

Resolution

We, participants of the sub-regional Conference “Education for All in the Baltic Sea Countries” from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden and observers from Belarus and the United Kingdom, organised in Riga January 24 – 27, 2002 by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia and the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, in close cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris, the Latvian National Committee for UNICEF, UNDP Latvia, the World Bank Mission in Latvia and the Latvian Adult Education Association,

Having exchanged information and opinions on the implementation of the Dakar Forum decisions in the sub-region,

Having taken into account the results of the EFA meetings held by the Nordic countries, of the Baltic 21 Agenda on Education for Sustainable Development and the practical experiences of Lithuania in setting-up the EFA National Forum and the EFA National Plan of Action,

Having confirmed our wish to strengthen our cooperation in pursuing the EFA objectives in the sub-region, using fully the potential of existing cooperation mechanisms such as the Council of Baltic Sea States, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Baltic Council of Ministers and others,

Express our appreciation to UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank for support in the organisation of this Conference

And agree on the following:

- The Dakar EFA Framework for Action objectives constitute relevant directions for further education development in each of our countries, especially in regard to education quality and to basic education as the necessary foundation for life-long learning and social inclusion, assuring social cohesion.
- The diversity of national education systems and good practices is a resource for creative debate and valuable insight in reaching a national civic consensus in each of our countries towards the goals of development and implementation of EFA National Plans of Action.
- Broad civic participation as well as that of the private sector, engendered by the institution of National Education Forums or similar bodies, and empowered to initiate discussion of and recommend lines of action to the governments of the countries, is of crucial importance in ensuring quality education for all.
- Therefore we request that the Ministries of Education together with UNESCO National Commissions of each country ensure the establishment of a designated national contact to facilitate sub-regional networking.

We have decided:

To set up an informal sub-regional EFA coordination Working group composed of representatives from Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden in order to maintain the momentum in meeting EFA objectives generated at this

meeting and further facilitate the sharing of information and to foster country partnerships as well as wider interregional cooperation.

- To invite National authorities, as well as all major national, regional and international partners in the EFA process to provide necessary support to this Working group, that it may fulfil its role successfully
- To invite Latvia's representative in the Working group to assume the responsibility of leadership of the group for the year 2002.