



18 May 2015 – From May 19 to 22, the [World Education Forum](#) will be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Here, [UNESCO](#) and a variety of other UN partners will lead the way in building a powerful new education agenda that will transform lives.

The Forum will provide a unique platform to take stock of achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of the [EFA goals and education-related MDGs](#) , and to agree on a joint position for the education goal and targets in the [post-2015 development agenda](#)

Education as force for peace, inclusion and innovation

“This Forum stands as a symbol of the international community’s resolve to place education firmly at the heart of the future sustainable development agenda, because it is a fundamental

human right and the most powerful force for peace, inclusion and innovation,” says Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General.

“We have a tremendous responsibility towards young generations to close intolerable gaps in access to school, make education a path to empowerment, and create opportunities for everyone to learn throughout life because this is the only way to be on the right side of change.”

Helen Clark, [UNDP](#) Administrator, asserts: “Education is about empowering people to determine their own destiny. That is why the opportunity to be educated is critical to human development, which is about enlarging people’s choices and freedoms.”

To address current challenges, the Forum will focus on five key themes.

Five key themes

Firstly, as an [empowerment right](#) , education is the primary vehicle by which marginalized children, young people and adults can lift themselves out of poverty and participate fully in communities and society.

[Equitable access and learning](#) , particularly for girls and women, constitutes the second theme.

Thirdly, an [inclusive education](#) must be ensured, which means reaching out to all learners, respecting their diverse needs, abilities and characteristics and eliminating all forms of discrimination in the learning environment.

A focus is also placed on the [quality of education](#) : provided by trained and supported teachers, this is the right of all children, youth and adults, not the privilege of the few.

Finally, every person, at every stage of their life should have [lifelong learning opportunities](#) to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to fulfil their aspirations and contribute to their societies.

Education in the post-2015 process

“With partnership, political will and wise investments in education first, we can transform individual lives, national economies and our world for the better,” UN-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasizes.

Recognizing this, the post-2015 education agenda, which is integral part of the sustainable development agenda, was developed through a broad and inclusive consultative process.

The crucial role of education in this agenda is emphasized by its [inclusion as Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 4](#), which states “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

Follow and participate

Find out more on the Forum on its [dedicated website](#) . Also watch the video below!

Do join the discussion through the hashtags [#WorldEducationForum](#) or [#Action2015](#) .

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