

About the Education Commission

The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity is a major global initiative engaging world leaders, policymakers, and researchers to develop a renewed and compelling investment case and financing pathway for achieving equal educational opportunity for children and young people.

The Commission brings together the best research and policy analysis on the actions necessary to increase investment in concrete, relevant learning outcomes that have a positive impact on economic and social development. While Commission has considered the entire education system starting in the early years, it has paid particular attention to the provision of basic education

and its role in improving life chances and generating equal opportunities for young people to access further education, enter the workforce, and engage in society. The Commission aims to secure increased, more effective investments and contribute to the mobilization of new partnerships to achieve these aims, particularly in middle-income and low-income countries.

The Commission has three clear objectives:

- 1** Bring together the best evidence from around the globe on what works to expand & improve learning.
- 2** Agree on an investment case and agenda for action.
- 3** Inspire and persuade leaders – at all levels and sectors – to action.

Why Now?

Without significantly greater efforts to deliver quality education, the world faces the risk of not meeting the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals and failing to close the gap between developed and developing nations for generations to come. Without urgent action, the prospects for more than 263 million children and youth denied access to schools and more than 250 million not learning the necessary skills are severely diminished. Their education underpins improved outcomes in health, economic growth, job creation and employment, innovation, climate, and security.

Sufficient action has not been taken by governments and world leaders to increase the effectiveness and scale of investments in education. Education's share in government budgets has been declining in a number of countries despite growing needs. With international assistance to education declining by nearly 10 percent in recent years, the financing gap for basic education is unlikely to be closed without urgent action. Moreover, financing of education is inefficiently allocated across and within countries, not reaching most marginalized children and young people, achieving limited results on both the access and learning fronts.

Research Agenda

The Commission established a set of research hubs and network of expert advisors focusing on various pieces of investigation. It also established small panels of experts to provide insights into three specific issues: technology, health, and finance. Proposals stemming from this research have made a strong

case for investment; demonstrated the scale of the challenge; highlighted the reforms needed for transformation and more effective education delivery; estimated the financing needs to achieve the goals; and identified sources of finance and effective architecture.

Implementation

The Commission was announced at the Oslo Summit on Education for Development in July 2015, with a mandate to report its conclusions in September 2016 to its Co-Conveners and the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon. After its launch, the Commission focus will shift to building and maintaining momentum for implementation of the Commission's Learning Generation vision. To that end, over the next year following the launch, the Commission will work to:

- Disseminate the Commission report and agenda for action
- Inspire and motivate reforms in financing and delivery of education
- Structure partnerships to champion and carry forward the recommendations

Leadership

The Commission was co-convened by Prime Minister **Erna Solberg** of Norway, President **Michelle Bachelet** of Chile, President **Joko Widodo** of Indonesia, President **Peter Mutharika** of Malawi, and the Director-General of UNESCO **Irina Bokova**. The UN Special Envoy for Global Education, **Gordon Brown**, serves as the Chair of the Commission. The Commission is comprised of the following individuals:

- **Anant Agarwal**, CEO, edX; Professor, MIT
- **José Manuel Barroso**, Former President, European Commission
- **Felipe Calderón**, Former President, Mexico
- **Kristin Clemet**, Managing Director, Civita; Former Minister of Education and Research and Former Minister of Labour and Government Administration, Norway
- **Aliko Dangote**, CEO, Dangote Group
- **Julia Gillard**, Chair, Global Partnership for Education; Former Prime Minister of Australia
- **Baela Raza Jamil**, Adviser/Trustee, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA)
- **Amel Karboul**, Secretary-General of MEF (Maghreb Economic Forum); Founder and Chair of Change, Leadership & Partners (CPL); Former Minister of Tourism, Tunisia
- **Jakaya Kikwete**, Former President, Tanzania
- **Jim Kim**, President, World Bank Group
- **Yuriko Koike**, Governor of Tokyo; Former Member of the House of Representatives and Minister of Defense, Japan
- **Anthony Lake**, Executive Director, UNICEF
- **Ju-ho Lee**, Professor, KDI School of Public Policy and Management; Former Korean Minister of Education
- **Jack Ma**, Founder and Executive Chairman, Alibaba Group
- **Graça Machel**, Founder, Graça Machel Trust
- **Strive Masiyiwa**, Executive Chairman and Founder, Econet
- **Teopista Birungi Mayanja**, Founder, Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU); Deputy Director Education Services, Kampala Capital City Authority
- **Shakira Mebarak**, International Artist; Founder, Fundación Pies Descalzos
- **Patricio Meller**, Professor, University of Chile and President, Fundación Chile
- **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Chair, GAVI; Former Minister of Finance, Nigeria
- **Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi**, Cabinet Member, Minister of State for Tolerance, United Arab Emirates
- **Kailash Satyarthi**, Founder, Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- **Amartya Sen**, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy, Harvard University
- **Theo Sowa**, CEO, African Women's Development Fund
- **Lawrence Summers**, Charles W. Eliot University Professor and President Emeritus, Harvard University; 71st Secretary of the Treasury for President Clinton and the Director of the National Economic Council for President Obama
- **Helle Thorning-Schmidt**, Chief Executive, Save the Children; Former Prime Minister, Denmark

