



Global Education for All Meeting

UNESCO, Muscat, Oman



12 – 14 May 2014

2014 GEM

DRAFT Final Statement

This Statement constitutes an agreed proposal on education beyond 2015 to contribute to the consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, while leaving room for further adjustments and refinement. It aims at facilitating Member States' participation in and contributions to intergovernmental consultations on the global post-2015 development agenda framework, thus ensuring that it has a strong education component.

Preamble

1. We, Ministers, heads of delegations, leading officials of multilateral and bilateral organizations, and senior representatives of civil society and private sector organizations, have gathered at the invitation of the Director-General of UNESCO in Muscat, Oman, from 12 - 14 May 2014, for the Global Education for All (EFA) Meeting.
2. We take note of the 2013/14 EFA Global Monitoring Report, the regional EFA reports, the decision of the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 194th session, and the Joint Proposal of the EFA Steering Committee on Education post-2015.

Status of EFA

3. We recognize that the Education for All (EFA) agenda and the education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are highly unlikely to be achieved by 2015, and acknowledge the continued relevance of the EFA agenda. More than 57 million children and 69 million adolescents still do not have access to effective basic education. In 2011, an estimated 774 million adults were illiterate, of whom almost two-thirds were women. Non-completion of formal schooling, insufficient levels of basic skills acquisition, and the quality and relevance of education are of key concern. At least 250 million children are not able to read, write or count well even after having spent at least four years in school. We note with concern that there are persistent inequalities in access, participation and learning outcomes at all levels of education, particularly for the most vulnerable groups and minorities. Gender equality is of particular concern, as only 60% of countries had achieved gender parity at the primary

level and 38% at the secondary level by 2011. We also note that the inadequacy of financial resources has seriously undermined progress towards providing quality education for all.

4. We acknowledge that future education development priorities must reflect the significant socio-economic and demographic transformations that have occurred since the adoption of the EFA goals and the MDGs, and the changing requirements in the type and level of knowledge, skills and competencies for knowledge-based economies. Therefore, we recognize that there is a strong need for a new and forward-looking education agenda that completes unfinished business while going beyond the current goals in terms of depth and scope, as well as to provide people with the understanding, competencies and values they need to address the many challenges that our societies and economies are facing.

Vision, principles and scope of the post-2015 education agenda

5. We reaffirm that education is a fundamental human right for every person. It is an essential condition for human fulfilment, peace, sustainable development, economic growth, decent work, gender equality and responsible global citizenship. Furthermore, it contributes to the reduction of inequalities and the eradication of poverty by bequeathing the conditions and generating the opportunities for just, inclusive and sustainable societies. Therefore, education must be placed at the heart of the global development agenda.
6. The post-2015 education agenda should be clearly defined, aspirational, transformative, balanced and holistic, and an integral part of the broader international development framework. It should be of universal relevance and mobilize all stakeholders and countries. Education must be a stand-alone goal in the broader post-2015 development agenda and should be framed by a comprehensive overarching goal, with measurable global targets and related indicators. In addition, education must be integrated into other development goals.
7. We affirm that the post-2015 global education agenda should be rights-based and reflect a perspective based on equity and inclusion, with particular attention to gender equality. It must support free and compulsory education at least in the elementary and lower secondary levels. It should expand the vision of access for all to reflect relevant learning outcomes through the provision of quality education at all levels. It should take a holistic and lifelong learning approach, and ensure that no-one is left behind. While the state is the custodian of education as a public good, the role of civil society, communities, families, learners and other stakeholders is crucial in the provision of quality education. The future education agenda must promote sustainable development and active and effective global and local citizenship, contribute to strengthening democracy and peace, and foster respect for cultural diversity.
8. We stress that the full realization of the post-2015 education agenda will require a strong commitment to allocate adequate, equitable and efficient financing to education by both countries and donors. This must be accompanied by strengthened participatory governance and accountability mechanisms at the global, national and local levels, as well as improved planning, monitoring and reporting mechanisms and processes. It will also require partnerships at country level, involving a multiplicity of stakeholders who can contribute to the common goal of quality education for all.

Overarching Goal and Global Targets

9. We support “**Ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030**” as the overarching goal of the post-2015 education agenda.
10. We further support the translation of this goal into the following global targets, which will be further developed and refined, and for which minimum global benchmarks and relevant indicators will be identified/developed:
 - Target 1: By 2030, increase the percentage of children who access early childhood care and education (ECCE) to at least x% and start primary education ‘ready to learn’
 - Target 2: By 2030, all children complete free and compulsory quality basic education of at least 10 years and achieve relevant learning outcomes
 - Target 3: By 2030, increase the percentage of adults who reach a proficiency level in literacy and numeracy sufficient to fully participate in society to at least x%
 - Target 4: By 2030, increase the percentage of youth and adults with the knowledge, skills and competences to access decent work to at least x% and y% respectively
 - Target 5: By 2030, all learners acquire knowledge, skills, values and attitudes for global citizenship and sustainable development
 - Target 6: By 2030, all governments ensure the provision of sufficient numbers of qualified teachers
 - Target 7: By 2030, all countries progress towards allocating (4-6%) of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and (15-20%) of their public expenditure to education

Next steps

11. We strongly support UNESCO’s leadership and coordination in facilitating the development of the post-2015 education agenda in collaboration with the EFA partners. We encourage UNESCO to continue facilitating the debate and to consult Member States and key stakeholders in the further development and refinement of the overarching goal and global targets, and the identification of corresponding indicators, as well as the development of a Framework for Action to guide the implementation of the future education agenda.
12. We commit to using this Statement as a reference for the negotiations in the global consultations on the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure that this latter has a strong education component. To this end, we ask the Director-General of UNESCO to share this document with the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) as well as with all Member States of UNESCO and key stakeholders.
13. We further commit to using this Statement for ongoing national, regional and global consultations on the post-2015 education agenda, with a view to adopting an agreed position on education beyond 2015 to be adopted at the World Education Forum 2015, which will be hosted by the Republic of Korea in May 2015. Our aspiration is that this agreed position will be an integral part of the global development agenda to be adopted at the UN Summit in New York City in September 2015.
14. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to achieve the EFA goals and ensure education for all citizens. We commit to promoting, advocating for and supporting the development of a strong future education agenda, and urge all UNESCO Member States and stakeholders to actively participate in the process leading to its establishment and implementation.