm-ddd-huma@diplomatie.gouv.fr
 - French Ministry for National Education and Youth: g7.dreic@education.gouv.fr
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Friday, 5 July 2019

13.00-14.00	Doors Open / Doors Close Registration, security check, seating
14.30-15.15	Master of Ceremony: Mme Miren Bengoa, Executive Director, Fondation Chanel Opening: Why do we need innovation? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO• Mr Jean-Michel Blanquer, Minister of National Education and Youth in France• Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs in France• Ms Aminata, Youth activist from Mali
15.15-15.30	Setting the scene: Evidence-based action <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO
15.30-16.10	Ensuring girls' education by linking education, infrastructure, health and nutrition issues Moderator: Ms Akosua Agyepong, Youth activist of UNFPA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Catherine Cano, Administrator, International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF)• Mr Stanislas Ouaro, Minister of National Education and Literacy of Burkina Faso, President of the G5 Sahel• Ms Emanuela Del Re, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy• Mr François de Borchgrave, Co-founder, Managing Director, KOIS Invest• Ms Harriet Baldwin MP, Minister of State for Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Minister of State for International Development of the United Kingdom• Ms Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Ambassador of the African Union to end child marriage• Ms Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF
16.10-16.30	Enhancing life and work skills through science and technology Moderator: Ms Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, CEO of Plan International <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Mamadou Talla, Minister of National Education of Senegal• Mr Masahiko Shibayama, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan• Mr Mark Green, Administrator, USAID• Mr Bouna Kane, Director for Africa, Simplon.co
16.30-16.40	Special guest <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Founder of the Malala Fund with Ms Frances Uchenna Igwilo, Malala Fund Gulmakai Champion
16.40-17.05	Innovating to break stereotypes and educate young women as agents of change Moderator: Ms Alice Albright, CEO, Global Partnership for Education, Member of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Nadia Nadim, Football Player, Paris-Saint-Germain, UNESCO Champion for Girls' and Women's Education• Ms Maryam Monsef, Minister of Gender Equality and International Development of Canada• Mr Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Cooperation (DEVCO), European Commission• Mr Michael Kaufman, Member of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council
17.05-17.15	Unveiling of the fresco Master of Ceremony: Mme Miren Bengoa, Executive Director, Fondation Chanel
17.15-17.30	Closing Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France