

National Statement of Commitment of Turkmenistan to Transform Education

We, the Government of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Education, government authorities in charge of education and lifelong learning, parliamentarians, public organizations, youth, and private sector representatives jointly working to achieve SDG 4 and participating in the National Consultations in Turkmenistan in preparation for the Transforming Education Summit 2022,

Fully committed to the implementation of SDG 4 "Quality Education" and building quality, inclusive and equitable education, accessible to all, taking into account the recommendations and needs of all parties involved in the process of national consultations on transforming education in Turkmenistan,

Guided by the principles of equity, safety, leadership, and empowerment and do no harm,

Guaranteeing the right of everyone to equal access to education, leaving no one behind, in achieving the goal of quality education for all, including children and youth with disabilities, and including in emergencies and fragile situations,

Striving to improve the overall stability and continuity of the education system through conducting programmatic activities aimed at developing institutional capacity to ensure the safety of educational institutions, the resilience of the education system to emergencies and the spread of infectious diseases, and the continuity of education at all levels in all environments,

Recognizing the need to develop skills for life, work, and sustainable development, improve educational standards and curricula at all levels of education, digitize them, and introduce interactive and innovative teaching methods in educational institutions to overcome the reproductive method of teaching, which will ensure students' learning activity and independent thinking skills, and move to a constructive, competency-based model of education,

Conscious of the vitality of public funding of the education system, continue to allocate the necessary financial resources, continue to provide free universal secondary education at state educational institutions, and increase funding for educational opportunities for preschool age children,

Acknowledging the power of attracting external funding to expand educational opportunities of the citizens, expand the network of educational institutions based on self-financing and spread the practice of privatization to all levels of the education system,

Commit to the following:

1. Safeguard quality, uninterrupted and lifelong learning opportunities for all under all conditions, by expanding access to education at all levels, including pre-primary education, increasing the resilience of the education system to emergencies

and fragile situations, establishing institutional response mechanisms, strengthening the capacity of the education sector in disaster-risk reduction and climate-change adaptation, investing in distance learning and accessible technologies, raising awareness of teachers and learners.

2. Transforming education by creation of safe, healthy and empowering learning environment for all teachers and learners, including persons with disabilities, focusing on early childhood development, adopting a national concept of inclusive education, implementing a learner-centred, competency-based education approach in curricula and teaching practice, prioritizing gender equality in education, attracting the most qualified specialists to professions with a pedagogical direction, connecting educational institutions to the Internet, enhancing learning experiences through digital technologies, strengthening the relationship between science and education and improved teaching of foreign languages, increasing participation of learners, teachers, parents, and community in the processes of adopting legal acts relating to education.

3. Monitor the achievement of national education targets and benchmarks by developing a national education management information system for collecting disaggregated data and monitoring progress in the achievement of SDG 4, as well as organizing the preparation, dissemination and use of quality analytical information to support evidence-based policy-making and planning in education and lifelong learning.

4. Ensure sustainable financing of education, by continuing public financing for universal free secondary education at state educational institutions, investing in construction of new education facilities, introducing public-private partnerships, expanding opportunities for private sector to provide education services, increasing student loans, scholarships, increasing access to international education project grants.

5. Strengthen international cooperation in the achievement of SDG 4 by working together with UNESCO, UNICEF, and other specialized agencies of the United Nations and international organizations, strengthening bilateral cooperation with countries of the world, participating in international education development projects.

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

8 August, 2022