



UNESCO Chairs Seminar Series

Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future

Advancing the Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER)

Date and time: Thursday 30 November 2023, 14:00 - 15:30 (Paris time)

Languages: English and French

Format: Zoom – [Please click here to register](#)

Seminar description

In the pursuit of sustainable development, the African continent stands at the cusp of an extraordinary transformation, driven in part by the rapid adoption of emerging technologies. In this context, Open Educational Resources (OER) play a pivotal role in democratizing education and supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. To capitalize on this opportunity, it is crucial to advance the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#), particularly within the framework of Operational Strategy for [Flagship Programme 4 \(FP4\)](#): "*Harnessing new and emerging technologies for sustainable development in Africa.*" This UNESCO Chairs Seminar aims to gather insights and recommendations on how OER can be leveraged for sustainable development in Africa.

During the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2019, UNESCO Member States adopted the UNESCO Recommendation on OER, the only existing normative instrument in the area of technologies and education, calling on the Member States to undertake actions in five areas: (i) building capacity of stakeholders to create, access, re-use, adapt and redistribute OER; (ii) developing supportive policy; (iii) encouraging inclusive and equitable quality OER; (iv) nurturing the creation of sustainability models for OER, and (v) facilitating international cooperation. The UNESCO OER Recommendation supports capacity building for teachers in digital skills, creation, and use of OER, policy development on OER, sustainability and accessibility strategies as well as international collaboration on the use of OER based teacher-training materials worldwide.

Following the adoption of the Recommendation, the OER Dynamic Coalition was formed to support the implementation of the UNESCO 2019 Recommendation on OER. The [UNESCO OER Dynamic Coalition](#), an official Internet Governance Dynamic Coalition, is composed of experts from Member States, with a focus on UNESCO National Commissions, Intergovernmental Organizations, UNESCO Category 2 Centres, specialized institutions, civil society and the private sector. The Coalition aims to expand and consolidate commitments to actions in the area of OER, and to promote and reinforce international cooperation among all relevant stakeholders. Stakeholders are invited to [join the OER Dynamic Coalition through this link](#).

The aim of this Seminar is to provide insights into how OER can support Africa in harnessing new and emerging technologies for sustainable development, and to mobilize UNESCO Chairs, UNITWIN Networks, among other experts and stakeholders, in prioritizing the advancement of OER in Africa. The Seminar will discuss how UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks can play in advancing the implementation of the Recommendation, and how they can support government stakeholders and civil society to do so. The Seminar aims to strengthen collaborations between UNESCO Chairs, researchers and other experts to support UNESCO's Global Priority Africa. It will provide space for knowledge and experience sharing, round-table discussion, and active participation.

Guiding questions:

1. How can UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks play a pivotal role in advancing the implementation of the OER Recommendation and its pivotal role in harnessing new and emerging technologies for sustainable development in the Africa Region?
2. How can UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks support stakeholders in government, institutions and civil society to further the UNESCO Recommendation on OER in the Africa region, particularly in the context of Flagship Programme 4 (FP4): "Harnessing new and emerging technologies for sustainable development in Africa"?
3. How can collaboration between UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks be strengthened to support Priority Africa and the advancement of OER for sustainable development?

The Seminar aims to enhance awareness and recognition of the potential of the Recommendation on OER to support Africa for harnessing new and emerging technologies for sustainable development in Africa, identification of key strategies to advance the Recommendation in the African context and strengthened commitment and collaboration among UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks towards Priority Africa.

This Seminar is aimed at educators, researchers, policy makers, and advocates interested in harnessing emerging technologies for OER in order to achieve sustainable development in Africa including UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks, educators, researchers, and practitioners in open distance education, and stakeholders invested in sustainable development in Africa. The session will be conducted as an online roundtable, allowing for dynamic discussions and participation from speakers and attendees.

**** [Register here](#) ****

Provisional Agenda

Advancing the Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER) Thursday 30 November 2023, 14:00 - 15:30 (Paris time)	
14:00-14:10	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Marielza Oliveira, Director, Division for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation and Secretariat of the Information for All Programme, UNESCO <p>Moderator: Mr Jaco Du Toit, Chief of Section, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO</p>
14:10-15:00	<p>Overview of the UNESCO Recommendation on OER: link with frontier technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Zeynep Varoglu, Senior Programme Specialist, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO <p>The importance of OER for SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Glenda Cox, UNESCO Chair in Open Education and Social Justice, University of Cape Town, South Africa <p>Sharing Insights on Implementing OER in Open Distance Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Moeketsi Letseka, UNESCO Chair on ODL, University of South Africa, Professor of philosophy of education and Editor-in-Chief of Africa Education Review, South Africa <p>Best practices on OER: the Global Digital Library and Translate a Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Michela Pagano, Associate Project Officer, Unit for Technology and AI in Education, Future of Learning and Innovation Division, UNESCO <p>Advancing OER policy across Brazil with essential tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Tel Amiel, UNESCO Chair in Distance Education, University of Brasilia <p>Empowering Indigenous Education: Bottlenecks, Achievements and Insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Lazarus D.K Dokora, Lecturer, Department of Languages & Communication Skills, Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe • Dr Amunga Hellen, Lecturer, University of Nairobi & ICIE African Chapter Vice-Representative, Kenya <p>Moderator: Ms Zeynep Varoglu, Senior Programme Specialist, CI Sector, UNESCO</p>
15:00-15:20	<p>Comments and reflections</p> <p>All participants</p>
15:20-15:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Jaco Du Toit, Chief of Section, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO • Dr Keith Holmes, Research Coordinator, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, UNESCO