

February 4, 2010

To: FTI Board of Directors

From: Carol Bellamy, Chair of FTI Board of Directors

Cc: FTI Secretariat

Subject: Additional Feedback from FTI Francophone Partner Countries

Background

The FTI Secretariat and the Burkina Faso Ministry of Education held a series of consultations with Ministries of Education from Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo to (i) discuss the recommendations of the FTI partnership external evaluation; and (ii) make recommendations on the strategic priorities for 2010 – 2013. The intent was to provide some insight from government officials to the February Board meeting on how to make the FTI partnership more relevant at the country level. These videoconference consultations were sponsored by Madame Marie-Odile Bonkougou, Minister of Education for Burkina Faso and chaired by Mr. Ibrahima Kaboré (Ministry of Education, Burkina Faso) and Linda English (FTI Secretariat). It is the intent of the Minister to consult with these partner countries before future FTI Board Meetings. Additional consultations with other participating countries are planned.

The conclusions of the meetings were prepared by Mr. Kaboré and are attached as Annex 1.

Recommendations from consultations

- ***Education financing:*** All of the participants were very much aware of FTI and had been involved in preparing ESPs and CF applications. In terms of country context, it was reiterated by many that financing was becoming more of a constraint. Already, education budgets were taking over 30 percent of government budgets and sometimes, as in the case of Niger, 55 percent. While it was recognized that more needed to be done to make efficiency gains in implementing domestic budgets, it was stressed that the rapid increases in enrollments and improvements in completion rates in these countries were stressing the sector's capacity to absorb students, especially in urban areas. In one country there were no places for 55,000 students graduating from primary school in 2009. In all countries, it was noted that the share of donor financing had fallen over the past eight years from 12-15 percent to around 5-7 percent. There is a concern about sustaining recent gains in education indicators. It was stressed that Ministries of Finance need to be involved in LEGs and in FTI. There was a call to involve African Heads of States and other well-known Africans in resource mobilization

efforts – for both internal and external sources and to find nontraditional sources of financing such as from G-20 countries.

- ***Extend the scope of FTI to include secondary education:*** Ministries work in a holistic manner across the sector and a sector-wide approach will deal with the transitions, bottlenecks and financing between sub-sectors. Making the link between economic development and education is very important for these countries especially at the lower and upper secondary levels, and thus they need to play a much bigger role in the development of ESPs.
- ***Move Catalytic Fund to meet longer term financing needs:*** CF and other sources of financing need to take into consideration the rapid short-term increase in teachers and thus budgets. CF should last for at least 5 years in order to respond to the long-term nature of the sector.
- ***Involvement of Ministers of Finance:*** Ministers of Finance need to be involved in CF applications and to be advocates for education financing. Education budgets need to be monitored so that CF does not simply replace domestic financing.
- ***Communication with FTI:*** There is a dearth of information available to Ministries on FTI and it was felt that the Secretariat should deal directly with governments and not rely totally on Coordinating Agencies who change often and do not necessarily have incentives to be a source of information about FTI processes. It would be very helpful to promote south-south exchange to improve knowledge about development and implementation of ESPs and widen the base of expertise for technical assistance.
- ***FTI Governance:*** There was agreement on the need for a greater role involving country partners in the FTI decision making as well as the need for a stronger Secretariat to support countries.
- ***Showing better results:*** The current Indicative Framework should be revised and adapted to country specificities. Efforts need to be made to measure the impact of FTI and CF at the country level – to convince donors of its efficacy. Countries need to strengthen their monitoring and evaluation system, align indicators with UIS and information and analysis of indicators should be used in decision making processes and the review of ESPs

ANNEX 1

RESUME DES CONCLUSIONS DES TROIS PRECEDENTES SEANCES DE VIDEOCONFERENCES SUR L'EVALUATION DE L'IMOA ET PERSPECTIVES

1. **Renforcer la communication interne et externe** pour rendre plus visibles les actions de l'IMOA et favoriser les échanges Sud-Sud et Nord-Sud. Envisager avant chaque session du Conseil d'Administration une consultation entre pays africains sur les points importants de l'ordre du jour.
 - Améliorer la communication entre le Secrétariat de l'IMOA et les gouvernements.
2. **Elargir le champ d'action de l'IMOA** pour tenir compte des réformes entreprises par la plupart des pays. Ces réformes optent pour une vision holistique du secteur éducation (du préscolaire au supérieur). Aussi, le financement de l'IMOA devrait-il concerner tous les ordres d'enseignement et particulièrement le post-primaire pour régler les problèmes de goulots d'étranglement entre le primaire et le secondaire.
 - Mettre l'accent sur les relations entre post-primaire et croissance économique en vue de donner une plus grande place au secteur de l'éducation.
3. **Financement à long terme de l'IMOA :**
 - Trouver des stratégies idoines et nouvelles pour mobiliser les ressources additionnelles au profit du secteur en dehors des circuits traditionnels de financement ;
 - Prendre en compte la croissance rapide du nombre d'enseignants qui justifient la nécessité d'avoir plus de ressources ;
 - Prolonger la durée des allocations du Fonds Catalytique à 5 ans au lieu de 3 comme actuellement afin de répondre au mieux aux besoins du secteur.
 - Impliquer des personnalités africaines (Chefs d'Etat,.....) dans les efforts de mobilisation des financements en faveur de l' IMOA.
4. **Financement interne de l'IMOA :**
 - Impliquer les Ministres des Finances dans les plaidoyer pour le financement du secteur de l'éducation ;
 - Veiller à ce que les fonds de l'IMOA ne viennent pas en diminution des efforts des états en faveur du secteur de l'éducation.
5. **Renforcer la gouvernance de l'IMOA** en accordant un rôle et une représentativité plus importants aux pays bénéficiaires et en donnant au Secrétariat/IMOA plus d'autonomie.
 - Augmenter le nombre de représentants des pays partenaires au sein du Conseil d'Administration.
6. **Cadre indicatif de l'IMOA:**
 - Modifier le cadre indicatif pour le rendre plus souple afin de l'adapter aux besoins des pays ;
 - Renforcer le système de suivi-évaluation pour permettre de mesurer la contribution de l'IMOA au financement du secteur de l'éducation de manière à convaincre les donateurs de l'efficacité de l'Initiative ;
 - Aligner les indicateurs avec ceux de l'ISU ;
 - Elaborer un cadre de suivi et évaluation pour tous les pays (incluant les informations sur le niveau d'apprentissage des élèves) pour faciliter la prise de décision et la communication.