

RESOLUTION

Education Forum of Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan

We, the representatives of the: Ministries of Education; educational, scientific, research, public institutions and non-governmental organizations of Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan, gathered in Almaty on 17-18 January 2002 to define effective strategies to generate dialogue amongst education policy makers in Central Asia, and to support commitments to the furthering and maintenance of universal quality basic Education for All and the fulfilment of the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

We acknowledge that the proceedings of the Education Forum have provided a useful, practical platform to review both achievements and challenges in ensuring Education for All and the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Central Asia. This is a moment to evaluate, reaffirm and renew commitments in education and children's rights, bearing in mind our countries' long-term commitments.

We are proud to have developed innovative and fertile ideas, approaches and experiences in education, appropriate to our circumstances. We remain committed to continue to improve quality in education and greater equity in the distribution of opportunities of educational access, and learning throughout life.

We renew our national commitments to the original spirit of Education for All in its "expanded vision of basic education" around the six goals adopted in Dakar, April 2000, bearing in mind education structures capable of satisfying the education and training needs of all (children, youth, and adults), both within and outside the school system.

We strongly urge societal participation not only in the implementation of educational plans and programmes, but also in policy design, discussion and implementation.

We also commit ourselves to developing increased collaborative efforts with active participation of governments and civil society, to articulating educational programmes with national and regional policies aimed at improving education, and to ensuring that children, youth and adults are equipped with skills necessary to meet the challenges emerging in our evolving societies. Through the establishment of a CARK Education Forum, as an institutional mechanism to reach these ambitious objectives, we strongly commit to undertaking these actions that should result in succeeding tangible education and socio-economic progress by 2015.

Taking into full account the above considerations and observations we reached the consensus agreement on the following:

1. To declare the Education Forum of the Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan a permanent action-oriented and flexible development and cooperation structure.
2. The Education Forum should allow for:

- (a) Advocacy for concerted actions at all levels aimed and full implementation of the goals and objectives of Education for All and the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Central Asia.
 - (b) Reviewing existing education experiences and dissemination of innovative technologies to quality education, and ensure that children's rights are met.
 - (c) Regular regional and international exchange of knowledge and experience on priority education and children's rights issues related to quality basic education and equity of education throughout life.
 - (d) Coordination of education activities of donor organisations.
 - (e) Dissemination of ideas and principles of Education for All via mass media.
3. The Central Asian Education Forum will actively work towards significantly increasing efforts in priority areas such as early childhood care and development; access to and participation in basic education; learning achievements; new technologies in education, support for pre-service and in-service teacher training, management and monitoring information systems; vocational and technical education; non-formal education; life skills education and health-based school programmes; girls education and inclusive education.
4. The Education Forum will be held once a year and will be supported by an Executive Committee functioning throughout the year. The main topics for discussion will be identified at the annual meetings. It is decided that the next annual meeting of the Education Forum will be held in winter 2003; a decision on the venue and date of the meeting will be determined.
5. The Executive Committee consists of the Deputy - Ministers of Education or other country representative, designated by the Ministries of Education (one participant from each country), a representative from the civil society from the host country; and a representative from UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty and UNICEF CARK. It is chaired by an Executive Secretary. It is agreed that:
 - (a) The position of the Executive Secretary will rotate on an annual basis among Deputy - Ministers of Education. Until the next annual meeting of the Education Forum in 2003, the First Deputy - Minister of Education and Science of Kazakhstan will be functioning as the Executive Secretary of the Executive Committee. The civil society representative will also rotate on an annual basis and will be selected by the civil society members of the Forum at the annual meeting.
 - (b) The Executive Committee will coordinate relevant education activities and facilitate information exchange and communication among the countries. The Executive Committee will ensure the establishment of working groups based on priority areas discussed and approved at the Education Forum meeting.
 - (c) The first meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Almaty in April 2002. The meeting will concentrate on elaborating a charter, mandate and procedures of the Education Forum. The Executive Committee will approve the final report of the Education Forum held in Almaty, 2002, and will decide on the number and terms of reference of the working groups.
 - (d) Member countries of the Education Forum should establish national working groups.

6. The Education Forum will have a periodical journal “Education Forum Digest on Central Asia and Kazakhstan” to be published two times a year by joint efforts of the Executive Committee, UNESCO and UNICEF, with technical and information support from the Ministries of Education, research institutions and experts concerned.
7. The Education Forum requests the Government and civil society of Member States to support the establishment and work of the Forum and provide any assistance for its effective functioning.
8. The Education Forum requests UNESCO and UNICEF to assure regular financial, technical and any other appropriate support.