



Concept Note

Regional CONFINTEA VII Follow-up
Conference for Asia

UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)
UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok

30 May 2023

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Background

The [seventh International Conference on Adult Education \(CONFINTEA VII\)](#), which took place in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, from 15 to 17 June 2022, took stock of the challenges and identified future priorities in the field of adult learning and education (ALE) within a lifelong learning perspective, in the context of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was the first CONFINTEA to take place since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the most significant event for the international ALE community in the lead-up to 2030, the target year for the achievement of the SDGs. The discussions and agenda of CONFINTEA VII were informed by the outcomes of the regional and sub-regional preparatory conferences, which identified specific regional key issues, considered future prospects for ALE policy and practice, and suggested benchmarks and recommendations for global commitments.

The main outcome of CONFINTEA VII was the adoption of the [Marrakech Framework for Action \(MFA\)](#). The MFA, which replaces the Belém Framework for Action (BFA), will play a significant role in guiding the development and implementation of effective adult learning and education (ALE) policies and practices over the next decade. The MFA sets out the key areas for action required to ensure equitable learning opportunities for all and to create a culture of lifelong learning through a holistic approach that encompasses all types of youth and adult learning (formal, non-formal and informal), and various learning sites, including in-person as well as online and blended learning. In particular, Member States committed to enhancing governance mechanisms and monitoring frameworks as well as improving the quality of adult learning and education backed by increased investment. Moreover, they committed to placing inclusion and gender equality at the heart of these endeavors to ensure that those most often left behind benefit from lifelong learning, have equal opportunities to learn and become active citizens.

Against these commitments, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) together with UNESCO Bangkok office aims to organize a regional conference to promote the priority areas of the MFA and discuss the regional actions that could assist UNESCO Member States to meet those commitments in line with achieving the SDGs.

The conference will provide an opportunity to relevant stakeholders working in the field of lifelong learning and adult learning and education (ALE) to engage in in-depth discussions, drawing on their distinctive national experiences and perspectives to determine the tools and mechanisms necessary to establish an inclusive lifelong learning systems and gender-responsive ALE. The main outputs generated during the conference will be summarized and formulated as action points geared towards meeting the commitments made in the MFA.

Aims:

The overall aim of the regional conference is to determine feasible actions on regional and national level to support Member States in Asia, namely Southeast Asia, East Asia and South Asia to develop and implement inclusive youth and adult learning and education policies and activities within a lifelong learning perspective and thus meet the commitments made in the MFA.

Main objectives:

- To contextualize the Marrakech Framework for Action and identify [areas of action](#) and for cooperation.
- To identify and share good national practices and innovations in adult learning and education, in particular in the key priority areas for the region (e.g., legal, fiscal or governance measures to advance lifelong learning systems, flexible education pathways and instruments to advance equity and stakeholder collaboration)
- Agree on a regional follow-up mechanism (such as an online community of practice) to take stock of the implementation of the regional action points and to allow for exchanging experiences and good practices on regular basis.
- Outline prospects on monitoring mechanisms, ALE budget, forward-looking strategies and [ALE's role in the region](#) in light of the SDGs and [Bangkok Statement](#) adopted in APREMCII in June 2022; and identify key action points for the implementation of the MFA.

Main expected outcomes:

- The Marrakech Framework for Action is presented and gaps, priorities and needs are analysed with reference to the recommendations outlined in the MFA.
- Feasible action points are identified to implement and meet the commitments made in the MFA with a focus on policies, funding, provision and quality and governance, as well as monitoring and evaluation.
- A follow-up mechanism is introduced to track progress made in implementing the agreed regional action points and exchange good practices (in particular in the key priority areas of the region).
- Resources and materials to support implementation are accumulated into the communities of practice (CoPs) hosted on the UIL Learning Hub

Partners:

- UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning
- UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok
- UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Offices in Beijing, Jakarta and New Delhi
- ASPBAE

Participants:

- Nominated government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), ALE experts and providers, including academia.

Date, venue, and logistics:

The online conference will be organized on online modality in 30th May 2023, 13.00-16.00 (UTC +7).

Please register [here](#) or share this registration link to your nominees.

Personal zoom link will be provided to registered participants.

Agenda:

Provisional Agenda 30 May 2023 – 13:00-16:00 (UTC +7)	
Time (3 hrs)	Facilitator: <i>Mr Ilja Riecki, Lifelong Learning and Literacy team, EISD, UNESCO Bangkok</i>
15 minutes	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks, <i>Ms Rika Yorozu, Head of Executive Office, UNESCO Bangkok</i> • Welcome remarks, <i>Dr Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela, UIL Governing Board Member, Education Advisor, Future of Education of ASEAN, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community R&D Platform, ASEAN Secretariat</i>
50 minutes	Marrakech Framework for Action and monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities, challenges and recommendations based on regional consultation and preparatory meeting, <i>Ms Sowirin Chuanprapun, Project Officer, Lifelong Learning and Literacy team, EISD, UNESCO Bangkok</i> • Presentation of the main outcomes of CONFINTEA VII and Marrakech Framework for Action (MFA), methodological framework for monitoring the MFA, and of the new generation of the Global Report on Adult learning and Education (GRALE), <i>Mr Nicolas Jonas, Team Leader, Inclusive Learning Programme, UIL</i> Q&A
10 minutes	Break
1 hour 15 min	Implementation of the MFA Perspectives from Asia region and sharing of best practices in the priority areas: lessons learnt <i>Innovations and promising practices in adult education and lifelong learning, in the priority areas of implementation of the MFA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India: National Education Policy and Implementation of lifelong learning through Good Practices. <i>Dr Anita Priyadarshini, Professor in Distance Education, Indira Gandhi National Open University, India.</i> • Is Adult Education in Vietnam responding to the Marrakech Framework for Action? <i>Mr Khau Huu Phuoc, Research and Training Manager, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning (SEAMEO CELLL), Viet Nam.</i> • Development the plan of digital literacy for the literate students in the era of Covid-19. <i>Mr Ali Reza Abdi Head of the Literacy Movement Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</i> Stakeholder perspectives and contribution to lifelong learning development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Recommendations in the Implementation and Monitoring of CONFINTEA VII Marrakech Framework for Action. <i>Atty. Helen Dabu, Secretary-General, Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)</i> Q&A
20 minutes	Introduction to the CoPs To explain the aim of the communities of practice (CoPs) hosted on the UIL Learning Hub, <i>Ms Katharina Duermeier, Consultant, Inclusive Learning Programme, UIL</i> Q&A
10 minutes	Closing remarks

- *Mr Nicolas Jonas, Team Leader, UIL*

To sum up the points raised during the conference, introduce the survey for collecting national strategies and practices, and to remind the purpose of the CoPs.

UNESCO – a global leader in education

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation for peace and sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education, providing global and regional leadership to drive progress, strengthening the resilience and capacity of national systems to serve all learners and responding to contemporary global challenges through transformative learning, with special focus on gender equality and Africa across all actions.

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.



Stay in touch

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