

# Statement by the Members of the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies



To: Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations Office at Geneva and New York

Geneva, 9 September 2024

## Ahead of the Summit of the Future:

**Protect and invest in education for *all* children and young people, including in crises. Education is fundamental for present and future generations.**

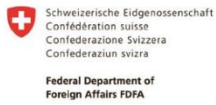
- Education is one of the **most powerful and transformative investments** and an indispensable means of realising all Sustainable Development Goals.
- Education is a **catalyst** that empowers individuals to transition from aid recipients to self-sufficient contributors to society. It **reduces poverty, advances gender equality, empowers** girls and boys and young people, and fosters innovation, problem-solving and the creation of new opportunities.
- Education is vital for promoting **climate action** and building **peaceful, resilient societies**. It equips children and youth, including those affected by crisis and displacement, with the knowledge and skills to create a sustainable, just and stable future.
- Yet, millions of children and youth are currently **deprived of their fundamental right to education**. In 2023, **224 million children and youth were affected by crises**, urgently requiring educational support.
- **Children and young people living in conflict situations experience violence in unbearable levels**, including through attacks on education and military use of schools and learning institutions. In 2022 and 2023 alone, over 10,000 students and educators were killed, injured, abducted, arrested, or otherwise harmed by attacks on education.
- Children, youth and parents affected by crisis **demand education**, recognising its critical value in their lives. They value education as much as food, water and shelter.
- **72 million crisis-affected out-of-school children and youth** are among those left furthest behind. By prioritising education and investing in teachers in emergency responses, the international community can lay a strong foundation for recovery and sustainable development.

## **Heads of State and Government, representing the peoples of the world, are called on to:**

- **COMMIT** to respecting, protecting and ensuring education for all children and youth to accelerate progress towards SDG4 by 2030. Advocate for the strong inclusion of education in emergencies in the *Pact for the Future* and the *Declaration on Future Generations*.
- **EMPHASISE** in plenary statements and interactive dialogues the critical importance of providing quality, safe and inclusive education to all children and young people, leaving no one behind.
- **PRIORITISE** the voices and needs of crisis-affected and displaced children, youth, and their families. The international community bears a responsibility to respond to their demands and champion meaningful participation.
- **ADVOCATE** for increased, multi-year and flexible financing for the education of all children and youth. With growing needs, the urgency to mobilise greater financial resources has never been more critical.



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