

**SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee**

**Follow up to the Global Education Meeting:  
Taking Stock, Capitalizing on Outcomes**

*Monday, 11 March 2019*



# GEM 2018 & Brussels Declaration

**Perspectives from host country and Region**

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# National perspectives on GEM 2018 outcomes

## (1) Governmental level

- Hosting of GEM = common endeavour of 4 Governments - 3 (linguistic) Communities (education) + Federal (foreign affairs/development cooperation) => clearly beyond “silo” of education only
- Preparation and evaluation via the national multi-level governmental oversight structures of the implementation of the 2030 ASD as a whole
- Brussels Declaration and overall focus of GEM 2018 (inclusiveness/equity) are main input to Belgium’s position for the HLPF and contribution to the awareness that education and SDG 4 play a pivotal role in achieving the other SDGs.

# National perspectives on GEM 2018 outcomes

## **(2) Education community**

- Regular reporting by governments via advisory councils of stakeholders and information sessions on preparation of SDG (4) agenda and preparation of the GEM 2018

⇒ *Key messages:*

*SDG (4) process is not only relevant for international (development) cooperation but for national policy-making at the first place and provides a complementary UN(ESCO) approach to that of other international organisations*

- Attendance of key stakeholders at the GEM Forum 3 December
- Debriefing sessions with stakeholders and other awareness-raising activities.

# European reactions on GEM 2018 outcomes

## **(1) Reactions of GEM participants**

Wide participation of European countries + flexibility in access applied to international staff based in Brussels (EC, permanent Reps to the EU).

EC and COE closely involved in preparation of regional consultation and visible role during GEM.

### Content of reactions received

- Relevance of the themes addressed/outcomes for Europe – welcoming of large parallel with outcome document of (also well-attended) regional consultation hosted by COE, notably on democratic citizenship, human rights, rule of law as framework conditions for sustainable development
- Distinctive approach – “different dynamics” compared to Ministers’ meetings of EU or other organisations
- Mobilising role played by UNESCO involving other UN agencies, OECD, regional organisations, global NGOs ...
- Quality of the conference documents and publications

# European reactions on GEM 2018 outcomes

## **(2) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Working Party**

- WP of the EU General Affairs Council
- Prepares common positions of EU MSs on 2030 ASD, including “line to take” at HLPF
- Request of previous Austrian and current Romanian EU Presidency as well as European Commission to Belgium to inform WP about outcomes of GEM 2018 as input for “line to take” at HLPF/Council conclusions on EC reflection paper “Towards a 2030 sustainable Europe” of 30.01.2019
- Presentation on 11.02.2019 on the basis of info document prepared with guidance from UNESCO focussing on process (Education 2030 as integral part of UN agenda, role of UNESCO and GEM, mandate of SDG E2030 SC to provide input to HLPF...) + “safe preview” on SC’s input on the basis of GEM outcomes + consistency between GEM 2018 outcomes and EU and COE education policies.

# Conclusion and remaining challenges

- GEM 2018 certainly succeeded in putting education (and “social” pillar of SDGs) in the spotlight with the “mainstream” sustainable development constituencies in Belgium that approach the 2030 ASD predominantly from a climate action or development cooperation perspective.
  - At EU level the information on GEM 2018 was an extra encouragement for EU MSs to take the necessary shift in their HLPF preparations from “external action” only to acknowledged relevance of the 2030 ASD for *national* policies on sustainability.
- => How to keep momentum, also after HLPF and UNGA 2019?**