HMDC Presents...

Bloc Map: UNESCO

Topic: COVID-19 Education and Technology Gaps

When schools closed during COVID-19, students without internet fell behind. A UNICEF and ITU report found that two thirds of the world's school-age children, about 1.3 billion children aged 3 to 17, had no internet at home. Countries agree the gap is real but disagree about who should pay and how fast to fix it.

THE MAIN GROUPS (BLOCS)

A bloc is a group of countries that often vote together. Rows that start with "Check:" mean our sources do not name the members, so research them yourself.

Group	Who is in it	What they want	Source
Developing countries (Group of 77 and China)	Many developing countries speak together in this group.	Closing digital divides between countries should be a priority, not only inside countries.	Group of 77 and China
African Union	Member states of the African Union.	Made 2024 the year to "Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century".	African Union
School-connection partners	Countries that work with Giga, the UNICEF and ITU program.	Connect every school to the internet.	Giga (UNICEF and ITU)
Donor countries	Check: which richer countries in your committee give money for education.	Help pay for devices and teachers, but often want clear plans and results.	United Nations

FINDING YOUR ALLIES

1.	If your country is a developing country, start with the Group of 77 and China.
2.	If your country is in Africa, the African Union education goals are a strong starting point.
3.	Every country can support connecting schools, because Giga works with many governments.

THREE COMPROMISE IDEAS

A compromise gives each side something it wants. Try one of these in an unmoderated caucus.

1.	Connect schools first, then homes, so the most students are helped for the least money.
2.	Use radio, TV and printed packets where the internet is not ready yet.
3.	Share costs: richer countries pay for devices, and poorer countries pay for teacher training with help from the World Bank and others.

YOUR NOTES

My country's bloc: _____ My first ally: _____

SOURCES

According to UNICEF and ITU, "Two thirds of the world's school-age children have no internet access at home", December 1, 2020. https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/two-thirds-worlds-school-age-children-have-no-internet-access-home-new-unicef-itu

According to Giga (UNICEF and ITU), "About Giga: Connect every school", Last Accessed: November 2026. https://giga.global/about-us/

According to United Nations, "Transforming Education Summit (September 16, 17 and 19, 2022)", Last Accessed: November 2026. https://www.un.org/en/transforming-education-summit

According to African Union, "Theme of the Year 2024: Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century", Last Accessed: November 2026. https://au.int/en/theme/2024/educate-african-fit-21st-century

According to Group of 77 and China, "Statement during the informal consultations on the Global Digital Compact", February 29, 2024. https://www.g77.org/statement/getstatement.php?id=240229

Positions change. Before the conference, read your own country's newest statement on this topic.