

Sixth High-Level Group Meeting on Education for All Cairo (Egypt), 14-16 November 2006

Provisional Draft Programme

The Dakar Framework for Action (§19) states that: *“UNESCO’s Director-General will convene annually a high-level, small and flexible group. It will serve as a lever for political commitment and technical and financial resource mobilization. Informed by a monitoring report (...) it will also provide an opportunity to hold the global community to account for commitments made in Dakar. It will be composed of highest-level leaders from governments and civil society of developing and developed countries, and from development agencies”.*

The Sixth session of the EFA High-Level Group aims:

- To assess progress in EFA:
 - through the monitoring and analysis of the GMR, across the six goals
 - through current examples and prospective trends
- To address three issues critical to the achievement of EFA:
 - Strong foundations for learning and for life through early childhood care and education (EFA goal 1)
 - Adequate financing for EFA
 - The threat to EFA from HIV & AIDS
- To build greater political momentum across the national and international communities to pursue vigorously the EFA goals.

Expected outcomes

- Highlighting top-priority actions needed to address the key challenges threatening the achievement of EFA.
- Achieving stronger commitment to ECCE, including greater donor support for expanded ECCE programmes.
- Reaching agreement on enhancing, or at least maintaining, domestic resource allocation to education, especially basic education, and on strategies to encourage donors to channel more aid to basic education, building on 2005 and 2006 pledges.
- Making a commitment to develop and/or strengthen a comprehensive education-sector response to HIV & AIDS.
- Reaching agreement on ways to apply and use the Global Action Plan at international, regional and country levels in order to accelerate EFA progress and achieve greater coherence among EFA partners.

Tuesday 14 November 2006

- 9.30 – 12.30 am **Registration at the Mena House Hotel, Cairo**
- 5.00 pm **Opening Ceremony** (venue to be determined by Egypt)
Chairperson Minister of Education, Egypt
Opening speech
President, Egypt (tbc)
Welcome address
Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO
Keynote addresses
Heads of State and Government and Heads of UN
Agencies (tbc)
- Followed by a reception given by the Minister of
Education, Egypt**

Wednesday 15 November 2006

- 9.00 - 10.00 am **Welcome and Introduction**
Opening remarks by Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General
of UNESCO
Adoption of the agenda
**Report on the follow-up of the 2005 Beijing
Communiqué and related developments**, by Peter
Smith, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
- 10.00 - 11.30 am **Working Session I**
***What will it take to accelerate progress towards the EFA
goals? — the latest assessment***
 - What has happened to the comprehensive
approach of Dakar?
 - The most disadvantaged populations are still left
out of education: how do we move to full inclusion?
- 11.30am – 1.00 pm **Working Session II**
***A luxury or a necessity? What are the policy options for Early
Childhood Care and Education?***
 - What place should ECCE have in educational
policies?
 - What would it take to reach the ECCE goal?
- 1.00 - 2.30 pm **Lunch given by the Director-General of UNESCO**
- 2:30 – 4.00 pm **Working Session III**
***Stronger, more comprehensive responses of the education
sector to HIV & AIDS***
 - HIV & AIDS will prevent achievement of the EFA
goals in certain contexts: how can we ensure that
our responses are adequate?
 - The enduring and deepening crisis of the epidemic

cuts into teacher numbers and availability, as well as into children's lives and families. How can we maximise our collective response?

- 4.00 – 5.30 pm **Working Session IV**
Resource mobilization and aid effectiveness for EFA: pledges are not enough.
- Both domestic resources and external support lag behind the financing needs of EFA: how will we bridge the gap?
 - Calls are made for long-term education-sector planning: are donors equally committed?

7.30 – 9.30 pm **Dinner given by the Director-General of UNESCO**

Thursday 16 November 2006

- 9.00 – 10.30 am **Working Session V**
Resource mobilization and aid effectiveness for EFA: are there more options?
- Innovation in financing EFA must be explored: what are the prospects for mechanisms linked to debt?
 - Can funding be made available to middle-income countries?

- 10.30 – 12.00 **Working Session VI**
Partnership in the context of the Global Action Plan to Achieve the EFA Goals.
- Applying the Global Action Plan at country level depends on strengthening partnerships: ownership is vital among governments, aid agencies, civil society and the private sector. What light can the partners shed on the process?

- 12.00 – 1.00 pm **Working Session VII**
The way ahead
Chairperson: Peter Smith, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO

1.00 – 3.00 pm **Lunch given by the Minister of Education, Egypt**

3.00 - 4.00 pm **Adoption of the Communiqué**
Chairperson: Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

4.00 – 4.30 pm **Closing Remarks**
Minister of Education, Egypt

5.00 – 6.00 pm **Press Conference**