



**Asia-Europe Meeting**

**the ASEM Education Secretariat**

**Standing Working Group  
draft terms of reference**

**July 2019**

Standing Working Group
ASEM Education Process – Standing Working Group (SWG)
Contact Persons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ Chairs (TBD):</li> <li>✘ ASEM Education Secretariat: <a href="mailto:david.urban@vlaanderen.ond.be">david.urban@vlaanderen.ond.be</a></li> </ul>
Composition / Target group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ Senior officials or their representatives from ASEM Partner countries</li> <li>✘ Representatives from ASEM Education Stakeholders</li> </ul> <p>There should be a balance between Asian and European participants as well as representatives from ASEM Partner countries and ASEM Stakeholders</p>
Reference to Policy Background Papers
<p><b>ASEM Education Stocktaking Report “From Seoul to Bucharest” (Bucharest, May 2019)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ <i>Task 8: Recommendation (20): Establish a Standing Working Group (SWG) to support the AES in its <b>strategic work</b>, by the next ASEMME8 in 2021;</i></li> <li>✘ <i>Recommendation from the AES: In order to support the AES in its strategic work in the short-term, a Standing Working Group (SWG) could be set up. [...] Together with the AES, the SWG should discuss and analyse themes related to ASEM Education, <b>prepare policy recommendations and propose an action plan</b> to make the AEP more effective and sustainable;</i></li> <li>✘ <i>(p.61): For the short term: establish a Standing Working Group (SWG) to support the AES in its <b>strategic work</b> (e.g. SWG could explore how the four AEP priority areas and related initiatives can <b>contribute to implementing SDG4</b> and make progress in achieving an inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all);</i></li> <li>✘ <i>(p.72) To conclude, the Secretariat believes that the proposed AEP Vision 2030 document including its action plans could be drafted with assistance of ASEM Education Senior Officials and stakeholders through a Standing Working group, to <b>cultivate synergies between four thematic priorities, to stimulate involvement of all ASEM partners and stakeholders as well as to connect the AEP towards other relevant international policy arenas.</b></i></li> </ul>

## Chair's Conclusions ASEM ME7 (Bucharest, May 2019)

Ministers invited Senior Officials:

- ✘ (54) To establish a **permanent Standing Working Group** with Terms of Reference (ToR) to support the ASEM Education Secretariat in the **strategic work of the ASEM Education Process** (development of **strategy paper and action plan including the monitoring of the action plan**). The Ministers believed that this permanent Standing Working Group can **assist** the ASEM Education Secretariat in preserving coherence and a result-oriented approach within the ASEM Education Process. The Ministers also encouraged the Standing Working Group to provide the support needed to the ASEM Education Secretariat to meet comprehensive challenges in a **long-term perspective in order to avoid loss of expertise** and to ensure sustainability and continuity.

Ministers mandated the ASEM Education Secretariat:

- ✘ (59) To facilitate and coordinate the preparation and **drafting of an ASEM Education Process Vision 2030 strategy paper** in cooperation with Senior Officials and the hosts of SOM1 and SOM2 of ASEM ME8 as well as the Standing Working Group.

## Bucharest Statement (Bucharest, May 2019)

Education ministers and heads of delegations of ASEM partner countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as representatives of ASEM stakeholders

- ✘ **(7) Agree** that the ASEM Education Process can contribute to realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- ✘ **(8) Welcome** the proposal to link the ASEM Education Process more explicitly to the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 by introducing "Sustainable Development" as a first transversal theme within the four priority areas of the ASEM Education Process;
- ✘ **(9) Welcome** the proposal to include "Digitalisation" as a second transversal theme within the four priority areas of the ASEM Education Process, considering that digitalisation can create opportunities to support connectivity and collaboration between Asia and Europe;
- ✘ **(10) Ask** the senior officials to develop a strategy paper on the ASEM Education Process Vision 2030 during SOM1 and SOM2 of the 8th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting to be presented in the ASEMME8 in 2021 for discussion and adoption.

## State of the Art

The Standing Working Group (SWG) is established in order to support the AES in its strategic work and to develop a strategy paper and action plan (Strategy 2030).

## Purpose and Intended Outcomes

### ✖ Purpose

To set up a SWG that supports the AES in the development of a **vision** and the **monitoring** of its action plan;

The work of SWG should reflect the ASEM Education commitment to considering **SDGs** and **Digitalisation** as transversal themes of the ASEM Education Process;

The developed strategy paper and action plan should facilitate the work of the AES in preparing some **guidelines** gathering common principles, standardised rules of procedures of the AES in order **to assure effective transition and guidance of the next secretariat(s)**.

### ✖ Intended Outcomes

A proposition of a ASEM Education Process 2030 Vision to be presented during ASEM ME8;  
Draft guidelines for future secretariat(s).

## Intended Schedule

- ✖ December 2019: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (kick-off) in Berlin. First Brainstorming, identifying goals and setting up ToR and work schedule;
- ✖ Spring 2020 (back-to-back ISOM or during ISOM): 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Second Brainstorming, identifying inclusion of transversal themes SDG and Digitalisation;
- ✖ Autumn 2020 (back-to-back SOM1 or during SOM1): 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting: first draft of a 2030 ASEM Education vision, first draft of AES guidelines;
- ✖ Spring 2021 (during SOM2): presentation of the proposition of a 2030 ASEM Education vision and presentation of second draft of AES guidelines;
- ✖ Spring 2021 (during ASEM ME8): presentation of a 2030 ASEM Education vision and presentation of final draft AES guidelines.

Between physical meetings, video conferences might be scheduled in order to share presentations and / or feedback of the SWG.

### Further Steps

- ✘ End of July, ASEM Education Secretariat launches invitation to join the SWG in December;
- ✘ During the kick-off meeting, the SWG will chose its Chair(s) that will coordinate the Standing Working Group in close cooperation with the ASEM Education Secretariat;
- ✘ The participating countries should discuss and finalise these ToR and agree on the Standing Working Group's operating principles.

### Additional Remarks

✘