

Statement by the President of the Republic of Latvia

H.E. Mr Egils Levits

Transforming Education Summit - Leaders' Roundtable III

September 19, 2022, UN HQ

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a time of rapid technological change and Artificial Intelligence, the value of the human being must prevail. That is the guiding principle of Latvia's transforming education agenda.

Latvia will step up the implementation of the new competency-based general education curriculum. It places emphasis on transversal skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, cooperation and media literacy.

My country acknowledges the increasing need for quality digital education resources that are accessible to every learner.

In Latvia online learning has become an effective, high-quality, and inclusive part of face-to-face learning.

We stand ready to share our best practice and lessons learned in digital transformation.

Transforming education is also about transforming the whole lifelong learning cycle.

Latvia will continue building a flexible Vocational Education and Training and adult learning system that promotes strong partnership with industry. That will reduce skills imbalances in our labour market. We will address early school leaving by identifying the students at risk of dropping out and providing personalized support for every learner.

Excellencies,

The future we all want is not possible without a lasting peace.

Russia's aggression in Ukraine deeply undermines our progress towards the Agenda 2030 for which education is crucial.

I therefore urge the Secretary General in his Vision statement to send a strong message condemning the crimes against humanity committed by Russian Federation in Ukraine and calling for the protection of education in all the countries affected by conflict and other emergencies.

Thank you!