

**Statement from the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau**  
**Delivered by Artur da Silva, Minister of National Education, Culture, Science,**  
**Youth and Sport**

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As a Fragile State, emerging from a difficult situation, the education sector is of determinant importance in the path to stability and lasting progress.

The progress so far and the future vision of the education sector of Guinea-Bissau

The country has made a major progress in education in the recent years, by:

- Increasing **the enrollment of primary education** from 1999/2000 to 2009/2010, with 91 % and within this result increasing girls enrollment with more than 100 %.
- Developing and adopting **the key policy framework**, including the Letter of Education Policy in 2009, the Three-year Education Sector Plan 2011/12- 2013/14 (ESP 2011/12-2013/14) in 2010 and the Basic Law of Education System in 2011.
- Increasing **the government commitment** to the Education sector, from 9% in 2006 to 13% in 2010, and then aims to increase up to 15% by 2014/15
- Establishing **a strong sector coordination**, with MoE and UNICEF and World Bank co-leading and supervising, and participated by bilateral and multilateral partners as well as Civil Society Organisations active in education.
- Preparing and submitting **a request of USD 12 million for the GPEF**, to jump-start the sector plan, to overcome the context of fragility and limited donor presence in the country.
- Tackling to resolve **the issue on teachers' salaries**, through putting in place a better management system of teacher recruitment, qualification, allocation and career path.

- Strengthening **the capacity of the Ministry of Education**, through improving fiduciary management, EMIS and recruiting 60 young professionals (via GPEF/Ministry of Finance)
- Taking measures to improve **the quality of education**, by revising curriculum, enhancing teacher training and introducing national exams and learning assessment.

The Government of Guinea-Bissau request the support in advocacy for the country and solicits enhanced technical and financial support in the education sector, particularly in basic education, Early Childhood Development, increasing to education for girls and out of school children.

Thank you very much.