



**Asia-Europe Meeting**

**the ASEM Education Secretariat**

# **Standing Working Group Terms of Reference**

**December 2019**

<b>Standing Working Group</b>
ASEM Education Process – Standing Working Group (SWG)
<b>Contact Persons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ ASEM Education Secretariat: <a href="mailto:nadia.reynders@vlaanderen.ond.be">nadia.reynders@vlaanderen.ond.be</a></li> </ul>
<b>Chair</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ Chairs: India (until ISOM), Thailand (between ISOM and ASEMME8) and Germany (December 2019-ASEMME8)</li> </ul>
<b>Reference period</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ 10 December 2019 – ASEMME8</li> <li>✘ The Terms of Reference can be updated after the finalisation of the development of the Vision &amp; Strategy 2030 upon the agreement of the Standing Working Group</li> </ul>
<b>Composition</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ Senior officials of the following ASEM Partner countries: Austria, Belgium (Flemish Community), Belgium (French Community), France, Germany, India, Latvia, Malaysia, Thailand, The Netherlands</li> <li>✘ Representatives from ASEM Education Stakeholder organisations: DAAD, Erasmus Student Network (ESN), European University Association (EUA), Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF), European Training Foundation (ETF), Asia-Europe Institute, ASEAN University Network (AUN), SEAMEO RIHED and UNESCO.</li> </ul>
<b>Reference Documents</b>
<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</b></i></li> </ul>

**recommendations and propose an action plan** to make the AEP more effective and sustainable;

- ✘ (p.61): For the short term: establish a Standing Working Group (SWG) to support the AES in its **strategic work** (e.g. SWG could explore how the four AEP priority areas and related initiatives can **contribute to implementing SDG4** and make progress in achieving an inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all);
- ✘ (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 **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.**

### **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.

### Objective of the Standing Working Group (December 2019-ASEMME8)

The Standing Working Group (SWG) is established on 9 December 2019 in Berlin in order to support the AES in its strategic work and to develop a strategy paper and action plan (Strategy 2030).

### Tasks of the Standing Working Group

- ✘ The SWG proposes the content of the Vision & Strategy 2030
- ✘ The SWG drafts the Vision & Strategy 2030
- ✘ The SWG collects input and feedback from other partners and stakeholders during Senior Officials Meetings on the Vision & Strategy 2030

### Tasks of the Chairs

- ✘ Preparing and Moderating the SWG meetings (with support of the AES)
- ✘ Coordinating the tasks to be carried out according to the plan (roadmap) with support of the AES
- ✘ Finding compromises and agreements in case of disagreement amongst SWG members

### Aims of the ASEM Education Vision & Strategy 2030

- ✘ To provide a common long-term strategy for the AEP for enhanced connectivity between Asia and Europe including relevant values, vision, mission and objectives in line with international and regional frameworks and strategies;
- ✘ To increase visibility and recognition for more commitment of ASEM Education partners and stakeholders.

- ✘ To provide a framework for developing and implementing result-oriented initiatives & projects (Chair's Conclusions and/or action plan) and for analysis, monitoring and evaluation (Stocktaking Report).

### **Intended Schedule of SWG Meetings**

- ✘ December 2019: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (kick-off) in Berlin. First Brainstorming, identifying goals and setting up ToR and working schedule;
- ✘ Spring 2020 (back-to-back ISOM or during ISOM): 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Discussion of Zero draft/discussion paper to be discussed during ISOM.
- ✘ Autumn 2020 (back-to-back SOM1 or during SOM1): 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting: first draft of an ASEM Education vision & Strategy 2030
- ✘ Spring 2021 (during SOM2): Final Draft of an ASEM Education vision & Strategy 2030
- ✘ Spring 2021 (during ASEM ME8): presentation and endorsement of an ASEM Education vision & Strategy 2030

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

### **Further Steps**

- ✘ Further tasks for the development of the Vision & Strategy 2030 are carried out according to the Road map and plan developed during the Kick-Off Meeting 9-10 December.