

EASG STATEMENT

Education and lifelong learning play a major part in the transformative agenda for more environmentally sustainable societies, shaping values and perspectives and contributing to the development of knowledge, concepts, technologies and solutions that can be used to this end. Furthermore, the goals under review by HLPF 2018 rely on education and lifelong learning for their realization and are at the same time determinant to the realization of Goal 4; so, cross-sectoral relationships and interrelated policymaking are necessary.

As for many other goals, financing is the biggest challenge for SDG 4. Domestic budgets remain insufficient, and in some cases have even decreased, as well as ODA. At the same time, proposals to close the financing gap through loans have been put forward, pointing to a worrying and unfitting return of the debt motif. Lack of sufficient resource allocation to education goal by governments, has given rise to increasing privatization in some countries, with reports of for-profit actors taking advantage of gaps in public provision, undermining the responsibility of the State as the duty bearer for the 2030 Agenda.

Bottlenecks related to education policy making have been identified, including: insufficient attention to gender equality; the persistence of violence, conflict and situations of emergencies; a narrowing of the broad SDG4 agenda with neglect to youth and adult education, and insufficient attention to the conditions and status of teachers.

If education and lifelong learning, as the human right, should be accessible for all, and if we want them to contribute to the realisation of other SDGs, than they have to be of good quality, equitable, inclusive and free; and supported by the state in term of adequate policies and sufficient financing. Further on, education and lifelong learning must be supported in order to fulfill the potential of linking all three dimensions of development, human rights, sustainable development and global citizenship should be mainstreamed across curricula.

Only if education and lifelong learning are accessible for all, there are chances that no one will be left behind.