

## **Statement from the Government of Sweden**

**Delivered by Måns Felleson**

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Madame Chairperson

Delegates

Distinguished guests

Sweden remains committed to the Millennium Development Goals in education and to the broader Education For All goals. Viewing the development of primary education in many low income countries there has been significant progress but still there are substantial challenges obstructing the achievement of MDG goals in education. Sweden is particularly concerned with the fact that there has been growing difference between the countries on track and the countries where progress is slow. Most of these countries are fragile and conflicted affected. These countries are both the least funded and worst equipped to deal with the challenges of inclusive and quality based education. There also seem to be a growing difference within countries with regard to access to and equality in education that calls for increased attention.

Sweden is also concerned with the issue of quality education. Getting children to school must be accompanied with measures to increase quality in order to prevent problems of retention, completion and low levels of learning.

Intimately linked to the problem of quality is the efficiency of education service and systems. Governments and development partners should intensify their work on finding more efficient tools and channels for resource allocation based on empirical evidence of what actually works.

In sum, greater effort is need to reach those currently marginalized from education, particularly girls, increased first have to be made to increase quality and efficiency and the whole systems

and finally these efforts have to be backed up and continually modified by result oriented approach based on reliable analysis.

Sweden is now working on a new policy in education in development cooperation. Responding to the challenges in reaching this policy will have a clear focus on inclusion of girls and quality in education. Sweden remains committed to the work of GPE as an important initiative for strategic impact on global resource flows for education to low income countries. Particularly Sweden attached importance to GPE not being a vertical program but based on receiving countries own strategies and priorities for action in education. We know that current demographic development in many low income countries being GPE partners will increasingly put pressure on primary education systems. If these countries should be able to proceed in reaching the MDG's in education additional support will be needed. Even more urgent is the need to increase support to marginalized groups in fragile and conflict affected states. At present Sweden allocated approximately 100 million euros to the education for development aid budget. Sweden will continue its long term support to GPE. For the period of 2012-2014 the Swedish contribution will be at least 10 million euros per year in addition to this Sweden will contribute an additional 900,000 euro for the year 2011. Thank you.