

6-8 June 2023, Berlin, Germany



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70th Anniversary Declaration of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network

We, the National ASPnet Coordinators from approximately 70 countries and the UNESCO International ASPnet Coordination Unit, gathered at the Conference “Strengthening International Collaboration towards Peaceful and Sustainable Futures” from June 6-8, 2023 at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin Germany to celebrate the 70th anniversary in the spirit of its theme “Fostering a culture of peace and sustainability through transformative education”, share ideas and promising practices, and strengthen collaboration for peaceful and sustainable futures.

ASPnet is a global network driving transformative education for more peaceful and sustainable futures. It encompasses more than 12 000 educational institutions from all levels of education in 182 countries. Education for Global Citizenship (GCED), Sustainable Development (ESD) and Intercultural Understanding, as enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 Target 7, are key enablers for achieving all SDGs. ASPnet member institutions take action on a local, national and international level by promoting and putting into practice the ideals of UNESCO, including human rights and dignity, gender equality, social progress, freedom, justice and democracy, respect for diversity and international solidarity.

Building on:

- The objectives and goals of the UNESCO Constitution to contribute to peace through education;
- the 1974 Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms, which is currently being revised;
- the ESD Berlin Declaration that declares that “education is a powerful enabler of positive change of mindsets and worldviews and that it can support the integration of all dimensions of sustainable development, of economy, society and the environment, ensuring that development trajectories are not exclusively orientated towards economic growth to the detriment of the planet, but towards the well-being of all within planetary boundaries”;
- the international report “Reimagining our futures together: A new social contract for education” that acknowledges the power of education to bring about profound change and calls for strengthening education as a public endeavor for the common good;
- the vision statement of the UN Secretary-General stating an urgent call to Member States and the global public to join efforts towards transforming education and elevate education to the top of high-level political dialogues;
- the efforts towards the ASPnet Strategy 2022-2030 “Building peaceful and sustainable futures through transformative education”, stating that the Network will encourage innovation and the transformation of education at local, national and global levels;
- the two resolutions recently adopted by UNESCO’s Executive Board focusing on ASPnet’s 70th anniversary with a clear call to strengthen one of UNESCO’s longest running and largest networks and with a specific suggestion to conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a UNESCO ASPnet Young Ambassadors’ programme.

Our commitments:

- Empower learners through transformative education to lead healthy lives, promote sustainable development and engage with the world as creative and responsible global citizens;
- Support young people to become leaders and agents of change for more just, peaceful, equitable, inclusive and sustainable societies;
- Support educators and leverage innovative teaching and participatory learning, particularly through a whole-school approach;
- Build partnerships within and beyond UNESCO to empower schools around the world to drive innovation and transformation and act as living laboratories for global citizenship, intercultural understanding and sustainable development;
- Launch projects and initiatives for international cooperation and collaboration, knowledge sharing and partnerships between countries and schools;
- Advocate for transformative education and the whole-school approach as core drivers for educational innovation and quality within and beyond ASPnet.

We invite:

- The whole ASPnet community and partners to acknowledge the ASPnet Strategy 2022-2030, specifically National Coordinators and National Commissions for UNESCO through the development of action plans in consultation with ASPnet institutions;
- National Commissions for UNESCO, other UNESCO networks and entities, policy-makers, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders to collaborate with ASPnet institutions, National Coordinators and the International Coordination Unit and to support and strengthen the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet).