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Workshop on Public-Private Partnerships in Education for All (EFA) (UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 18 July 2006)

Outline

Background:

The private sector is becoming an essential partner in achieving Education for All (EFA) by 2015. In Monterrey, Mexico, 2000, the international community recognized the need to mobilize resources for development outside of official donor assistance and to reach out to the private sector. The Brasilia Communique adopted in the Fourth Meeting of the High-Level Group on EFA (Brasilia, November 2005) reaffirmed this need by stating that *“donor countries, international funding agencies and governments must extend collaboration with the private sector in the mobilization of resources for the full EFA agenda”*.

Furthermore, around 100 Ministers of Education, as well as representatives from the civil society and development agencies, including the World Economic Forum and USAID, participated in the Ministerial Round Table on Education for All (UNESCO, Paris, 7-8 October 2005) recognized this need as stated in the Communique that *“Strengthen partnerships and a partnership culture at national level by increasing dialogue among EFA stakeholders, particularly with civil society and the private sector, and to explore creatively new dimensions of such partnerships (14-c)”*.

In light of this irreversible trend, there has been a growing demand from governments, the private sector and other stakeholders for assistance in identifying and nurturing public-private partnerships (PPP). Since 2000 in particular, various groups have attempted to build Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) through which coordinated resources are leveraged for development.

Despite an increasing focus on PPPs in Education/EFA, and a large number and variety of initiatives carried out by various partners, their scope, scale and impact do not remotely meet the global challenges in education. A key obstacle for enhancing the significance of PPPs for the achievement of EFA goals are the insufficient specific capacities of the public and private sector, but also of NGOs and the donor community, to engage in such partnerships. Encouraging and enabling all concerned stakeholders to engage in partnerships for education remains therefore a key challenge.

The workshop also builds on the work and experiences of the World Economic Forum’s Global Education Initiative, which to date has launched multi-stakeholder country public private partnerships in Jordan, Rajasthan, the Palestinian Territories, and Egypt. The results of the workshop will help guide the workplan and objectives of the GEI for 2006.

Building on previous undertakings of various stakeholders, the proposed workshop intends to take the debate on PPPs in education beyond the mere showcasing of individual success stories and learning from good practice. It aims to initiate a process of developing an effective partnership framework by bringing together the collective expertise and common interests of key “champions” of multi-stakeholder partnerships in education.

Overall Goal:

Enhance the impact of multi-stakeholder partnerships for the achievement of the EFA Goals

Objectives:

- Constitute an initial group of “champions” of multi- stakeholder partnerships in education
- Agree on joint actions to be undertaken by this group and future members

Main expected results:

- Better understanding of the perspectives from different types of stakeholders
- Firm commitment to work together
- Identification of joint activities and expected outcomes
- Identification of the process of cooperation

Co-organizers:

World Economic Forum and UNESCO, with the support of USAID

Beneficiaries:

Current and future champions in multi-stakeholder partnerships for education

Participants:

25-30 representatives from Governments, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, Donors