



## **Statement from the Government of Togo**

### **Delivered by Essossimna Legzim-Balouki, of Literacy and Primary and Secondary Education**

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On behalf of the Togolese Government, I would like to begin by thanking Ms. Carol Bellamy and her entire team for the activities and work they are doing to ensure that all the children of the world have access to quality education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2010, with the aim of addressing the universal primary education challenge, the Togolese Government adopted a Sectoral Education Plan for the 2010-2020 period, which allowed it to gain access to funding from the Global Partnership for Education in the amount of US\$45 million.

The new policy is aimed at expanding access, improving quality and governance, and promoting an effective partnership.

In the area of access, the provision of free preschool and primary instruction has led to significant improvement in school attendance. The gross and net school enrolment rates stood at 113 percent and 87 percent, respectively, in 2010. The gender parity index is 0.96. However, problem areas persist, in particular with regard to completion rates (62 percent), especially among girls (53 percent). The Government's goal is to achieve universal primary education and gender parity by 2015.

The activities targeting quality include:

- The introduction of mandatory initial training for teachers and the opening of five new teacher training colleges between 2012 and 2013;
- The provision of reading and math textbooks to all students in public primary schools;
- Higher pedagogical expenditures by schools, based on performance criteria; and
- The reform of preschool and primary curricula using a skills-based approach.

In the area of improved management and governance, a capacity-building program targeting education sector staff and communities is underway, as part of the project executed with funding from the Global Partnership for Education.

The current challenge faced with respect to the partnership is its extension to other donors.

The share of education expenses from national funds is projected to increase from 23 percent in 2011 to 25 percent in 2014. I should note that the 2010-2012 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, backed by the Sectoral Education Plan, points to a funding shortfall of US\$61,000,000.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The foregoing outlines the situation in the primary education sector in Togo. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Global Partnership for Education and all the technical and financial partners for their various forms of support.

Thank you for your kind attention.