MANIFESTO ON SDG 04

PRME CHAMPIONS 2023 CYCLE
MANIFESTO ON SDG 04: QUALITY EDUCATION

In 2015, 193 Nations unanimously adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda is a global framework of 17 SDGs with 169 targets which aims to create a world that leaves no one behind by ensuring that all signatory nations commit to programs and resources that alleviate hunger and poverty, achieve human rights, gender equality, and reduce inequalities so that all walks of life are empowered to pursue a life without inequality, provide quality education and universal health care, celebrate cultural diversity and culture’s contribution to sustainable development, nurture a healthy planet on land and in water, and preserve strong institutional frameworks that enhance justice, responsibility, transparency and accountability.

At the halfway mark to the 2030 Agenda, only 15% of the SDGs are on target. More than half are severely or moderately off-target, and one third have regressed or are below the baseline set in 2015. SDG Progress Assessment* shows that while there is some progress in achieving targets, SDG 4 – Quality Education has yet to show any achievement. SDG 4 is largely regressing or stagnating, particularly in the targets related to effective learning outcomes, scholarships, qualified teachers and early childhood education.

As leaders in the space of responsible management education, PRME Champions commit to responding to the global systemic challenges identified by the UN SDGs. In September, representatives of the 2023 Champions cycle gathered in Lisbon, Portugal to address the challenges and opportunities facing responsible management education in the ‘Halfway through the 2030 Agenda’ sessions, specifically focusing on SDG 4.

Responding to this evidence, the PRME Champions agreed to draft a Manifesto, to call out to PRME Champions and PRME Signatories to reaffirm their commitment to accelerate the implementation of SDG 4 and the associated targets through research, education and advocacy.

The manifesto

As Champions for PRME, we agree to:

1. Reaffirm our commitment to Agenda 2030, to amplify progress to SDG 4 - Quality Education, and to increase our collective efforts to accelerate the implementation of targets related to SDG 4 as a catalyst for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Reiterate our shared commitment to be engaged and committed Champions for PRME and as Champions and PRME signatories, motivate and mentor the PRME Signatories to amplify implementation of SDG 4.

3. We will seek out opportunities in our individual institutions, accelerate the delivery of sustainable development content in our teaching, amplify knowledge dissemination of our research by participating in academic conferences across our discipline and engage in community events as PRME Champions.

4. We will leverage on our individual networks across the globe and strengthen our cooperation with our networks to share resources and cooperate on responsible management research and education.

5. PRME Champions commit to submitting proposals for professional development workshops and symposia that highlight PRME vision, goals and programs to advance sustainable development and the SDGs at academic conferences they attend.

6. We affirm our commitment to identifying opportunities and amplifying advocacy with policymakers and regulators to influence public policy for responsible management education in secondary and post-secondary institutions.

7. We call on all policymakers to commit to address the indicators underlying SDG 4, particularly in relation to tertiary education and skills for prosperity and peace. PRME Champions have an open offer to contribute to policy development in this area.

8. PRME Champions commit to pursuing opportunities for media interviews to raise awareness of the gap in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the implication for quality education, as well as advocating for the positive initiatives that contribute to advancements in quality education and the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. PRME Champions commit to meeting on a quarterly basis to address issues and achievements identified in this manifesto.

10. PRME Champions commit to acknowledging and appreciating the diversity of educational systems, including the role of community engagement, access, indigenous knowledge and cultural diversity in achieving sustainable development.

This Manifesto is endorsed and supported by the following PRME Champions Representatives.
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