



Statement from the Government of Norway

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Norway has been a strong and longstanding supporter of the Global Partnership for Education, previously the Fast Track Initiatives. Norway was one of the first countries to join the FTI and continues to be a major financial supporter of the partnership.

We believe that building partnerships, between governments, civil society and donors, is crucial to spur development of the education sector at the country level. It is our belief that such partnerships have been the cornerstone of the success of the Global Partnership for Education to date.

Over the last ten years, there have been some instances of spectacular progress towards education for all, including in least developed countries. National governments are giving increasing priority to education, as reflected in growing allocations to education in national budgets. Aid has also played an important role in supporting national efforts to improve education results. Norway supports international efforts to make education aid even more effective by focussing on the quality of education and underfinanced areas such as education in fragile states.

Around 40 % of those who do not have access to education live in conflict areas. Conflict need not kill the dream of an education. In many countries, like Nepal, Afghanistan and South Sudan, we have seen that a strong desire to see children educated has translated into community action for the protection of schools and schoolchildren. Norway is looking forward to working with the Global Partnership for Education to find new and effective ways of reaching children growing up in conflict or emergency situations.

Today we will demonstrate support to the partnership by increasing our financial contribution by 50%, from approximately NOK 100 million per year to the fund, to NOK 150 million per year in the period 2011 - 2012. We hope that this will inspire other countries to increase their support in the times ahead. The children, especially girls, need our support, and our joint efforts are needed to enhance the quality of education.

