



Statement from the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Delivered by Madam Kandia Camara, Minister of National Education

Dear colleagues,

Represented by the delegation of which I am head, Côte d'Ivoire is pleased to be participating in this Pledging Conference for the Global Partnership for Education, which is being held in the wake of the severe crisis that recently rocked our country and which you all followed.

As I address this august gathering, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express our appreciation to the organizers for inviting us to participate in this important event aimed at mobilizing financial resources to support the development of Education For All.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Côte d'Ivoire has, like most countries, opted to join the far-reaching movement promoting quality Education For All.

Unfortunately, successive crises in our country seriously thwarted this effort and added to the challenges we faced.

The admission of our country last September 12 as a member of the Global Partnership for Education is, in our view, not only a recognition of all the efforts made by the national education community with the support of local technical and financial partners, but also a vote of confidence and an incentive to vigorously continue implementing actions already initiated.

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, and the Ivorian Government, I would like to thank you for this honor and assure you of the strong motivating force now driving our efforts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, over the next three years, the Ivorian Government intends to revive the education system in three ways: (i) restore its functionality; (ii) continue the reforms initiated before the crisis in order to address structural weaknesses; and (iii) take into account the new challenges posed by training a new generation of men and women capable of transforming Côte d'Ivoire into an emerging economy by 2020.

A Medium-Term Action Plan was designed and developed jointly by the three subsectors of education/training in Côte d'Ivoire to achieve this objective.

The following specific measures are planned for the basic education subsector for the 2012-2014 period: (i) the recruitment of 7,500 primary school teachers; (ii) the construction of 6,260 classrooms; (iii) the rehabilitation of 4,000 classrooms; (iv) the installation of 1,500 water points; and (v) the construction of 1,500 latrines in schools.

The participation of grassroots communities, NGOs, and enterprises will help decentralize project management and boost capacity construction while lowering construction costs.

Demand for education will be stimulated through (i) ongoing increased support to school cafeterias with the provision of meals to 546,000 students each year, as well as the distribution of dry food rations to 15,000 third-cycle primary school girls in rural areas; (ii) the free distribution of textbooks and school kits to 5,600,000 first-cycle primary schoolchildren, to 7,480,000 second-cycle primary students, to 6,512,000 third-cycle primary students, and to 30,000 AIDS orphans; and (iii) the provision of essential medicines and micronutrients, etc.

The rehabilitation, expansion, and, above all, the construction of three primary school teacher training centers (CAFOP) will help boost the numbers of teachers in training and strengthen the continuing education mechanism for primary school teachers.

With a view to improving governance and management of the education system, monitoring and evaluation tools and guides outlining the new management procedures will be developed

and made available to 11,900 executive, management, and supervisory staff who will be trained.

In addition, as a result of capacity building in the responsible departments, standardized student assessments will be regularly administered. A communication campaign will be organized to make these assessments a key tool for managing and improving the quality of national and local education.

The adoption of a system of automatic progression within a subcycle will reduce the repetition rate. The success of this strategy will hinge upon a number of support measures, namely, monitoring, communication, follow-up, academic remediation, and decision making by school councils.

In terms of school coverage, for the 2012-2014 period, we are planning the enrolment of (i) 669,497 four- to five-year olds at the preschool level; (ii) 1,559,249 students in the first cycle of primary education; and (iii) 615,696 students in Grade 6; and (iv) literacy education for 777,089 persons.

All told, initiatives covered by budget contributions from the State and technical and financial partners will benefit 2,844,442 preschool, primary, and lower secondary students.

To that end, the financial resources that will be mobilized for the basic education subsector are estimated at CFAF 1,953.48 billion.

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to you and assure you of our commitment to making Education For All our top priority.

Thank you.