

South East Asia Sub-Regional Orientation Meeting on Establishing National Benchmark Values for the SDG 4 Indicators

10 September 2021

Concept Note

1. Context

In order to establish regional benchmarks and to support Member States in establishing their own national benchmark values for the SDG 4 indicators, UIS together with UNESCO organized series of sub-regional consultations during March and April 2021. A sub-regional consultation for South East Asia was organized on 24 March 2021. The consultation was attended by key officials from the Ministry of Education, the National Statistical Office and other key stakeholders. Following the sub-regional consultations in Asia-Pacific, the Member States were consulted by means of online surveys to agree on the regional minimum benchmarks and the national consultation processes.

The progress was presented at the ministerial segment of the Global Education Meeting on 13 July 2021. The meeting approved the **regional** minimum benchmark levels for seven SDG 4 indicators for 2025 and 2030, helping align for the first time global and regional education monitoring frameworks. In addition, a call was made at the meeting to move to the second and final step of this process, which are the voluntary **national** benchmarks to be endorsed at the 41st UNESCO General Conference in November 2021.

A request letter from the UNESCO Assistant Director General to the Member States was sent out on 3 August 2021 to invite Member States to provide their national benchmark values for 2025 and 2030. Being an official commitment to the Education 2030 Framework of Action 2015 by all Member States, the invitation letter further stated that the national benchmarks should be aligned with a country's national policies and strategies and the targets they contain.

To continue the collaboration and provide support to Member States in setting the national benchmark values, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) together with the UIS and UNESCO Bangkok are going to organize a regional orientation meeting for Member States on 10 September 2021 to assist in establishing national benchmarks for the SDG 4 indicators in South East Asia. The meeting invites key policy makers, planners, education specialists and statisticians as well as SDG 4 monitoring officers.

2. Purpose and Objective

The key purpose of the meeting is to update Member States on the progress of the global and regional processes in establishing the regional and national benchmarks for the seven SDG 4 indicators. Furthermore, the meeting is meant to orientate Member States on the process of establishing national benchmark values. The specific objectives of the meeting are:

- To familiarize participants with the benchmark indicators and their methodologies and data sources;
- To present and discuss the process of establishing national benchmark values for SDG 4 indicators; and
- To draw an action plan to support countries in establishing their national benchmark values.

3. Key outcomes

The key outcomes of the meeting are expected to be:

- A clear understanding among the participants for the SDG 4 benchmark indicators, including their methodologies and data sources;
- An understanding among the participants for the process of establishing national benchmark values as well as for completing the provided benchmark templates;
- A draft action plan on country support strategies in order to establish the national benchmarks.

4. Time and location

- 10 September 2021, 10:00 Bangkok time
- Virtual conference call (access to be provided)

5. Tentative Agenda

Agenda	Time	
Opening and welcome	5 minutes	Director, SEAMEO
Objectives and process of the meeting	5 minutes	UNESCO Bangkok
SDG 4 benchmarks indicators, methodologies, and data sources	25 minutes	UIS
National benchmark processes, national benchmark templates and guidelines in completing the template	20 minutes	UIS
Q&A session	10 minutes	Moderated by UNESCO Bangkok
Discussion on establishing national benchmark values and draft sub regional Action Plan to submit the inputs to UNESCO	20 minutes	Moderated by SEAMEO