



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Canadian
Commission
for UNESCO

Commission
canadienne
pour l'UNESCO

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

UNESCO Launches New Report on Education

The GEM Report Monitors Progress on “Sustainable Futures for All”

Ottawa, October 26, 2016 — On Friday, October 28, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Global Affairs Canada and CODE (formerly the Canadian Organization for Development through Education) will co-host the Canadian launch of the [2016 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring \(GEM\) Report](#). The launch will be held at the Canada Council for the Arts offices in Ottawa.

Since 2002, UNESCO has published an evidence-based annual report to monitor progress toward the Education for All and education-related Millennium Development Goals. Starting in 2016, a newly mandated annual report, the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, will assess the progress made on the state of education around the world, within the new framework of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. This goal aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

“Education plays an essential role in UNESCO’s efforts to build a more inclusive and peaceful world,” says Sébastien Goupil, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. “The Canadian launch of the 2016 GEM Report reminds us that our country needs to demonstrate leadership, in Canada and abroad, to implement Agenda 2030. This is particularly true for SDG 4, which is so important in building sustainable futures for all.”

The Canadian launch will highlight key findings from the report and the accompanying 2016 Gender Review. It will also feature a high-level panel of education experts, practitioners and government representatives. Attendees include **MP Karina Gould** (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and la Francophonie), representatives from **Global Affairs Canada, CODE, United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative, Global Partnerships for Education, Colleges and Institutes Canada**, and the **Council of Ministers of Education, Canada**, as well as the **Ambassadors of Peru and Senegal**.

“The 2016 GEM Report shows us that by working together, we have made significant progress in the education sector over the past 15 years. Yet it also highlights the considerable work left ahead, particularly for girls who still face

Canadian Commission for
UNESCO operates within the
Canada Council for the Arts

La Commission canadienne
pour l'UNESCO relève du
Conseil des arts du Canada

150 Elgin Street, PO Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8
Canada

150, rue Elgin, C.P. 1047
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5V8
Canada

1-800-263-5588
www.unesco.ca

persistent barriers to their education,” said Karina Gould, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and la Francophonie. “Canada recognizes education as a human right and an essential driver of sustainable development. That is why we are working with likeminded partners to help ensure that every child, regardless of circumstance, receives quality education.”

As the first report in the new series, the 2016 GEM Report captures strategies and challenges for financing and monitoring SDG 4. The report focuses on the theme of Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All and recommends which education strategies, policies and programs are most effectively linked to the economic, social, environmental and political priorities of Agenda 2030.

-30-

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO connects Canadians with the work of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It aims to create a society in which people share knowledge and learn from each other, locally and globally, in order to build peaceful, equitable and sustainable futures. It does so by supporting collective reflection, identifying priorities and facilitating concerted action in the fields of education, sciences, culture, communication and information to address some of the most complex challenges facing humanity. Recognizing that this mandate can only be fulfilled by engaging a broad range of partners, a spirit of cooperation is at the core of the Commission’s work. The Commission operates under the authority of the Canada Council for the Arts.

CODE is Canada's leading international development agency uniquely focused on advancing literacy and education in some of the world's regions in greatest need. By acting to establish and ignite engaging learning environments through the development and publishing of locally authored and designed children books, training teachers and teacher-librarians, resourcing libraries as well as distributing significant numbers of high quality reading materials, CODE focuses on inspiring young minds to improve their literacy and comprehension with the hope that they become critical thinkers and lifelong learners, all in working towards nurturing a literate civil society.



Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada



Rewriting the story
for global literacy



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

Contacts:

Angèle Cyr, Senior Advisor, Public Affairs, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, (613) 566-4414 ext. 4168

Jody Cooper, Public Affairs Officer, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, (613) 566-4414 ext. 4566