



# BUILDING LIFELONG LEARNING SYSTEMS

Green Inclusive Digital



## THE ROAD AHEAD: ACCELERATING SYSTEM CHANGE

UNESCO SESSION ON THE  
GLOBAL TVET AGENDA

#SKILLS4CHANGE

# BACKGROUND

## A global context of change

The global agenda for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is challenging. Rising enrolment in basic, general education calls for complementary expansion and improvement of TVET at secondary and post-secondary levels. This is necessary to facilitate the labour market insertion of young people who are too often confined to inactivity, unemployment, or vulnerable employment. The pressure is strongest in countries with rapidly increasing youth populations and economies that struggle to create good jobs – low-skilled jobs in activity sectors such as agriculture, construction or retail trade still employ most of the labour force in low- and lower-middle income countries.

At the same time, labour market demand for skills is shifting rapidly owing to digitization, automation, and changes in the organization of work. And the transition towards a greener economy requires an urgent and radical transformation of production processes, to contain climate change and halt environmental degradation. In the shorter term, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is adding a layer of uncertainty for policy makers and other TVET stakeholders, with its sanitary, social and economic consequences. Responding to those multiple challenges requires accelerating TVET system change.

UNESCO has been contributing to that response through its Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) 2016-2021. The Strategy aims to support the efforts of Member States to enhance the relevance of their TVET systems and to equip all youth and adults with the skills required for employment, decent work, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning. It has three pillars of priority areas: fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship, promoting equity and gender equality, and facilitating the transition to green economies and sustainable societies. The Strategy thus contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially goals 4 on education and 8 on the world of work.



# OBJECTIVES

This session aims to engage participants to the International Conference on Building Lifelong Learning Systems in a discussion of the global TVET agenda, with special reference to the UNESCO TVET Strategy. Panellists will represent the views of a diversity of stakeholders on key trends affecting TVET systems on the long term, and how those systems can adapt and foster change. This will lead to a reflection on strategic priorities for UNESCO and how the organization can position itself vis-a-vis other development partners intervening in skills development, in European Training Foundation partner countries and beyond. Outcomes of this session will enrich the final evaluation of the 2016-2021 Strategy and the next Strategy document.

Topics for discussion could relate to:

- ▶ Access to TVET for adults, as the current crisis is making upskilling and reskilling of laid-off workers a central policy concern, and for populations that still fall under the radar, such as persons living with disabilities or the elderly;
- ▶ The digitization of TVET delivery and certification, in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, and of technological developments such as blockchain technology;
- ▶ Ensuring the labour-market relevance of TVET and facilitating the school-to-work transition and other life-cycle transition, also in the light of the pandemic;
- ▶ The meaning of the current crisis and of the transition to a greener economy for the demand for skills over the next several years, and how TVET system can adapt.

# AGENDA

After a brief introduction and a presentation of the key findings of the final evaluation of the Strategy for TVET 2016-2021, UNESCO will invite representatives of TVET stakeholders to share the experience of the country and/or organization, their views about the changing global TVET agenda, and their suggestions for UNESCO's future work in this area. This will be followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

## 9:50 Introduction

Hervé Huot-Marchand  
Chief, Section for Youth, Literacy and Skills Development,  
UNESCO

## 9:55 Presentation of the final evaluation

Simon Broek  
Senior consultant/ Director, Ockham/Institute for Policy  
Support

## 10:10 Panel discussion




Mr Chirag Goel, WorldSkills Champion, India  
Ms Unami Mpofu, Senior Programme Officer, Skills and  
Employment, African Union Development Agency  
Mr Manish Sabharwal, Chair, FICCI Skill Development  
Committee and Chairman, TeamLease Services  
Federation, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce  
and Industry  
Vietnam General Confederation of Labour Representative  
(TBC)

## 10:30 Q & A and Wrap-up



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