
UNESCO Education Sector

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation on which to build peace and drive sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education and the Education Sector provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens national education systems and responds to contemporary global challenges through education with a special focus on gender equality and Africa.



The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to *"ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."* The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



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1 Introduction

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) aims to ‘construct the defences of peace in the minds’ of its students. It promotes the values and principles of the Constitution of UNESCO and the Charter of the United Nations which include: fundamental rights and human dignity, gender equality, social progress, freedom, justice and democracy, respect for diversity and international solidarity.

The origins of ASPnet go back to 1953, when UNESCO launched a project called the ‘Scheme of Co-ordinated Experimental Activities in Education for Living in a World Community’. Today, ASPnet represents a global network of 11,700 educational institutions in 182 countries¹, which provide pre-primary, primary, secondary, technical and vocational education, or teacher training.

As a member of ASPnet, your institution is committed to supporting UNESCO’s mission and to translate its global goals into teaching, learning and concrete action.

About this guide

This guide is for everyone in your institution: the principal or director, the designated ASPnet focal point, teachers, staff, students, the school board and students’ families. It is for everyone involved in the development of the institution’s vision and culture, its policies and rules, its governance and day-to-day life, and the planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of activities in and outside classrooms.

It should also be used as a tool to communicate about the purpose and meaning of being an ASPnet member to the local community, local authorities and partners, visitors and the media. The guide is based on, and supplements, the Guide for ASPnet National Coordinators, which defines the overall governance structure of ASPnet and the roles and responsibilities of its different actors. To be distributed to all members of ASPnet around the world, this guide will help them to fully understand and play their role as models and pioneers in educating for peace and sustainable development, and to give their students the means and the space to grow and act as global citizens.

¹ As of 1 February 2019.

2 Belonging to ASPnet: What does it mean?

We are **committed** to contribute to UNESCO's mission of building peace in the world.

We place UNESCO's **values and objectives** prominently in the organization, policies, programmes, structures, lessons and projects of our institution.

We **teach and practise** human rights and human dignity, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, justice and democracy, respect for diversity and international solidarity.

We **belong to a global community** of like-minded schools and connect, share knowledge and experiences and develop joint projects with tens of thousands of principals, teachers and students around the world.

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network is open to all schools, in diverse contexts, with different conditions and resources.

It is not...

- A network of 'elite schools'
- Focused on academic excellence or institutional ranking

Membership is a voluntary commitment to contribute to peace, international understanding and sustainable development.

It is not...

- An award
- A 'quality label' for achievements

3 Being a member: What are the benefits?

Belonging to a global community of schools which has been recognized since 1953 for its role in sharing and disseminating values, in education for international understanding and in educational innovation

More meaningful and hands-on learning opportunities for our students, and new and diverse professional learning opportunities for our teachers

Access to thematic guidance, expert knowledge and teaching and learning resources from UNESCO

Opportunities for participation in global campaigns, celebrations and competitions on UNESCO priorities

Connecting, collaborating or twinning with partner schools in over 180 countries around the world

Access to the Online Platform for ASPnet (OTA) where every member can upload materials, photos and videos to share and then discover those of other members

Visibility for our activities through OTA, ASPnet social media pages and the UNESCO website, publications and reports

Authorization to use the logo 'Member of the UNESCO Associated Schools' in accordance with the UNESCO ASPnet Logo Guidelines (see ⑦)

Mutual learning and peer advice from exchanges with fellow ASPnet principals, teachers and students around the world

Access to selected opportunities for our teachers and students to participate online or face-to-face in national, regional or international conferences or fora



ASPnet membership is free of charge for all members.
There are no fees to be paid for applications, admission, certification or renewal of membership.

Holding the promise: What are our obligations?

We should uphold **UNESCO's values and principles**, and:

- a. **Submit** an **annual work plan** to our National Coordinator, with a description of the expected achievements
- b. **Send** an **annual report** to the National Coordinator, using the template provided by the date requested
- c. **Participate**, every school year, **in at least one global or regional** project, contest, or campaign proposed by UNESCO, or in a related national activity proposed by the National Coordinator
- d. **Celebrate**, every school year, at least two international days designated by the United Nations, to be selected from the ASPnet calendar on the Online Tool for ASPnet (OTA), involving the entire school community
- e. **Display** an **external sign** of ASPnet membership at the school, as instructed or provided by our National Coordinator
- f. **Inform** our school community about the ASPnet membership (for example, through staff, parent and student meetings, posters and the school website)
- g. **Update** our information (contact data, school statistics and activities) on the Online Tool for ASPnet at least twice every year, using the OTA Tutorial for members available from our National Coordinator or directly on the platform after logging in.

In addition to these requirements set by UNESCO, we may have obligations established by our National Coordinator. Membership has a fixed duration, which ranges from three to five years and is determined by our National Coordinator. Membership can be renewed, as long as we fulfil the required conditions. If we do not fulfil them, our National Coordinator will ask UNESCO to terminate our membership status.

5 Making the difference: How do we translate our commitment into action?

We engage **everyone** in our school – **leadership, teachers, staff, students and families** – in our efforts to make UNESCO's ideals real and tangible. This is called the **whole-school approach**.

We appoint an **ASPnet School Focal Point** and ensure that they have the necessary knowledge, information, time and support to play this role.

We provide a **safe, sustainable, non-violent, inclusive and effective** learning environment for all our students, female and male.

We emphasize the **four pillars** of education as defined in UNESCO's 1996 Report *Learning: The Treasure Within*: **(i) Learning to know; (ii) Learning to do; (iii) Learning to be; and (iv) Learning to live together.**

We pioneer **innovative, participatory and creative** methodologies and approaches in order to change and transform education systems and policies.

We **focus** on ASPnet's three thematic action areas :

1. Global citizenship and a culture of peace and non-violence
2. Sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles
3. Intercultural learning and the appreciation of cultural diversity and heritage

We **interact** with and **share** our experiences with our National Coordinator, with other schools, domestically and abroad, and with our community and different partners, in order to widen the impact of our activities.

6

Reaching out:

How can we share and show our work?

Regularly inform our National Coordinator and other members in our country through existing communication and reporting mechanisms.

Regularly update our school profile on the Online Tool for ASPnet (OTA) and upload documents, learning materials, photos and videos so that members worldwide can see them.

Participate in global UNESCO initiatives and follow the invitations to register our contributions on dedicated websites, on the Online Tool for ASPnet and on ASPnet social media:

@ Online Tool for ASPnet (OTA) <https://aspnet.unesco.org>

f <https://www.facebook.com/aspnet.aspnet>

t @ASPnetUNESCO #ASPnetUNESCO

Invite local personalities to our special events (such as celebrations of international days, exhibits and visits from other schools).

Inform local media about our membership and our activities.

Report regularly to our school and local community (for example, through our website or social media page, newsletter, flyers and notice boards).

Using the logo: What are the rules?

In order to demonstrate our institution's association with UNESCO, we are encouraged to use the UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo. We can obtain the logo from our National Coordinator. We have to respect the conditions of such use, established in accordance with the 'Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and internet domain names of UNESCO':

General Conditions

- The general conditions for the use of the UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo are determined by UNESCO and cannot be changed without prior written agreement of UNESCO.
- The UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo should be used with caution to not cause any misinterpretation by the general public about the respective and independent status of the National Coordinators, members and UNESCO.
- Under no circumstances can the UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo be used on items and products for sale.
- Publications bearing the UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo that are produced by members should feature a disclaimer such as '[School name] is responsible for the choice and presentation of views contained in this [material] and for opinions expressed therein, which are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit UNESCO to them'.
- Members can use the UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo for their own activities that are related to the Associated Schools Network, but they must not authorize others to use the UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo in any form whatsoever.
- The UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo can be used in black, in UN blue, or in white for dark backgrounds.

- The height of the temple symbol is used as a measurement for the size of the logo. When the logo is featured, the height of the temple symbol should never be smaller than 12 millimetres.
- The UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo can be placed either next to a member school's own logo or separately elsewhere.
- Members are fully responsible for the consequences arising out of their use of the UNESCO-ASPnet members' logo.

UNESCO-ASPnet logo for use by members

The logo below is the standard UNESCO-ASPnet logo that members should use:



The logo is composed of three parts:

- a. The logo of UNESCO which is composed of three inseparable elements: the temple symbol, the full name of the Organization and the vertical dotted line
- b. The emblem of ASPnet (symbol and text 'UNESCO Associated Schools');
- c. The text 'Member of'

! Members should under no circumstances use the UNESCO-ASPnet logo without the text "Member of", nor the UNESCO logo alone without the ASPnet emblem.



8 Looking for support: Where can we turn?

Contact
our ASPnet National
Coordinator

Liaise with
other ASPnet members
in our country

Regularly consult
UNESCO's ASPnet website
and log into the Online Tool
for ASPnet (OTA)
to find information, teaching
resources and ideas:
<https://aspnet.unesco.org>

Regularly visit
the national ASPnet
website, IT platform
or social media group

In consultation with our
National Coordinator, contact:

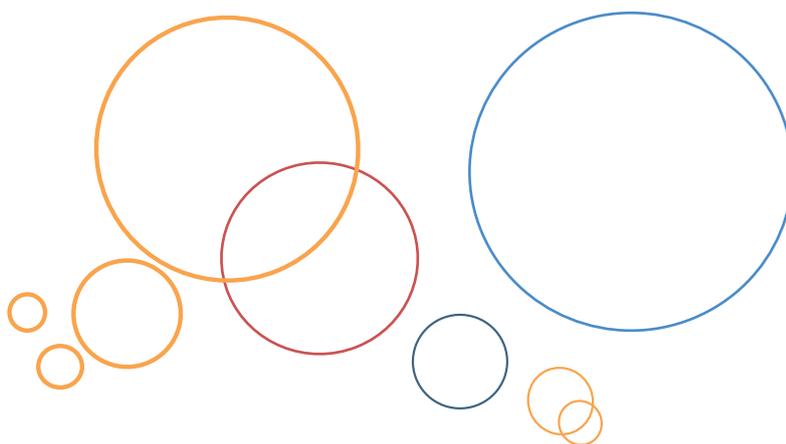
ASPnet members in other countries

—
National or local representatives of other
UNESCO networks – such as UNESCO Chairs,
Geoparks, Biospheres (MAB),
cultural heritage sites and Learning Cities

—
Local partners such as municipalities,
non-government organizations (NGOs),
universities, local businesses, research
institutes and libraries

9 Knowing the basics: What reference materials are available?²

- [UNESCO Constitution; UNESCO 1945](#)
- [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; United Nations 1948](#)
- [Transforming Our World - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; United Nations 2015](#)
- [Education 2030 – Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4; UNESCO 2015](#)
- [Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education related to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; UNESCO 1974](#)
- [UNESCO Associated Schools Network: Guide for National Coordinators; UNESCO 2018](#)
- Documents about the three ASPnet thematic action areas: Consult the [UNESCO ASPnet website](#)



² In the electronic version of this guide (available on <https://aspnet.unesco.org/>), just click on the hyperlinks to access the reference materials.



To stay informed about UNESCO's current action and priorities and ASPnet worldwide, visit the UNESCO ASPnet website regularly, as well as our Facebook and Twitter channels:

@ <https://aspnet.unesco.org/>

f <https://www.facebook.com/aspnet.aspnet>

t [@ASPnetUNESCO #ASPnetUNESCO ASPnetUNESCO](#)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Associated
Schools

UNESCO Associated Schools Network

Guide for Members

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