Chair's Note
Board of Directors Meeting
December 15-16, 2014
Washington, D.C.

The Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Education at its Strategic Retreat and in an Executive Session of its December Board considered whether or not the GPE Secretariat is fit for purpose at its current size and as presently configured.

The Board's deliberations were informed by an Organizational Review undertaken by Dr. Alison Evans, former Director of the Overseas Development Institute. The Review concluded that the Secretariat currently lacks critically needed staff resources to perform financial and grant management, to provide sufficient support to a growing number of developing country partners, including leveraging technical capacity on their behalf, and to undertake appropriate quality assurance and monitoring. The Review also concluded that the staff of the Secretariat were showing a high degree of resilience in the face of this lack of resources but the situation was unsustainable and remedying it was urgent.

In light of the Organizational Review, the Chief Executive Officer of GPE, Alice Albright recommended to the Board that the Secretariat be restructured, that nine (9) current staff be redeployed to country facing/supporting functions and that additional staff be hired to address the risks presented with regard to financial and grant management, quality assurance and support to developing country partners. The Board accepted the CEO's recommendations in full on the basis that GPE would not be able to effectively and efficiently add value by locking together policy and technical knowledge, resourcing and convening power without these changes. Now, the Secretariat will be able to substantially lift its performance in relation to:

a) The acquisition, management, and dissemination of technical capability into work with developing country partners;
b) Fiduciary and grant management capability; and
c) The undertaking of quality assurance, monitoring, and evaluation.

The Board also noted that a key outcome from the restructure and additional staff was a significant increase in the amount of staff resource devoted to country facing work.

Every member of the GPE Board and every staff member of the GPE Secretariat is highly focused on the need to minimize administrative expenses and maximize the money available to enable the world's children to have access to quality learning.

As a result of the decision to make the Secretariat fit for purpose and through its current strategic planning process, GPE's clarity about its value and theory of change is sharpening and its capability is strengthening.

The Global Partnership for Education is continuing to evolve and mature to address increasing and new challenges and is growing ever more confident about its ability to have an impact on attaining education for all.