

Executive Summary

The role of education in supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation has been underestimated for a long time. The critical role of education and training in climate change was given the stamp of approval in the Paris Agreement and its Article 12 which states the role of education in meeting the national climate plans (nationally determined contributions, NDCs). This report presents an analysis of 17 case studies from across the world using education as a powerful catalyst for effective climate action.

The findings of this case study analysis suggest that education has been successful in supporting the achievement of the Paris agenda at many different levels. Firstly because the factors that lead to climate change are very closely connected to individual lifestyles and the current paradigm of development, any change in these factors can only happen with a change in human attitudes and behavior. Education is the only way by which such change can be instigated. Yet the priority accorded to education during international policy discussions remains marginal. Secondly, the achievement of the Paris long-term goals on climate change mitigation and adaptation is imperative if global society is to become sustainable. Awareness, knowledge and skills are required to implement the targets and the roadmaps which were developed for the current NDCs. Future NDCs must include educational components to strengthen their approaches. Thirdly, education under the UNFCCC can and should be discussed in conjunction with Education for Sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda.