



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for Education

Dr Rita Luthra
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Dear Dr Luthra,

On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to thank you for your letter dated 5 March 2021, in which you present your initiatives to improve health and educational opportunities for girls and women worldwide.

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for these initiatives. We believe that it is very important for the international community to reaffirm and renew its commitment to health and education for girls and women. As we launch the Generation Equality Forum to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, we welcome your timely endeavours to improve maternal and child health, as well as to support girls' access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and build knowledge and skills on adolescent girls' health status.

As you may be aware, UNESCO's mandate in education is primarily focused on young people in educational institutions. Our Section of Health and Education seeks to provide technical guidance on comprehensive sexuality education and on safe, inclusive and health-promoting learning environments. Our Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality works to strengthen education systems to be gender-transformative and promote gender equality, and empower girls and women through education for a better life and future.

UNESCO staff welcome the opportunity to contribute to relevant conferences or meetings related to our thematic areas of expertise and will consider invitations to speak at events on a case-by-case basis.

Wishing you the very best of success in your activities,

Stefania Giannini