

Broadband Commission Open Statement

Transforming Education Summit

19 September 2022



UNITED NATIONS
TRANSFORMING
EDUCATION
SUMMIT 2022

Universal, Inclusive and Affordable Connectivity for the Digital Transformation of Education

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Recognizing that education is foundational for sustainable development, the United Nations Secretary-General is convening world leaders for a Transforming Education Summit (TES) to mobilize political ambition, action, solutions and solidarity to transform education, and to revitalize national and global efforts to achieve SDG-4.

The [Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development](#) is aligned with the objectives of TES and recognizes the critical roles of digital connectivity, capacity and content in transforming education and lifelong learning systems. Since 2010, the Commission has developed a multitude of collaborative and impactful policy recommendations for connecting schools to the Internet and digitalizing education to enable a more inclusive and sustainable approach to learning. The Commission's [4th Advocacy Target: Promote Digital Skills Development](#), states that 60% of youth and adults should have achieved at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills by 2025, which are fundamental to ensuring meaningful participation and quality experiences in increasingly digitalized education systems.

The Commission has also been an incubator for many high-impact digital education initiatives, such as [Giga](#), [Equals](#) and the [Child Safety Online Declaration](#). These initiatives provide practical and scalable pathways to empowering teachers and learners by connecting schools safely, sustainably, and equitably. Resources developed by the Commission's Working Groups over the past decade, including reports on [Digital Learning](#), [School Connectivity](#), [Child Online Safety, Education](#) and [Data for Learning](#), provide impactful and actionable recommendations (see [ANNEX](#)) for adapting to new opportunities and challenges in education and countering growing digital inequities.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on learning, with 90% of school children affected and two trillion hours of education lost. In response, the **Broadband Commission is calling for public and private cooperation across all sectors and geographies to unlock the power of digital learning by supporting digital transformation that delivers affordable and inclusive connectivity for the most marginalized learners, teachers and families.** The Commission also recognizes that to improve education, its efforts to expand connectivity and strengthen digital skills and capacities must be complemented by support for universally accessible, high-quality and inclusive online learning platforms and content.

Recognizing that education is at a global state of crisis, the Commission is committed, as a high-level multistakeholder advocacy platform, to continue advancing its Universal, Inclusive and Affordable Connectivity goal by:

- 1. Contributing thought leadership, advocacy efforts, knowledge and learning resources related to SDG-4, including digital learning;**
- 2. Leveraging its collective expertise and collaborative solutions to generate policy, regulation and technology recommendations for harnessing the power of digital connectivity to leave no-one behind;**
- 3. Fostering public-private partnerships to connect schools, households and individuals, thereby opening empowering pathways to lifelong learning.**

Following the Transforming Education Summit, and as we look forward to the Summit of the Future, the Broadband Commission pledges these efforts to harness the potential of digital, for the world of today and tomorrow.

Relevant Working Group Reports:

- [Data for Learning](#)
- [Digital Learning](#)
- [School Connectivity](#)
- [Child Online Safety](#)
- [Education](#)

Related Initiatives – Born from the Commission’s Working Groups:

- [Giga](#)
- [Equals](#)
- [Child Safety Online Declaration.](#)

[Annex – Compilation of the SDG4 related recommendations by the Broadband Commission](#)