



**Pledging Conference  
Copenhagen, Denmark, November 8, 2011**

## **Statement from the Government of Mali**

### **Delivered by Salikou Sanago, Minister of Education**

I would like to thank the Global Partnership for its support, which has enabled my country to make very significant progress in developing its educational system.

In its quest to attain the goal of universal education, Mali decided to seek assistance from the Global Partnership with the aim of reducing the financing shortfall for its 2011-2013 program. Although Mali had requested financial assistance in the amount of US\$102.3 million, Mali's country allocation ceiling has been set at US\$41.7 million for its program period.

The shortfall of US\$60.3 million has been the subject of discussion among the various technical and financial partners. It is anticipated that the agencies will be able to increase their contributions with the aim of reducing the shortfall.

Furthermore, the fact that Mali's growth for the 2011-2013 period is expected to exceed 5 percent of GDP bodes well for the mobilization of greater additional domestic resources for education. In 2011, the Government of Mali allocated 36.41 percent of its operating budget to education. The projected amount for 2012 is 36.96 percent, a figure that exceeds the 35 percent commitment made by the President of Mali for that year.

The ability to mobilize Global Partnership financing for Mali will allow the country to expand its commitment to tackling a number of challenges through implementation of a raft of reform measures.

In general terms, Mali pledges to implement the following measures:

**Measure 1:** Significantly reduce the share of the wage bill that must be covered by the communities that have established community schools, by assigning teachers to these schools;

**Measure 2:** Transfer the biggest portion of public education resources to local governments (more than 51 percent, beginning in 2011);

**Measure 3:** Ensure the distribution of resources based on simple and objective criteria, with the aim of guaranteeing equity and reducing geographic disparities; and

**Measure 4:** Facilitate the assignment of teachers to rural areas by offering incentives, beginning in 2012.

More specifically, the Government has:

1. Pledged to improve real time learning;
2. Made a commitment to abolish biennial recruitment;
3. Undertaken to reduce gender disparity (by hiring qualified staff at the central and deconcentrated levels);
4. Developed national reading standards for Level 1 (first and second years) of basic education; and
5. Validated and signed performance contracts with local governments that cover the payment of wages and the management of Direct Grants to Improve Scholastic Outcomes [*Appui Direct à l'amélioration des Rendements Scolaires ADARS*] as well as school cafeterias.

**Capacity-Building:** Several support measures to build capacity in the areas of planning, resource management, performance monitoring, oversight, and the allocation of financial resources (at the central and decentralized levels) have already been instituted in a coordinated manner.

### **The Situation in Northern Mali**

Approximately one thousand Malians have returned home in the wake of the recent events in Libya. About half of these returnees are young people for whom a vocational training program must be established as soon as possible, with a view to reintegrating these persons into the society and economy and preventing insecurity. We are requesting from our partners the required additional financing for this reintegration program.

Thank you.

Salikou Sanago