

HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON EDUCATION FOR ALL
First Meeting
UNESCO, Paris, Room X, 29-30 October 2001

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

As stated in §19 of the Dakar Framework for Action, UNESCO's Director-General will convene annually a High-Level, small and flexible group which will serve as a lever for political commitment and technical and financial resource mobilization. Informed by a monitoring report prepared by UNESCO with inputs from EFA partners and under the guidance of the Working Group on Education for All, this High-level Group will offer a forum in which to hold the global community to account for commitments made in Dakar.

The programme for the first meeting of the high-level group is built around three critical areas: (1) political commitment; (2) resource mobilization; and (3) civil society participation and partnerships.

At the end of the meeting, the High-Level Group will adopt a Communiqué that will include its conclusions and recommendations.

29 October 2001

8.30 am Registration

Opening

10-10:30 am **Education for All - status and immediate challenges ahead**
Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

Session I ***Achieving the EFA goals at the national level***
This introductory session will provide a broad picture of the status of achievement since Dakar at the national level. The Ministers of Education will highlight developments at the country level, emphasizing opportunities and constraints for progress as determined by national and international factors.

10:30-10:50 am **Progress since Dakar - perspectives from the country level**
Zobeida Jalal, Minister of Education, Pakistan

10:50-11:10 am **Building and maintaining momentum for Education for All - experiences and core factors from a country perspective**
Moustapha Sourang, Minister of Education, Senegal

11:10 am-1 pm

Discussion

The EFA 2000 Assessment demonstrated that significant progress had been made in many countries towards achieving Education for All, but that huge challenges still need to be addressed in order to solve problems, for example, of access to education, adult literacy, quality of learning, and acquisition of human values and skills relevant to the goals of gainful employment and full participation in society. The commitment in Dakar was envisaged to accelerate progress towards Education for All in order to also meet national and internationally agreed targets for poverty reduction and to narrow inequalities between and within countries. Based on the monitoring report, which includes progress towards national Education for All plans, the discussion should serve to identify the immediate actions which the High-Level Group would recommend to be taken in order to accelerate progress towards the stated goals.

1-3 pm

Lunch

Session 2

Building political commitment and partnerships

The session will highlight in concrete terms how bilateral and multilateral agencies have translated stated commitments into reality and have established new partnerships to pursue the Education for All goals more effectively. This includes (re)allocation of financial resources and innovation in educational approaches through improved partnership arrangements. The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative is one example of a multi-partner effort designed to alleviate persistent gender disparities in education.

3-3:20 pm

Translating political commitment to basic education into reality
Maria Minna, Minister for International Cooperation, Canada

3:20-3:50 pm

Innovative partnerships in achieving Education for All - the experience of a multilateral agency
Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, UNICEF

3:50-6 pm

Discussion

Political will and strong national leadership are needed for the effective and successful implementation of national plans. However political will must be underpinned by resources and the establishment of broad-based partnerships within countries, supported by cooperation with regional and international agencies and institutions. Such cooperation must be well coordinated by governments and among agencies in order to respond to the challenges. The discussion should lead to recommendations by the High-Level Group for actions and strategies that can reinforce political commitment to EFA internationally and nationally and identification of areas where new innovations may be needed.

6:30-7:30 pm

Reception hosted by the Director-General of UNESCO
(Venue: Restaurant on the 7th floor)

8-9:45 pm **Celebration of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (Venue: Room I)**

30 October 2001

Session 3 ***Mobilizing resources in support of EFA: the role of international agencies and the function of debt relief schemes***

This session will highlight opportunities, constraints and barriers to mobilizing resources in support of national EFA efforts in the context of bilateral and multilateral agencies. Specific focus will be on the pros and cons of debt relief as a mechanism to promote Education for All.

10-10:20 am **The role of international development agencies in achieving EFA goals**
1. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development
United Kingdom

10:20-10:40 am **2. Takao Kawakami, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency**

10:40-11 am **3. Charles Josselin, Ministre délégué à la coopération et à la francophonie, France**

11-11:10 am **Statement by Giandomenico Magliano, Chairman of the G-8 Task Force on Education, Director-General for Development Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy,**

11:10-11:30 am **The challenges of mobilizing external resources for EFA, with particular reference to debt relief schemes**
Jo Ritzen, Vice-President, Human Development Network, the World Bank

11:30-1 pm **Discussion**
The international community has pledged that ‘no countries seriously committed to education for all will be thwarted in their achievement of this goal by a lack of resources’ (Dakar Framework for Action, §10). The international community is to launch a global initiative which would include, amongst others, the following elements: increasing external finance for education, in particular basic education; ensuring greater predictability in the flow of external assistance and providing earlier, more extensive and broader debt relief and/or debt cancellation for poverty reduction, with a strong commitment to basic education. The discussion should result in specific recommendations from the High-Level Group for actions and strategies leading to short-, medium- and long-term increases in the volume and effectiveness of international assistance and in effective national resource

mobilization, utilization and management.

1-3 pm

Lunch

Session 4

Civil society participation

This session will highlight some of the rich experiences of non-governmental and other civil society organizations in educational development, and make proposals for a strengthened role for them in formulation, implementation and monitoring processes.

3-3:20 pm

Building on the strength of civil society to harness Education for All
Barbara Stocking, Director, OXFAM

3.20-3:40 pm

Inclusion and co-ordination of all EFA partners in national EFA policy formulation, planning and monitoring - some preconditions to success
Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson, South Asian Coalition against Child Servitude / Global March Against Child Labour

3:40-4:40 pm

Discussion

The obligation to ensure that EFA goals and targets are reached and sustained can be met most effectively through broad-based partnerships within countries, supported by cooperation with regional and international agencies and institutions. At the country level, national EFA Forums are to be strengthened or established in support of the achievement of EFA. All relevant ministries and national civil society organizations should be systematically represented in these Forums. Civil society organizations should also be directly and systematically involved in the development of national EFA plans. Subregional and regional Forums should similarly involve and coordinate with all relevant civil society organizations. The discussion should lead to specific recommendations for actions and strategies by the High-Level Group concerning the strengthening of the involvement of non-governmental and other civil society organizations in policy, planning and implementation of Education for All.

Session 5

Monitoring EFA progress

4:40-6:15 pm

General debate

The purpose of this discussion is for the High-Level Group to propose specific actions that need to be taken in order to accelerate the EFA agenda. The group should also make recommendations concerning the format and content of future monitoring reports.

6:15-6:45 pm

Adoption of Communiqué

6:45-7:00 pm

Closing remarks

Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO