



LAC/OECD CONFERENCE OF  
EDUCATION MINISTERS

EMERGING STRONGER FROM  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## OECD LAC Conference of Education Ministers: Emerging stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic

**Agenda (v. 21/06/22)**

### **Dates and venue**

June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Wladimir Murtinho Auditorium, Itamaraty Palace, Brasília

### **Overall purpose and context**

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have not only been among the most affected in the world by the COVID-19 pandemic in socio-economic terms, but also in terms of the length of school closures. As schools resume operations, LAC countries face the urgent challenge to address students' learning losses and to re-engage those that dropped out from education or those that are at risk of doing so. Despite the difficulties ahead, the crisis has also presented an opportunity for countries: the opportunity to re-invent education so it can be the driver of strong, inclusive and sustainable economic development and the tissue underpinning equitable communities and societies.

Seizing this opportunity will require the development and implementation of smart education policies that reconcile new goals with old commitments, foster innovation while learning from past experiences, leverage existing capacity and resources to deliver quality learning opportunities, and reconfigure the spaces, the people, the time and the technologies to offer all learners the opportunity to succeed in life.

The LAC Conference of Education Ministers is an opportunity for education ministers and other high-level government officials in the region to look backwards, deriving lessons from the past two years; forward, considering the future that they want for their countries in the medium- and long-term; and outwards, learning from the experience of peers in the region.

To support this reflection, Ministers will be invited to focus on four key policy areas that will be the basis for a strong and inclusive recovery:

1. Rethinking the content of learning and disseminating effective pedagogical approaches to make education more relevant;
2. Reconfiguring the spaces in which teaching, and learning occur, to empower practitioners and learners, and to encourage constructive relationships that foster collaboration and innovation;
3. Leveraging the potential of technology to promote improvements;
4. Delivering value for money by allocating education resources in ways that support quality, equity and inclusion.



**LAC/OECD CONFERENCE OF  
EDUCATION MINISTERS**

EMERGING STRONGER FROM  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

***Preliminary agenda***

***Opening Session: Emerging stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic***

Date and time: 21/06, 17:00 – 18:15 (BRT)

Theme: Brief presentation on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education systems of LAC countries, identifying the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead for the region and offering an overview of the policy areas that will be discussed in the following sessions and how they support improvements.

Speakers:

- Welcoming remarks by Ambassador Leonardo Gorgulho, Secretary for Consular Affairs, Cooperation and Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brazil)
- Mr. Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General (OECD)
- Mr. Victor Veiga, Minister of Education (Brazil)

***Cocktail & Family Photo***

(Participants will be escorted to the third floor)

Date and time: 21/06, 18:30-19:30 (BRT)

Venue: Itamaraty Palace Terrace (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

***Session 1: Re-designing the learning experience to strengthen its relevance to students and support the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills***

Date and time: 22/06, 9:45-11:15 (BRT)

Theme: The region's long-lasting school closures have led to an exacerbation of pre-existing learning gaps and inequalities. As education systems grapple with the need to recover students' learning losses and re-engage those that dropped out of education, there are calls for policymakers to design more relevant curricula and educational pathways, and to promote more personalised teaching and learning experiences. This is also an opportunity to ensure that all children develop the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for and that allow individuals to participate fully in society.

Speakers:



## LAC/OECD CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION MINISTERS

EMERGING STRONGER FROM  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Introduction by moderator, Mr. Mauro Rabelo, Secretary of Basic Education (Brazil) – 5 minutes
- Ms. El Iza Mohamedou, Head of the Centre for Skills (OECD) – 20 minutes
- Mr. Ricardo Nicolás Zárate Rojas, Minister of Education and Sciences of Paraguay – 10 minutes
- Prof. Claudia Costin, Director of the Center for Excellence and Innovation in Educational Policies at Fundação Getúlio Vargas (CEIPE/FGV) – 10 minutes
- Moderated discussion – 40 minutes
- Closing by moderator – 5 minutes

### **Coffee break**

11:15 – 11:30 (BRT)

### **Session 2: Re-imagining schools to improve student learning and well-being**

Date and time: 22/06, 11:30 – 13:00 (BRT)

Theme: With the COVID-19 pandemic, schools emerged as rich environments where complex community relationships take place, helping people of all ages, including education professionals, reach their potential as individuals and members of society. As schools resume operations, striving to become more responsive and resilient, policymakers are invited to consider the following questions: How can schools be positioned at the heart of a strategic network of actors and services to deliver better education? What measures can schools put in place to improve the learning climate and encourage high-quality teaching? What steps are needed to build strong and positive relationships that will help mitigate the effect of lockdowns and the trauma associated with the pandemic?

#### Speakers:

- Introduction by moderator, Ms. Tonika Sealy-Thompson, Ambassador of Barbados to Brazil – 5 minutes
- Ms. Diana Toledo Figueroa, Analyst (OECD) – 20 minutes
- Ms. Katharina Müller, Minister of Education of Costa Rica (online) – 10 minutes
- Dr. Liberio Victorino Ramírez, Head of the Unit for the Promotion of Equity and Educational Excellence in Mexico (online) – 10 minutes
- Moderated discussion – 40 minutes
- Closing by moderator – 5 minutes

### **Lunch Break**

13:00 – 14:30 (BRT)



## LAC/OECD CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION MINISTERS

EMERGING STRONGER FROM  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

*(A light standing lunch will be served for those that remain at the premises of the event)*

### **Session 3: Leveraging digital technologies to develop smart education systems**

Date and time: 22/06, 14:30 – 16:00 (BRT)

Theme: While teachers and students are now much more familiar with digital platforms after two years of remote learning, education systems are yet to fully leverage the opportunities brought by digital technologies. Artificial intelligence, robots, and blockchain, for example, are poised to transform how we teach, learn, and run schools, enhancing the effectiveness, equity and cost efficiency of education systems. What lessons have stakeholders learnt from the use of technology to enable learning during the pandemic? What policies can support the development of smart education systems? And what technologies and skills do practitioners require to best leverage digital technologies for high-quality and inclusive learning?

#### Speakers:

- Introduction by the moderator, Mr. José Gustavo Gontijo, Secretary for Consular Affairs, Cooperation and Culture, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations of Brazil – 5 minutes
- Mr. Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin, Senior Analyst (OECD) (online) – 20 minutes
- Mr. Dario Montoya, Ambassador of Colombia to Brasil – 10 minutes
- Mr. Rodrigo Torres, Director of Executive Education at the National School of Public Administration (ENAP) – 10 minutes
- Mr. Raphael Callou, Director of the OEI's Brazil Office – 5 minutes
- Moderated discussion – 40 minutes
- Closing by moderator – 5 minutes

### **Coffee break**

16:00 – 16:15 (BRT)

### **Session 4: Optimising resources to strengthen quality and equity in education**

Date and time: 22/06, 16:15 – 17:45 (BRT)

Theme: Education systems and institutions operate within the bounds of the resources available to them (including time, financial and digital resources). As the region aims to recover from the pandemic, with tighter fiscal space, it will be critical to ensure that resources are allocated equitably and effectively. This will mean ensuring that international partnerships are well coordinated, and resources reach those that need them most, are managed flexibly and transparently, advance value-for-money, and promote medium- and long-term strategic policymaking.



## LAC/OECD CONFERENCE OF EDUCATION MINISTERS

EMERGING STRONGER FROM  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### Speakers:

- Introduction by the moderator, Mr. Pablo Acosta, Program Leader for Human Development at World Bank – 5 minutes
- Mr. Paulo Santiago, Head of the Policy Advice and Implementation Division (OECD) – 20 minutes
- Ms. Maria Rebeca Otero Gomes, Education Coordinator at UNESCO/Brasília – 10 minutes
- Mr. Leandro Costa, senior economist, World Bank – 10 minutes
- Moderated discussion – 40 minutes
- Closing by moderator – 5 minutes

### ***Closing session***

Date and time: 22/06, 18:00 – 18:30 (BRT)

Theme: Brief reflection on the conference's thematic sessions, and the main policy pointers discussed.

### Speakers:

- Ms. El Iza Mohamedou, Head of the Centre for Skills (OECD) – 10 minutes
- Mr. Victor Veiga, Minister of Education (Brazil) – 10 minutes
- Mr. Leonardo Gorgulho, Secretary of Consular Affairs, Cooperation and Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brazil) – 5 minutes