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World Teachers' Day 2023

The teachers we need for the education we want:
The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage

OCTOBER 2023

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World
Teachers'
Day

Opening Ceremony
5 October 2023



Date: 5 October 14:30 - 16:30 CET

Format: in-person conference held in Room IX at UNESCO Headquarters (7, place Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France)

Sign-up form to participate in person: <https://bit.ly/3PyxMuY>

Languages: Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish

Zoom link for remote participation: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EWlrdU3VTz2BNKOxSqJHrA#/registration

Live streaming of the event: TBC

Background

According to the most recent estimates by UNESCO and the Teacher Task Force (2023), the world is short of around 12.9 million additional teachers in primary education and some 31.1 million in secondary education if we are to achieve universal basic education by 2030. In sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia alone, an additional 22.8 million teachers are required, accounting for just under half of the need for new teachers across the world.

The shortage of teachers is not exclusive of the developing world. Even in more affluent countries, the unmet demand for teachers is a reason of concern as the younger generations do not find the teaching profession attractive and many in-service teachers decide to leave the profession to pursue other occupations. Clearly, the teaching profession has lost much of its appeal in many countries. The reasons for this are many, and thus the solutions to curb attrition, enhance teacher motivation and retention are also diverse.

With just over seven years to go before the 2030 deadline of the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2023 edition of World Teachers' Day will be the occasion to problematize teacher shortages and identify the strategies that work to achieve SDG 4 target 4.C of substantially increasing the supply of qualified teachers by 2030.

The celebrations for World Teachers' Day 2023 under the theme “**The teachers we need for the education we want: the global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage**” aim to mobilize teachers and their employers worldwide, alongside governments, decision-makers, parents, and civil society in general, to engage in a comprehensive reflection on the declining appeal of the teaching profession and the concrete measures capable of reversing the teacher shortage.

About the event

The official opening ceremony of World Teachers’ Day 2023 commemorations will take place on October 5th, from 14h30 to 16h30 (CET), at UNESCO’s Headquarters in Paris, France. The ceremony will also be available via live streaming.

It will be attended by UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Education, together with the representatives of the three co-convening organizations - namely, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF, and Education International- and the co-Chairs of the UN Secretary General’s [High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession](#).

The ceremony will have three specific objectives:

- Share key data regarding teacher shortages and the appeal of the teaching profession and the current status of teachers’ qualifications worldwide.
- Advocate for transformations in teacher policy and practice based on the mandate and activities of the co-conveners.
- Present and discuss the preliminary recommendations of the High-level Panel on the Teaching Profession regarding critical strategies to elevate the status of the teaching profession and curb teacher attrition and shortage.

It will be organized around three key moments. Firstly, the presentation of messages from the leaders of the four WTD convening agencies. These will be followed by a presentation of the most recent global data on teacher shortages, qualifications and the appeal of the teaching profession. Finally, a discussion session with guest speakers will address different strategies to elevate the status of the profession and curb teacher attrition and shortages. This will include members of the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession who will be presenting preliminary recommendations as well as international experts from ILO, Education International, OECD and the World Bank. The event will be moderated by UNESCO’s Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems and its Section for Teacher Development and offer the public an opportunity to interact with the panellists and discussants.

Agenda and list of speakers

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| 5 October 2023 14:30 – 16:30 (CET) | | Venue: Room IX, UNESCO Headquarters, 7, place Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France |
| 5 min | Welcome and opening remarks by Mr Borhene Chakroun , Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO | |
| 20 min | Messages of WTD co-convening agencies Moderated by Mr Borhene Chakroun | |

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| <p>20 min</p> | <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director General for Education, UNESCO • Ms Manuela Tomei, ILO's ADG for Governance, Rights and Dialogue • Mr Robert Jenkins, Director, Education and Adolescent Development, Programme at UNICEF • Mr David Edwards, Secretary-General of Education International |
| <p>20 min</p> | <p>Presentation of key data on the quantitative and qualitative shortage of teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Carlos Vargas, Chief of UNESCO's Section for Teacher Development • Ms Silvia Montoya, Director UNESCO Institute for Statistics |
| <p>50 min</p> | <p>Discussion panel: reversing the teacher shortage</p> <p>Moderated by Mr Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO</p> <p>Presentation of the Recommendations of UN Secretary General's High-level Panel on the Teaching Profession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ligia Deca, Minister of Education, Romania, Member of the High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Stefania Giannini, ADG for Education, UNESCO • Ms Manuela Tomei, ADG for Governance, Rights and Dialogue, ILO • Mr David Edwards, Secretary-General of Education International • Mr Andreas Schleicher, Directorate of Education and Skills, OECD • Mr Luis Benveniste, Global Director of Education, the World Bank (on-line) • Ms Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships (video) |
| <p>20 min</p> | <p>Questions and answers with the audience</p> <p>Moderated by Mr Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO</p> |
| <p>5 min</p> | <p>Closing remarks by Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director General for Education, UNESCO</p> |