

Statement from the Government of Zimbabwe

Delivered by David Coltart, Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture

Zimbabwe shares the Global Partnership for Education's vision of quality Education for All and seek to nurture robust, international partnerships to achieve this vision for the children of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe developed one of Africa's finest education systems in the 1980s and boasts some of the highest adult literacy rates on the continent. All members of our Government of National Unity are steadfastly committed to restoring Zimbabwe's education system. In the last two years we have made major improvements including the re-opening of schools, the provision of core textbooks for all primary students and the creation of a robust five year sector plan.

I, the Minister of Education, Sports Arts and Culture of Zimbabwe, pledge that we will retain our proud achievement of gender parity in primary and lower secondary education and expand access to quality basic education, especially for orphans and vulnerable children.

We will:

1/ Establish a national baseline of early primary literacy rates in 2012, track it and improve it with measures including the mainstreaming of ECD in all primary schools, teacher development and quality enhancing, per capita based school grants. We aim for a 10 percentage point increase in end of primary examinations by 2015.

2/ endeavour to increase domestic government funding for basic education by 75%, from \$469m (2011) to \$822m in 2014, benefitting over 4m young Zimbabwean learners.

3/ Zimbabwe, which has already abolished rural primary school fees, will offset the school costs for 700,000 orphans and vulnerable children in 2010 and prohibit exclusion of learners for non-payment of parental levies through reform of education regulations. We will further reduce primary drop-out and increase transition to lower secondary through the phased reduction of compulsory schools fees and levies.

4/ We will introduce a major programme of 2nd chance and skills education for out of school children and youth who have missed out, in particular for orphans and vulnerable children.