

Concept Note: Side Event

Background

Access to inclusive, quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is an enabler of holistic child well-being and development, basic and lifelong learning, gender equality and social equity, and sustainable development, and provides the strong foundation that all children need to reach their full potential.

However, according to analyses of early childhood development outcomes and determinants, approximately 3.6 million 3- and 4-year-olds in LAC are lagging behind and at risk of not reaching their full potential" and "children from the poorest households and living in hard-to-reach communities are more likely to experience delays in early childhood development". (UNICEF, 2019).

Latin America's poverty rate reached 32.3 per cent of the population in 2021. 27.4 per cent of households had at least one child under five by the end of 2021. The enrolment rate in early childhood care and education activities is seen to fall by 59% and from 27% in February 2020 to 11% at the end of 2021. (UNDP, 2022).

On the other hand, pre-primary attendance rates fell by 7 percentage points for children one year younger than the primary school entry age: the percentage attending school was 93.2 per cent in 2019 and fell to 86.2 per cent in 2020. This decline was more pronounced for children two years younger than the official primary school entry age, whose attendance rate fell by 8.6 percentage points (to 76.9 per cent in 2020). If the age range is extended to those three years younger than the official age, the reduction is 9.1 percentage points (the attendance rate was 64.5 per cent in 2020).

The Tashkent Declaration commits States to provide at least one year of free and compulsory quality pre-primary education for all, and to progressively increase ECCE provision, in all its modalities and formats; to upgrade the status of ECCE personnel; and to increase ECCE funding to a level sufficient to achieve SDG target 4.2.

UNESCO organised the one-year anniversary celebration of the Tashkent Declaration in December 2023 to provide an update on follow-up actions taken since the conference and agree on a roadmap for further collaboration.

It was deemed necessary for Latin American and Caribbean states to develop their own diagnosis in order to develop and strengthen powerful action, as well as to mobilise strong, coordinated and collaborative support within and among Member States to strengthen their ECCE systems.

Summary of the event

Title: Tashkent+1: Regional Action on Early Childhood Care and Education in LAC.	
Coordinating organisations and focal points	Lead organisation and focal point: OMEP – World Organization for Early Childhood Education. Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, World President
	Co-organizers: CLADE – Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education. Nelsy Lizarazo,

	<p>General Coordinator</p> <p>OAS – Organization of American States. Tamara Diaz Fouz, Director General for Education and Vocational Training</p>
Objective	<p>Genera Objective</p> <p>Renew and reaffirm political commitment and involvement of Member States, civil society and stakeholders to develop ambitious, relevant and culturally appropriate ECCE policies, implement effective and accountable ECCE systems, multi-stakeholder partnerships and services, and increase and improve investment in ECCE.</p> <p>Specific Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Share updates on follow-up actions taken in the framework of the follow-up to the Tashkent Declaration. – Exchange information on actions and initiatives undertaken by countries and agencies since WCECCE2022, including policy measures, initiatives, challenges and opportunities. – Identify routes of action for regional and national work to advance the goals set.
Summary paragraph	<p>The Tashkent Declaration commits States to offer at least one year of free and compulsory quality pre-primary education for all, and to progressively increase ECCE provision, in all its modalities and formats; to raise the status of ECCE personnel; and to increase ECCE funding to a level sufficient to achieve SDG target 4.2.</p> <p>One year after its entry into force, it is necessary for Latin American and Caribbean States to develop their own diagnosis in order to develop and strengthen powerful action, as well as to mobilise coordinated and collaborative support within and among Member States to strengthen ECCE systems.</p>
Links to publications and other relevant materials	<p>Education starts early: progress, challenges and opportunities: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383670_spa</p> <p>Follow-up to the Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action to Transform Early Childhood Care and Education: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385190</p> <p>World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education: Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action to Transform Early Childhood Care and Education, 16 November 2022: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000384045</p>

Panelists

Moderator: Desirée López de Maturana Luna – OMEP Regional Vice-President for Latin America

CONVOCADO POR



COORGANIZADO POR



Panelist 1: Tamara Díaz Fouz - Director General for Education and Vocational Training of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

Panelist 2: Maria Julia Garcete Yegros - Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute - IIN/OAS

Panelist 3: Karlene DeGrace-Deslandes – Executive Director of Early Childhood Commission: agency of the Ministry of Education of Jamaica

Panelist 4: Mercedes Mayol Lassalle – World President of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education - OMEP

Expected result

Provide a space for knowledge and debate on the set of guiding principles and strategies set out in the Tashkent Declaration around: i) quality, equitable and inclusive ECCE services for all; ii) ECCE workforce; iii) innovation to drive transformation; and iv) policy, governance and finance.

Encourage Member States to deliver on their commitments by offering alternatives, good practices, and advice.

Structure of the session

Structure of the session	
0-3 min	Introduction
3-10	Presentation of the speakers
10-40 min	<p>Development of the Panel:</p> <p>Panelist 1: Tamara Díaz Fouz - Director General for Education and Vocational Training of the Organisation of American States (OAS).</p> <p>Theme: Early Childhood in Ibero-America: moving towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Panelist 2: Maria Julia Garcete Yegros - Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute - IIN/OAS</p> <p>Theme: Challenges posed by inequalities to early childhood care and education</p> <p>Panelist 3: Karlene DeGrace-Deslandes – Executive Director of Early Childhood Commission: agency of the Ministry of Education of Jamaica</p> <p>Theme: ECCE in Jamaica: key strategies, achievements and remaining challenges</p> <p>Panelist 4: Mercedes Mayol Lassalle – World President of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education - OMEP</p> <p>Theme: A Decade for Early Childhood: Making strong commitments to action on investment</p>

40-55 min	Open dialogue
55-60 min	Closing

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DE AMÉRICA LATINA
Y EL CARIBE



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