



National Statement of Commitment of the Republic of Tajikistan to transform the national education system until 2030



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to be announced at the Global Transforming Education Summit (TES) in September 2022 in New York, USA as part of the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly

September 2022 | Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Acknowledging the instrumental role that education plays in harnessing lifelong benefits for any country's youth by realizing their aspirations to become active members of the society,

Emphasizing the importance of adequately educated population that effectively contributes to national economic and human development, while also fostering peace and state-building,

Firmly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the five key reform areas building on the vision, principles and proposals contained in the Report of the Secretary-General 'Our Common Agenda' and the principle of 'Leave No One Behind',

Addressing the identified priorities of the National Education Sector Development Strategy 2030 and responding to the observations and outcomes of national inclusive, multi-stakeholder consultations at regional and national levels for the identification of reform priorities and the transformation of education until 2030, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan reiterates its commitment to:

In the area of inclusive, equitable, safe and healthy schools:

- Design, endorse and implement a comprehensive roadmap (concept) to address the gaps in inclusive education; establish and maintain robust school-based support mechanisms for all students, including those with special needs; invest in quality standards for school infrastructure, focusing on disability access, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and disaster risk reduction; increase school readiness along with foundational skills by expanding access to early childhood education to ensure all children, including the most marginalized realize their full potential; and ensure better targeting of resources through new data and evidence on challenges and potential opportunities at school, community, subnational levels; introduce affordable tuition for Persons with Disabilities at Adult Education Centers; increase pre-school institutions in rural areas; increase day care centers for children and youth with disabilities in all regions of Tajikistan; train specialists to work with children with disabilities in schools, develop teaching and learning resources and provide visual aids and textbooks for children with disabilities

In the area of learning and skills for life, work and sustainable development:

- Focus on foundational skills while investing in skills development opportunities, such as by encouraging greater extracurricular and vocational activities for schoolchildren (e.g.

setting up thematic clubs and work units) and expanding access/coverage/capabilities of additional education institutions; gradually transit to 12-year schooling by gradually introducing compulsory pre-primary preparatory year for children aged 6; implement student-centered competency-based education reform;

- Accelerate implementation of the Partnership Compact 2022-2025 developed with Global Partnership for Education and Development Partners; and support school-to-work transition, including career guidance at early stages and greater engagement of local employers (e.g. through internships and apprenticeships) to build market-aligned skills and competencies.

In the area of teachers, teaching and the teaching profession:

- Strengthen continuous professional development and capacity building of teachers at all levels, focusing primarily on improving alignment between pre-service and in-service teacher professional development in line with competency-based education reform; ensure continuous professional development and school-based support to teachers using technology and blended learning tools; facilitate the creation of an in-built support system for teaching workforce (e.g. peer-to-peer mentorship program and mandatory pre-service training program); introduce full-time specialists in working with children with special educational needs (sign language teacher, speech therapist, psychologist and social worker) in general educational institutions; and improve working conditions of teachers across the board.

In the area of digital learning and transformation:

- Endorse and implement the long-term National Digital Roadmap, which addresses the main bottlenecks for digital transformation and focuses on enabling factors and financing of e-governance reform in the education sector; strengthen the Republican ICT Center under the Ministry of Education and Science and create an enabling environment for digital learning platforms for students, including for children and young people with disabilities and blended learning as part of teacher professional development; equip the national school network with modern and affordable digital equipment, software, and internet connectivity; and introduce benefits (preferential conditions for connecting to the Internet) for children and young people with disabilities to receive distance education, learn modern skills (including knowledge and skills in IT and STEM), study languages and remote employment opportunities.

In the area of financing of education:

- Improve efficiency in planning public resources in education (e.g. strengthening per-capita financing mechanism and addressing other challenges in public finance management); safeguard against the risk of future economic disturbances/shocks, e.g. through scenario building and sensitivity analysis; facilitate additional on-budget and off-budget resources to finance critical reform agenda in the education sector; strengthen capacity in financial planning at school and subnational levels; improve the rate of a social worker in educational institutions; and introduce incentives that will attract private investors into education, such as through public-private partnerships.