

# Education and Academia Stakeholder Group – High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021 Side event



Education: paving the way out of  
the pandemic and shaping the  
new-normal



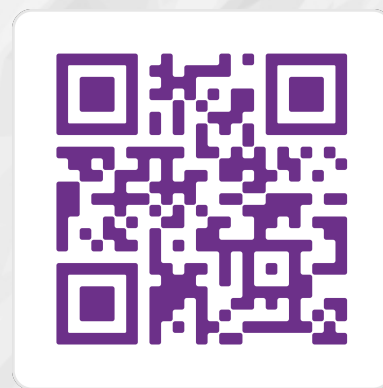
6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

7:30 a.m. (New York time)

**Venue:** United Nations/ Online

**Language:** English with interpretation into Spanish  
and French

**Access and participate in this interactive session:**  
<http://bit.ly/EASGHLPFSideEvent>



*Don't Miss Out!*

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the most severe disruption to global education systems in history, forcing more than 1.6 billion learners in over 190 countries out of school at the peak of the crisis. All sectors and levels of education and learning were negatively affected: formal and non-formal education, schools, universities, community learning centers, adult literacy courses, etc. Not only learners - teachers, parents, and family members were affected too.

There are two obvious ways education helped people cope with the new situation that COVID-19 presents – teaching about health, viruses, prevention measure, and unique behavior.

But the pandemic exposed structural and systemic problems, including those in the education sector, which have further worsened the consequences of the pandemic. The participation of vulnerable groups has dropped dramatically. They couldn't join the virtual world of learning, and alternative forms of education became inaccessible for many learners around the globe.

Although some cuts and a shift in financing were needed to strengthen the health sector, it was used as an excuse in many countries to cut the financing for education, thus worsening the already difficult situation.

These analysis and lesson learned, serve not only the recovery from the pandemic and building resiliencies in the future, but can also support active shaping of 'new normal' which have to include the transformation of many existing paradigms and structures, to prevent disastrous consequences of various crises in the future, and enable education to play an active role in this process.

### Potential contribution to the forum

The event will analyse the role of civic education, media literacy, and critical in awareness-raising about upholding human rights, freedom of speech, and participation of citizens during the pandemic thinking of COVID-19 crises.

Suggestions will be offered to the policymakers for actions and measures to mitigate the negative consequences of the pandemic on vulnerable populations, students, and teachers.

The event provides a platform to discuss the gaps faced by the government sector and share good practices in place.

The event will also discuss how education plays a role in teaching people how to use digital technology better. It enables them to continue learning, schooling, and learning skills that help them find a job or work from home.

### Speakers/ Format

The event will be carried virtually in a multilanguage platform with interpretation into Spanish, English, and French.

The event will gather experts from academia, civil society activists, youth and students, teachers, and government officials to discuss the trends, gaps, and primary features from vulnerable populations and human rights standards. The event will also address the education financing during the COVID-19 crises and provide examples of successful government action.

Instead of usual presentations, participants will exchange opinions in a panel discussion, opening for the audience and interested participants in co-created solutions.

### Welcome and introduction: Refat Sabbah

1. Participation and access to education during COVID-19 crises, esp. for the Dalit community in Nepal: Rup Sunar, National Campaign for Education, Nepal.
2. Financing education during COVID-19 crises (EI): Haldis Holst
3. Education for human and civic rights during COVID-19 and the dignified future: Katarina Popovic
4. The intervention of Ricardo Cuenca, Minister of Education of Peru.

### Moderator and concluding remarks: Sebastian Berger, Global Students Forum