

World Teachers' Day

Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession,
advancing its status and shaping our futures

5 October 2026, UNESCO Headquarters

Global celebration



Provisional programme

Time (UTC+2)	Session
08:30 – 09:10	Welcome coffee

World Teachers' Day ceremony

09:10 – 09:50	Welcome message and musical interlude Opening remarks by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Khaled El-Enany Interactive activity with the audience Keynote by Prof Gert Biesta , Professor of Education, University of Melbourne, and Adjunct Professor, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, on the 60 th anniversary of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (1966)
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09:50 – 10:45	Panel discussion with the co-conveners of World Teachers’ Day - Mr Qun Chen, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO - Ms Vera Paquete-Perdigão, Director of Labour Governance & Sectoral Policies Department, ILO - Ms Brenda Haiplik, Global Lead Teacher Development and Workforce, UNICEF - Mr David Edwards, General Secretary, Education International Musical interlude
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UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development award ceremony

10:45 – 12:30	Opening remarks by UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Education, Mr Qun Chen Presentation of the 10 finalists’ teacher development programmes - Recognition of the International Jury - Video celebrating the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize - Thematic discussions with the 10 Prize finalists Remarks by His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates Announcement of the three laureates
13:00 – 14:30	High-level lunch (<i>by invitation only</i>)

Afternoon panel discussion

15:00 – 17:00	Rethinking and elevating the status of teachers: Thematic conversation with Ministers of Education, teachers and international experts
17:00 – 17:30	Visit to the exhibition of finalists’ projects
17:30 – 19:00	Closing reception of World Teachers’ Day 2026