

Annotated Agenda

ROUNDTABLE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION IN CENTRAL ASIA AND MONGOLIA

Fostering Regional Co-operation through Multilingual Education in Central Asia and Mongolia

Ashgabat, 22 October 2026

1. Annotated Agenda

This is a one-day event, running from 09:30 to 17:30, with a transfer from the Olimpia Hotel at 08:30, followed by a reception. The working languages are English and Russian, with interpretation provided. Timings are indicative and remain subject to the preparatory working group.

Arrival and Preparation – 20 October (evening) and 21 October

- Arrivals of delegations.
- Meetings of the HCNM with interested delegations of participating States to discuss the draft outcome document (joint communiqué), which will be circulated in advance; these meetings will be arranged bilaterally.
- For delegations arriving early: there will be time for bilateral contacts between delegations and the host country.
- Opportunity to participate in a cultural activity organised by the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan.

Event Day – 22 October

Timing	Session	Description	Speakers
08:30–09:00	Transfer	Transfer from the Olimpia Hotel to the Yyldyz Hotel for delegations staying at the Olimpia Hotel. Meeting at 8:30 in the Hotel Lobby.	—
09:00–09:30	Registration	Registration and welcome coffee at the Yyldyz Hotel.	—
09:30–10:15	Opening	Opening remarks	Minister of Education of Turkmenistan High Commissioner on National Minorities
10:15–11:45	Session I: Country experiences	Interventions of up to ten minutes by each delegation on their national experience, successes, challenges and priorities in language-in-education policy. Reflections, comments and questions from the room.	All delegations Eleonora Lotti, HCNM Senior Adviser and Head of Section (moderation)
11:45–12:05	Tea and coffee		—
12:05–13:30	Session II: Expert panel	Panel discussion on international evidence and on comparative experience from outside the region. - Meirgul Alpysbayeva (National Professional Officer for Education, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office): <i>UNESCO's global guidance on multilingual education, and processes in</i>	Peter Naderer, HCNM Senior Adviser (moderation) Expert panellists

other regions.

- Atanasia Stoyanova (HCNM Cross-Regional Lead Expert on Multilingual Education and principal lead for the HCNM Central Asia Education Programme): *Lessons learned from MLE programming in the OSCE area, in particular Moldova.*
- Ruanni Tupas (Professor of Language, Politics and Education, Department of Communication, Culture and Media, IOE, UCL Faculty of Education and Society, University College London): *Evidence on MLE beyond the OSCE area, in particular South-East Asia, including Singapore and the Philippines.*

Followed by questions and reflections

13:30–14:30	Lunch	—	—
14:30–16:15	Session Areas regional operation	III: for co-	Discussion of the themes for potential regional co-operation proposed in advance to delegations. Each delegation is asked to share its own experience and to offer suggestions for regional collaboration, in a single initial statement of up to seven minutes covering the themes it wishes to address. International partners and observers may contribute their views and indicate what could be supported. All delegations International partners Peter Naderer, HCNM Senior Adviser (moderation)
16:15–16:30	Tea and coffee	—	—
16:30–17:15	Session Outcome document	IV:	Discussion of the draft outcome document, circulated in advance. All delegations High Commissioner on National Minorities (moderation)
17:15–17:30	Closing	Concluding remarks	Minister of Education of Turkmenistan High Commissioner on National Minorities (moderation and concluding remarks)
from 17:30	Reception	Closing reception with roundtable participants, at the Yyldyz Hotel	All participants

Departure Day – 23 October

Departure of delegations

2. Session Notes and Guiding Questions

Delegations are asked to **prepare two interventions**. The first, in Session I, is an account of their own domestic experience, of up to ten minutes. The second, in Session III, is a statement of up to seven minutes on the themes for regional co-operation, which are detailed below.

Session I: (Country experiences) Each delegation is invited to **speak for up to ten minutes** on its domestic context regarding languages in education, including multilingual education, guided by the questions below.

- Which languages are currently used as languages of instruction in your system, and for how many learners? How does the system function? What are successes and challenges of your particular approach?
- How is the State language taught to learners whose first language is different, and how are those teachers prepared and certified? How are first languages taught? Do you implement specific language-related methodologies in your educational systems? Do you implement multilingual education models?
- What has changed in your Ministry's policy in this field over the past five years, and what is planned?

Session II: (Expert panel on evidence and practice beyond Central Asia) A panel discussion among experts on international evidence, and lessons learned, as well as on comparative experiences from outside the region. Principal examples may include Singapore, Moldova, and others.

Session III: (Areas for regional co-operation) The session is organised around several themes, as proposed below. These themes are an initial suggestion. They remain open to addition, amendment and removal in light of the discussions in the roundtable itself.

Each delegation will be invited to share their experience with some of the themes below and indicate proposals for where regional collaboration might be useful. Initial remarks to be restricted to max of 7 minutes per delegation, to be followed by an open discussion.

International partners and experts are invited to contribute with their views.

The moderator records conclusions before the room moves on.

The six proposed themes are:

- Policy and planning: Collaboration in the context of legal and policy frameworks for language in education, including sharing approaches to legal, institutional set-ups for regulating languages in the educational system. National education sector planning is central here: it is largely through sector plans, and the budgets and monitoring frameworks attached to them, that language of instruction is given visibility, sequencing and resources at national level.
- Curriculum, learning materials: Exploring regional collaboration on how curricula, textbooks and assessment instruments are developed for languages used in more than one State.
- Teachers and qualifications: Identifying opportunities for the preparation, qualification, recruitment and continuing development of teachers working in more than one language, including the teaching of the State language as a second language.
- Early childhood: Sharing experiences from implementing multilingual education in a pre-school and early grade context.
- Assessment, monitoring and evaluation: Exploring ways to align how education systems measure educational outputs for different languages of instruction, understanding comparability across the region.
- Pathways and recognition: Exploring different avenues for ensuring progression into higher education and employment, examination languages and the recognition of qualifications across borders.

Session IV: (Outcome document) The roundtable is expected to conclude with an outcome document, in joint communiqué format, which is circulated in advance. The text is subject to discussion beforehand and the session can be used to record any remaining amendments and to allow delegations to voice their views. Delegations wishing to propose changes are encouraged to do so before the roundtable.