



EDUCATION MULTIPLIES POSSIBILITIES: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Context

As the world faces major shifts in demographics, AI, and the future of work, quality education for all is essential for economic growth and stability. Over the past 40 years, education has driven half of global economic growth and two-thirds in the poorest countries, while cutting extreme poverty by 40%. It prepares learners with skills for 21st-century jobs and helps buffer against political and economic insecurity.

Yet, more than 270 million children and youth are out of school, and that number is rising. 70% of 10-year-olds in low-income countries can't read a simple text. Reaching global education goals (SDG4) faces a \$97 billion annual funding gap, as domestic budgets strain and international aid declines.

To address this, we need a fundamental shift in education financing, moving away from fragmented gap-filling towards coherent, sustainable financing models that enable system transformation. These approaches can bring the developed and developing worlds together in an unprecedented era of partnership, advance collective prosperity and turn aid recipients into economic partners. Education is a foundational investment in national and global development and long-term prosperity, and strategic partnerships across sectors are vital to closing the gap and creating a shared path to progress.

At a side event of the UN General Assembly 2025, H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of Nigeria and H.E. Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy, will **launch the 5th Financing Campaign of the Global Partnership for Education** to catalyze a step-change in how we invest in education systems to meet the needs of today's – and tomorrow's – children and youth.

Event

The Permanent Missions of Italy and Nigeria along with GPE will host a high-level side event at the UNGA to discuss the opportunity that investing quality education presents for the world and to showcase political will and commitment to bring quality education to all children.

Date: September 24, 1:15 – 2:30 pm

Venue: UNHQ Conference Room 3

Format: The event will gather heads of state and government, ministers and partners including private sector, foundations, CSOs, multilaterals and youth leaders for discussions in a mixed format, opening with a high-level segment followed by a panel discussion and closing remarks.

Objectives:

- Highlight the importance of investing in education for global prosperity and stability
- Formally announce H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of Nigeria and H.E. Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy as the co-hosts of the financing campaign of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)



- Launch the Case for Investment for GPE's financing campaign
- Showcase political commitments on education financing and generate momentum to increase political will to invest in education

Draft Run of Show

Run time: 75 minutes

Moderator: [Femi Oke](#), award-winning international journalist, writer and moderator

Segment	Proposed Speakers	Description
High Level Segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (video message) • H.E. Kashim Shettima, Vice President of Nigeria • H.E. Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation • H.E. Jakaya M. Kikwete, GPE Chair of the Board of Directors and former President of Tanzania 	High level opening and formal announcement of the co-hosting of the GPE replenishment
Keynote	Hon. Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships	
Video message	Malala Yousafzai, Co-founder, Malala Fund.	
Panel on transforming education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Frigenti, Chief Executive Officer of GPE • Hon. Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, Minister of Education, Nigeria • H.E. Saeed Mubarak Rashid Al Hajeri, Minister of State, UAE • Rt Hon Baroness Chapman of Darlington Minister of State (International Development, Latin America and Caribbean), UK • Hon. Dr. Yevhen Kudriavets, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Science, Ukraine • Inger Ashing, CEO, Save the Children • Simon Sommer, CO-CEO, Jacobs Foundation 	Discussion on the importance and pathways to transform education and the power of partnerships across governments and stakeholders to deliver quality education for all children
Youth Leader	Rochelle Prasad, GPE Youth Leader, Canada	
Closing	Stefania Giannini, ADG, UNESCO	