



Statement from the Government of France

Delivered by Sujiro Seam, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Thank you Madam Chair

Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

I have three minutes during which I will make three points.

First, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Alain Juppé, I would like to reaffirm France's commitment to the Global Partnership for Education since 2002, and confirm our financial commitment of EUR 47.5 million for the period 2011—2013, one-third of which has already been disbursed, and the provision of two technical assistants to the Secretariat of the Global Partnership for Education.

The second point relates to innovative financing. France will serve as the secretariat for the working group on innovative financing for education. An initial report on this was published in 2010, and a second report is currently being drafted and will be submitted to the Spanish Chair of the pilot group in December.

As regards innovative financing, we are among a group of countries that made the commitment, at the Cannes Summit that ended last week, to introduce a financial transaction tax and allocate a portion of the proceeds to development, in particular to education. We are also providing innovative funding in the form of debt reduction and development contracts. These mechanisms will fund education projects in particular, in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

My third and final point pertains to our bilateral aid. Overall, we have committed more than EUR 23 million to issues such as the enrollment of girls in school, learning in the national

language, training, and improved teacher training. We are working in Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Haiti, Madagascar, Chad, Togo, Tanzania, and the Central African Republic, and in order to achieve our objective and provide bilateral aid, we are counting on institutions such as UNICEF, national language schools, and, of course, the *Agence française de développement*, which stands ready to serve as the supervisory entity in the Partnership's beneficiary countries.

I thank you for your attention.