



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

 Permanent  
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of Austria  
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in New York



Sao Tome and Principe



## Advancing Quality Education for Economic and Digital Transformation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

ITU/UNIDO/WIPO Side Event at the 2022 High-level Political Forum (HLPF)  
**11 July 2022, 7:30AM - 8:45AM (EDT)**

### [Registration Link](https://hlpf.un.org/2022)

For more information on HLPF, visit: <https://hlpf.un.org/2022>

An educated population is key to transforming economies, building inclusive and peaceful societies and ensuring lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources, that is, to realise the ultimate goals of the Agenda 2030. In today's increasingly knowledge-intensive and technology-driven world, sustained long-term development calls for enterprising, creative and innovative individuals who can express their potential in entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems, where intellectual property rights and transparent regulatory frameworks are secured.

There are different routes to personal development during the life span of an individual. Schooling is a crucial one because it targets children and adolescents at the time when their neural circuits are most plastic, laying the foundation for later learning. Thus, schools should provide children and youth with best conditions for learning to enable them to reach their full potential.

Quality education is critical for a nation's capacity to innovate, transform and progress. Future-ready youth will need to master key disciplinary and technical knowledge, since the shift from simple assembly and processing to technology-intensive sectors calls for skilled persons capable of developing new applications, processes and products. However, in face of rapidly evolving circumstances, the range of skills needs to include, among others, entrepreneurial and digital ones. Creativity, problem solving, goal-setting, collaboration, and communication are but a few of the crucial skills required to put innovation into action, that is, to spur entrepreneurship.

Adoption of pedagogical processes and methodologies for the digital age is an essential element in transforming education systems. Information and communication technologies

(ICTs) can empower teachers and learners of all ages, promote changes and innovation, and further increase student engagement. ICT-enhanced education environments can facilitate active, collaborative, creative, integrated, and evaluative learning. Thus, digital skills assessment and development to facilitate such learning should be considered as national priorities. National policy and strategies are, likewise, needed to reduce operational costs for digital learning to make it accessible to all.

Exposing future generations of inventors and innovators to the fundamentals of intellectual property education and knowledge at a young age and promoting the understanding of how intellectual property helps turn ideas into economic assets increases prospects for business development, employment generation and economic growth.

Yet, differences in learning across and within countries are remarkable. International comparison based on the PISA test indicates that some 60 percent of the world's secondary school students fail to reach the minimum level of basic skills required to compete internationally. COVID-19 has exacerbated educational gaps due, among other factors, to lack of connectivity, digital skills of learners and teaching staff, and quality education resources.

Consequently, major changes in the quality of teaching must be introduced in schools to increase students' learning achievements as well as their ability to learn. Improvements in quality of teaching is a complex process, which takes time and substantial human and financial resources. Its urgency calls for gathering practical experiences from public institutions and private stakeholders on ways to improve learning in schools and, by doing so, setting the pace for transformation of economies and societies.

This session seeks to stimulate discussions around the following topics:

- Why and how educational systems are improving technical/vocational education and introducing entrepreneurial learning to equip students with knowledge, skills, and sense of agency to underpin their future lives
- How modern digital technology can potentially help in building youth's cognitive, technical, social and learning abilities as well as enhance quality of teaching and the role of non-state institutions (including the private sector) in developing educational technologies
- How IP learning at incremental pace can boost innovative and entrepreneurial capacity particularly among young people
- What youth feels is needed to advance quality education for economic and digital transformation.

## MODERATOR:

Ms. Tsung-Ping Chung      Chief, Communications, Advocacy and Media Relations, UNIDO

## AGENDA

OPENING REMARKS		
Mr. Gerd Müller	Director-General, UNIDO	Pre-recorded
KEYNOTE ADDRESS		
H.E. Ms. Julieta Izidro Rodrigues	Minister, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Sao Tome and Principe	Live
PANEL DISCUSSION		
Ms. Doris Wagner	Director General, General Education and VET, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research	Live
Mr. Rafik Amrani	Founder of “Beyond Takhmamek”	Live
Mr. Ulises Brengi	Learning Experience Designer, Eidos Global and youth representative, Advisory Committee of the Transforming Education Summit	Live
Mr. Malcolm Johnson	Deputy Secretary- General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	Live
Ms. Amrita Naik	Head of Partnerships, INFOSYS Foundation	Live
Mr. Edward Kwakwa	Assistant Director General, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO	Live
Ms. Zohra Yermeche	Head of Connect to Learn, Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility, Ericsson	Live
Q&A		