

**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION FUND
REPLENISHMENT CONFERENCE**

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PLEDGE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER

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Considering education is a top priority for the economic, social and cultural development of my country, Niger, the President of the Republic, *HE Mr. Issoufou MAHAMADOU has committed, in his Niger Rebirth Program to ensuring equitable, free and compulsory quality education up to the age of 16 years old to all Nigerian children and to allocating 25% of the national budget to education.* In order to translate this orientation from the country's highest authority into acts, the Government of Niger has committed to the following for the 2015 – 2018 period:

1. ON FUNDING

Niger has committed to making education quality its top priority. To this end, we will maintain the current level of **25% of budget share** allocated to the education sector and will increase it to 27% in 2018. At least 50% of education expenditure are allocated to basic education and should remain at this level.

2. ON QUALITY AND EQUITY

The Ministry's vision is to grant free quality education to all children in Niger, regardless of gender, social status, and living area, and particularly to the most marginalized children. As for disabled children, Niger has opted for inclusive education for a better social integration of these children.

We will commit to schooling all children (particularly girls) living in nomadic areas and scattered living areas, which will enable us to bring the GER gender parity index from 0.83 in 2013 to 0.93 by 2018.

3. ON STATISTICS DATA

We have a highly performing statistics information system allowing us to produce a timely annual statistics yearbook which is published on the Ministry's and the UNESCO's Websites via a form filled out online by the statistics directorate.

Niger is committing to maintaining its partnership with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and to improving the statistics production quality by complementing it with additional analyses on equity and financing.

A new budget line was created to ensure regular student accomplishment assessment, as well as a national and decentralized learning assessment national scheme based on continuous assessment. Niger is currently engaged in a vast traditional assessment system reform and a new curriculum experimental implementation. All these elements will contribute to education quality improvement.

Niger is committing to mobilizing all necessary resources to systematize these formative assessments which integrate Early Reading in the first three years of primary school.

In order to reinforce decentralized and transparent school management, decentralized management committees have been democratically established and subsidies are allocated to schools for learning quality improvement. Furthermore, there is a political dialog through regular sector reviews to evaluate results with all school stakeholders.