



## Transforming Global Education Summit Concept Note

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### Overview:

- Date: May 1, 2026
- Time: 10am - 6pm EST
- Duration: 8 hours
- Location: ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York City
- Organized By: PVBLIC Foundation
- Co-Hosts: Government of the Kingdom of Tonga and Antigua and Barbuda, and Learning Economy Foundation

### Background:

Convened under the theme “**Redefining Education as Global Infrastructure**”, the Summit is designed as a high-level working platform to reposition education as a core pillar of national resilience, economic development, and sovereign capacity. Rather than treating education as a standalone service, the Summit advances a systems-based approach that integrates policy, technology transfer, capital alignment, and multilateral cooperation.

The Summit treats education as sovereign infrastructure, advancing structured technology transfer models that enable countries to deploy interoperable, public-good national education systems while retaining full sovereignty over data, curriculum, and governance.

The Summit will bring together heads of state, ministers, multilateral leaders, technologists, educators, private sector innovators, and youth leaders to move from dialogue to design. Participants will contribute to shaping actionable frameworks that modernize national learning systems, close capacity gaps, and prepare societies for the demands of the next generation.

### Objective(s):

1. **Showcasing Global Progress:** Highlight successful education initiatives, including scalable solutions and new technologies that promote equity and accessibility.
2. **Securing Financial Commitments:** Engage stakeholders in prioritizing education funding, particularly for infrastructure, teacher training, and digital transformation.
3. **Fostering Strategic Partnerships:** Build alliances among governments, private sector entities, and civil society organizations to strengthen education systems globally.

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4. **Empowering Youth Voices:** Ensure active participation of youth leaders in shaping education policies and strategies for the future.

### Event Alignment with Global Agendas:

The **Transforming Education Summit 2026** is critical in addressing persistent education inequalities, bridging resource gaps, and fostering global cooperation.

1. **Addressing Education Inequities:** Millions of children and youth, particularly in developing countries and SIDS, face limited access to education due to infrastructure challenges, teacher shortages, and digital divides. The summit will amplify solutions, partnerships, and technologies to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education. This includes exploring a shared digital infrastructure, akin to an “iOS” or “Android” for education, that reduces the cost of access, emphasizing that learners should pay for human guidance, not for the technology itself. (add Culture and Heritage)
2. **Closing the Education Financing Gap:** Despite the recognition of education as a fundamental human right and a driver of sustainable development, there remains a substantial funding gap to achieve SDG 4. The summit intends to mobilize financial commitments and investments from stakeholders, focusing on countries and communities most in need.
3. **Adapting to Global Challenges:** Rapid technological advancements, environmental crises, and economic uncertainties require adaptive education systems. This summit will explore capacity-building, digital transformation, and innovative partnerships to create resilient education frameworks.
4. **Catalyzing Multisectoral Collaboration:** Achieving SDG 4 requires a whole-of-society approach. The summit will provide a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and resource-sharing among governments, the private sector, civil society, and youth leaders.

### Identify Target Audience:

The summit will convene a diverse array of stakeholders, including:

1. **Government Representatives:**
  - o Heads of state and government
  - o Ministers of Education, Finance, and Digital Transformation
  - o Delegations from developing countries and SIDS
2. **United Nations and Multilateral Institutions:**
  - o UN agencies such as UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNDP
  - o Multilateral development banks and international financial institutions
3. **Private Sector Partners:**
  - o Technology companies offering digital learning solutions
  - o Corporations committed to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in education
  - o Investors in education financing and innovation
  - o Leading family offices in partnership with the Family Offices For Sustainable Development Program (FOSD)
4. **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):**
  - o Nonprofits and NGOs advocating for marginalized groups
  - o Community-based organizations working on education reforms
5. **Academia and Research Institutions:**
  - o Leading global universities and think tanks exploring education policy and innovation
  - o Educators and experts in digital transformation

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- o Curriculum development leaders
- 6. **Youth Leaders and Advocates:**
  - o Youth representatives driving policy reforms and SDG advocacy
  - o Students and emerging leaders sharing lived experiences and solutions

**Proposed Agenda:**

Opening Segment

- Welcome Remarks: Sergio Fernandez de Cordova, Executive Chairman, PVBLIC Foundation
- Special Remarks: Honourable Daryl Matthew, Minister of Education, Antigua and Barbuda
- Special Remarks: Honourable Dr Mo'ale 'Otunukui, Minister of Education, Kingdom of Tonga

Panel 1: The Education Reality – A Fragmented Global System

- Speaker: Senator Dr. the Honourable Dana Morris Dixon, Government of Jamaica (TBC)
- Speaker: Honourable Kenson Casimir, Minister of Education, Saint Lucia (TBC)
- Speaker: Jayashri Wyatt, Chief, Education Outreach Section, United Nations

Panel 2: Reframing Education as Infrastructure

- Moderator: Dr. Carissa Carter, Academic Director, Stanford d.school (TBC)
- Speaker: Steven Azeka, Senior Program Officer, Mozilla
- Speaker: Diana Ringe Krogh, Vice President, Social Responsibility, The LEGO Group
- Speaker: Kim Smith, CEO, LearnerStudio

Case Study

- Speaker: Dr. Dan Brenner, Executive Director, United Nations International School (UNIS)

Leadership for the Future of National Education Systems

- Speaker: Marie Unger, Chief Learning Officer, Emergenetics International
- Speaker: Kevin Frey, CEO, Generation Unlimited, UNICEF

Panel 3: Portable Learning Records: Building the Interoperable Layer for Lifelong Learning

- Moderator: Chris Purifoy, CEO, Learning Economy Foundation
- Speaker: Jane Mann, Managing Director, Cambridge Partnership for Education (TBC)
- Speaker: Dr. Benard M. Doro
- Speaker: John Goodwin, Former CEO, LEGO Foundation

Panel 4: Technology Transfer: Building the National Education Operating System

- Moderator: Laurence Kalinsky, Executive Director, Family Offices for Sustainable Development (FOSD)
- Speaker: Alexa Joyce, Head of Education Government Affairs, Apple (TBC)

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- Speaker: H.E. Dr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations
- Speaker: Dhruv Sehra

#### Youth Commitment Moment

- Moderator: Amanda Slavin, Founder, The Future Frequency
- Participants: Youth Council Members / Students

#### Panel 5: Focus on Small Island Developing States

- Moderator: H.E. Ms. Ilana Victorya Seid, Chair, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) or Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Unit, OHRLLS (TBC)
- Speaker: Honourable Daryl Matthew, Minister of Education, Antigua and Barbuda
- Speaker: Honourable Dr Mo'ale 'Otunukui, Minister of Education, Kingdom of Tonga

#### Panel 6: Scaling the Model: From Youth to National Development

- Moderator: Dr. Alison Bryant, Chief Operating Officer, Learning Economy Foundation; Former Chief of Learning & Research, Sesame Workshop
- Speaker: Bo Stjerne Thomsen, Head of Education Impact, LEGO Education (TBC)
- Speaker: Sarah Chasin, Vice President, Impact Partnerships, Sesame Workshop (TBC)

#### Keynote / Intervention

- Speaker: Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, United Nations (TBC)

#### Panel 7: Sovereignty and Governance in the Global Education System

- Moderator: Mariana Dahan, Head of AI Strategy, World Bank (TBC)
- Speaker: Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, Former Minister of Trade and Industry, Ghana
- Speaker: H.E. Sheikh Mohammed A. Al Thani, Qatari Business Leader, Investor, and Member of the Qatari Royal Family
- Speaker: Ruhana DaSilva, Director, Digital Transformation and Information Technology, World Scouting (TBC)

#### Panel 9: UN Agencies and the Responsibility Towards Global Education

- Moderator: Borhene Chakroun, Director for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO (TBC)
- Speaker: Lisa Kurbiel, Head, Joint SDG Fund
- Speaker: Dr. Sima Sami Bahous, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women (TBC)
- Speaker: Aarti Holla-Maini, Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) (TBC)

#### Case Lab: Global Best Practices in Transformative Education

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- Speaker: Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice Chancellor, University of the West Indies (TBC)
- Speaker: John Molony, Pro Vice Chancellor, Deakin University (TBC)
- Speaker: Dr. Carmen Vargas Macías, Vice Rector, University of Sevilla (TBC)

Panel 10: Education and the Most Vulnerable

- Moderator: Kerry Bannigan, President of the Board, PVBLIC Foundation
- Speaker: H.E. Vainga Tone, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Tonga
- Speaker: H.E. Mr. Eloy Alfaro de Alba, Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations (TBC)

Panel 11: Systems in Motion Beyond Classrooms

- Moderator: Chelsea Toler, Co-Founder, Logictry
- Speaker: Kristen Eignor DiCerbo, Chief Learning Officer, Khan Academy (TBC)
- Speaker: Logan Smalley, Director, TED-Ed (TBC)
- Speaker: Charlene Ruto (TBC)
- Speaker: Dr. Dan Brenner, Executive Director, United Nations International School (UNIS)

Panel 12: Capital and Curriculum

- Speaker: Maria Zubeldia, Executive Director, Entrepreneurship Centre, Oxford Saïd Business School (TBC)
- Speaker: Beatriz López Galvis, Vice President, Inter-American Development Bank (TBC)
- Speaker: Dr. Vishwajeet Rana, Group CEO, GEDU
- Speaker: Beth Bray, Program Director, Walton Family Foundation

Closing Segment

- Closing Remarks: Chris Purifoy, CEO, Learning Economy Foundation
- Closing Remarks: H.E. Dr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations
- Closing Remarks: H.E. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations
- Closing Remarks: Sergio Fernandez de Cordova, Executive Chairman, PVBLIC Foundation, and Kerry Bannigan, President of the Board, PVBLIC Foundation

**Outputs and Follow-up Actions:**

1. **Global Roadmap for Equitable Education:** Strategies to address systemic education inequalities and foster inclusion.
2. **Financial Commitments Secured:** Investments from governments, international organizations, and private entities to close the education financing gap.
3. **Scalable Pilot Projects:** Innovative solutions that integrate technology and community-driven education reforms.
4. **Youth Declaration:** A youth-led call to action for equitable, innovative, and sustainable education systems.

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