



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

**Belize City, BELIZE 16 SEPTEMBER 2022.** An official delegation from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology has left Belize to participate in the **UN Transforming Education Summit (TES)** and side events taking place in New York from 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. TES is a UN Secretary-General convened global meeting to mobilize action, ambition, solidarity, and solutions with a view to transforming education by 2030.

Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Hon. Francis Fonseca, leads the delegation alongside Minister of State in the Ministry, Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh and Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Dian Maheia. The delegation will attend several events including the **TES Global Citizenship Education Perspectives Side Event** scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> September at the United Nations Headquarters. Organized by the Ban Ki-Moon Centre for Global Citizens (BKMC) UNESCO, and the Republic of Korea and Finland; this event convenes education leaders to discuss significant initiatives in transforming education. As a highlight, Minister Fonseca will be speaking on Belize's partnership with UNICEF, Think Equal and the Giga Initiative to provide digital devices for all students from primary through to secondary school and to expand the internet infrastructure to increase access to the internet across campuses.

Additionally, Minister Fonseca will be a panelist at the **Mission 4.7** event taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> September under the theme: "Transforming education for prosperity, people and the planet." Members of this Ministerial panel will share country-specific best practices in education strategy and policy. As a forerunner to the Summit, national consultations have been held in over 100 participating countries including Belize where 7 sessions with education stakeholders and students were held in August. The delegation will attend the main conference taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> September where Minister Fonseca will discuss, with other global leaders, Belize's National Statement of Commitment to prioritize actions to transform education for our youngest citizens. These include recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring sustainable public financing and mainstreaming digital transformation for teacher training and student learning.

UNICEF Belize supported the delegation to participate in the Summit. Alison Parker, UNICEF Representative to Belize, commented on the significance of the meeting. "The Transforming Education Summit is a unique opportunity to convene education leaders to recover, reimagine and revolutionize education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Member countries and agencies from across the UN system will participate to tackle the global learning crisis and commit to inclusive and innovative solutions to improve learning for children. UNICEF is happy to support this process for the benefit of the children of Belize."

Belize's participation at the Summit provides opportunities to showcase the great milestones accomplished, despite the challenges of the pandemic, and to have access to global networks and leaders to advance Belize's education agenda. The MoECST remains committed to transforming education to build a better future for every child in Belize.

Additional information on the Transforming Education Summit is available at: <https://www.un.org/en/transforming-education-summit>

Ends