

#ClimatEducaid22

Dear Madam Minister,

On behalf of all members of Educaid.be, I wish to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as Federal Minister for Development Cooperation. We wish you all the best in your new position.

Educaid.be is a national platform uniting institutions, organisations and individuals working in the education and training sector in the Belgian development cooperation. The platform serves to strengthen the knowledge and expertise of its members and support Belgian education policy in relation to human and economic development. Educaid.be aims to build a world in which all children and young people - regardless of their gender, age, abilities, socio-economic situation or migration background - have equal access to quality, inclusive and sustainable education. The platform is a member of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and draws inspiration from the UNESCO Global Education Coalition.

Every year, Educaid.be organises an international conference on a specific educational topic. These conferences contribute to a better understanding of various current challenges within the education sector and are mainly addressed to the members of Educaid.be and other interested actors, both at Belgian and international level.

The conference on "The cross-impact of climate change and education", which took place on 20 and 21 October 2022 in Brussels, highlighted **the role of education as a critical agent in addressing the issue of climate change**. During the conference, we explored several avenues for change, but the work is far from being over. This conference was only the beginning. **More than ever, we need to support learners, teachers, school leaders, policy makers and all others involved in education to give children and youth the tools to know, act and have a voice in the fight against climate change.**

With this 12th international conference, Educaid.be confirms once again its role as a reliable partner in the education and training sector.

In 2021, UNICEF published a report showing that the climate crisis is first and foremost a crisis of children's rights and that 1 billion children live in one of the 33 countries classified as 'at very high risk' of being exposed to multiple climate and environmental shocks. In 2022, we saw how millions of children in countries such as Pakistan, Nigeria and the Sahel could no longer attend school due to floods or extreme drought. Globally, there are 40 million children each year for whom the right to education is threatened by the effects of global warming.

The **Education Cannot Wait High-Level Financing conference on education funding on 16 and 17 February 2023 in Geneva**, is an opportunity to renew commitments to the millions of children and young people left behind in crisis. We encourage Belgium to be part of this and contribute to this renewal of funds.

We are happy to share with you the recommendations emerged from the Educaid.be conference on the cross-impact of climate change and education. We hope these will help to continue efforts to support education and the fight against climate change. We remain at your disposition for further reflection and support in implementing your policies.

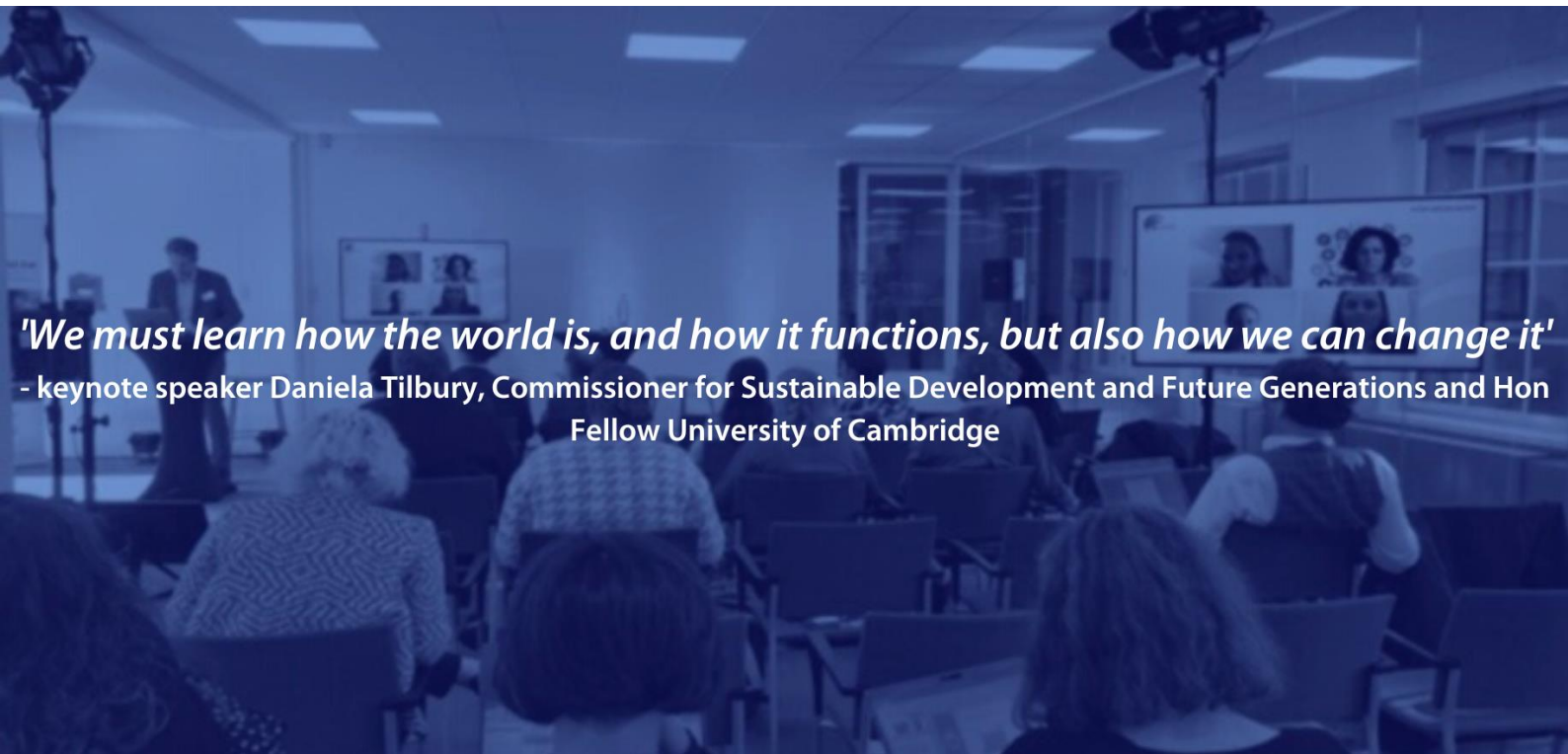
On behalf of Educaid.be,
Marije van Breda



The conference in facts and figures:

On 20 and 21 October 2022, Educaid.be organised a hybrid conference on education and climate change. For the organisation of this international event, we could count on the support of the Belgian government, VVOB - *education for development*, APEFE, Enabel, UNICEF Belgium and IFEF (Institut de la Francophonie pour l'éducation et la Formation)/OIF (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie) as external partner.

There were 37 speakers from 14 countries and various organisations. Among these 37 speakers, 13 were present in Brussels. The other speakers, outside Belgium, participated remotely to reduce our ecological footprint. During the two days, we registered 213 participants, 135 online and 78 in Brussels. The speakers' presentations were downloaded 444 times and the recordings were viewed 260 times via our YouTube channel after the event. The #ClimatEducaid2022 allowed the discussion to be continued via social media.



'We must learn how the world is, and how it functions, but also how we can change it'

- keynote speaker Daniela Tilbury, Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations and Honorary Fellow University of Cambridge

Recommendations to address the cross-impact of education and climate change

1. Support the professional development of all education actors on an ongoing basis by

- providing knowledge on climate change to all teachers throughout their careers;
- developing accessible, free and quality training on climate change with and for teachers;
- assessing the impact of local and international government initiatives that engage teachers in climate action.

2. Integrate climate change into curricula by

- giving climate change a prominent position within education on sustainable development and supporting the development of environmentally friendly curricula;
- organising school trips to places where the effects of climate change are clearly visible;
- motivating teachers and students to organise competitions, study trips or other relevant projects where they can actively contribute to climate processes and by giving young people a voice in international events.

3. Promote partnerships between the climate and education sectors (multisectoral approach) by

- setting up partnerships between public and private sector actors and civil society to organise climate actions in schools (e.g. greening of schools, use of renewable energy sources, sustainable food in school canteens ...);
- focusing on the role that higher education can play in finding and setting up innovative educational projects on climate change.

4. Promote equitable and inclusive participation of all change agents by

- ensuring that teachers, trade unions, student organisations, local communities and indigenous peoples are involved in the development of education and climate policies;
- supporting children, youth and students in their role as change agents by providing technical and financial resources so that they can fulfil this role and be heard in national and international decision-making and events.

5. Promote green and climate-resilient school infrastructure and facilities by

- supporting communities when building green schools and involving end-users in the design process
- organising the maintenance, repair and recycling of electronic equipment for remote learning;
- ensuring that all educational facilities are safe, climate-proof and sustainable.

6. Learn from good practices and scale them up by

- establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for discussion and exchange on climate change and education;
- appreciating strategies for sustainability, supporting and scaling up successful environmental education projects;
- recognising and teaching the diverse knowledge and traditions that embody the deep interconnectivity of humans and nature.

Annex

Participating organisations #ClimatEducaid2022

- APEFE - Association pour la Promotion de l'Education et de la Formation à l'Etranger
- VVOB - *education for development*
- OIF - Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- IFADEM - Initiative francophone pour la formation à distance des maîtres
- IFEF - Institute of the Francophonie for Education and TVET
- Enabel – Belgian Development agency and his programme BeGlobal (Global Citizenship Education)
- UNICEF Belgium
- Via Don Bosco
- IFDD - Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement durable
- Moisés Bertoni Foundation – Paraguay
- ULB Coopération
- ISTOM - Ecole Supérieure d'agro-développement International
- EdHeroes
- OFPROBOL Bolivia
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- Education International
- Join for Water - SECORES (The Network for Social-Ecological Resilience)
- Be-cause health
- Forum des Jeunes, Belgium
- Alarm Cards for Action (AC4A) - Belgium
- Texaf Bilembo RD Congo