REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCTOBER 16, 2015 WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTRODUCTION

The agenda for the Board meeting can be found on the Global Partnership for Education's ("Global Partnership" or "GPE") website. A list of participants can be found in Annex 1.

This report presents a summary of the issues discussed and the decisions made.

The report of the October 14-15, 2015 Retreat of the Board of Directors will be posted on the GPE website and distributed to the Board for information.

The Board Chair, Julia Gillard, called the meeting to order at 8:45am.

1. WELCOME, AGENDA SETTING

1.1 The Board Chair noted that the objective of the meeting was to consider decision language based on deliberations by the Board on key items over the previous two days.

2. INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION (BOD/2015/10 DOC 03)

2.1 The Chair requested comments on the proposed decision. A Board member suggested to include a summary of issues discussed with the independent evaluators during the Retreat. The Chair confirmed that such a summary will be integrated in the report of the Retreat.

Decision:

2.2 The following decision was approved:

BOD/2015/10-01 – Independent Evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education: The Board of Directors:

1. formally received the Independent Evaluation Report at its meeting;
2. welcomes the findings and recommendations of the Independent Evaluation Report and expresses appreciation for the work completed by the Independent Evaluators and the Independent Evaluation Committee;
3. considers that the Independent Evaluation represents value for money and provides timely and effective recommendations for consideration during the development of the Global Partnership's new five-year Strategic Plan (2016 – 2020);
4. considers that the structure and functioning of the Independent Evaluation Committee reporting to the Board has proved effective in ensuring the quality and independence of the evaluation; and
5. requests that the Secretariat prepare a draft Board response to the evaluation for approval at the December 8-10, 2015 Board meeting.

3. GPE OPERATIONAL MODEL (BOD/2015/10 DOC 06)

3.1 The Chair requested comments on the proposed decision. A Board member noted that the decision did not address the exploration of potential options for financial support to Local Education Groups and/or Coordinating Agencies noted in BOD/2015/10 DOC 06. The Secretariat clarified that the issue may be considered by the Strategy and Policy Committee (SPC). The Chair of the SPC added that it would be important for the Chairs of the Technical Committees to coordinate and agree on each Committee work plan so that all issues related to the operational model that require follow-up by the committees are appropriately and efficiently addressed.

Decision:

3.2 The following decision was approved:

BOD/2015/10-02 – GPE Operational Model: The Board of Directors:

1. approves the recommendations and actions as set out in BOD/2015/10 Doc 06-Decision to strengthen the GPE Operational Model; and
2. requests the Secretariat to work with the relevant standing Committees as set out in BOD/2015/10 Doc 06-Decision to execute the recommendations and actions stated therein by the agreed dates.

4. STRENGHTENING EDUCATION SECTOR PLANS (BOD/2015/10 DOC 06)

4.1 The Chair briefly summarized the discussion on strengthening Education Sector Plans during the retreat. She noted some of the comments made during the discussion had been addressed in the proposed decision language, including underscoring that the development and adoption of the Education Sector Plan is the responsibility of the government.

4.2 Comments from Board members on the proposed decision language included the need to clarify in the language that the timing and sourcing of expertise should balance the need for country ownership and independence.

4.3 With regard to quality assurance, some Board members called for an independent review of grant proposals to assure the robustness of investments, in addition to an independent assessment of the draft Education Sector Plan. Other Board members noted that such an independent review of applications is time-consuming and unnecessary considering the internal quality assurance processes in place, and unrealistic given the challenges faced by countries in the application process. The Secretariat noted that several efforts were underway to further strengthen current grant proposal review mechanisms. The three-layer process of quality assurance review related to education sector program implementation grant applications will be further strengthened in the amended Operational Model through minimum standards for supervising and managing entities, and an improved quality assurance process within the Secretariat. In addition, the Country Grants and Performance Committee at its October 27-29, 2015 meeting would review a methodology to strengthen quality assurance by the Committee and discuss whether it would be useful to have an independent evaluator assisting the CGPC in the review of grant proposals.

Decision:

4.4 The following decision was approved:

BOD/2015/10-03 – <u>Strengthening Education Sector Plans</u>: The Board of Directors:

1. emphasizes that the development and adoption of an Education Sector Plan (ESP) is the responsibility of the government and re-iterates the importance of GPE support to developing country partners for the development of robust ESPs;
2. agrees that an independent assessment should be used in order to strengthen ESPs and improve GPE financing decisions;
3. requests the Secretariat to develop options for decision at the December 8-10, 2015 Board meeting for a costed proposal for the independent assessment of ESPs taking into account the following:
    a. the independent assessment needs to be linked to the support provided to the planning process, including education sector analysis, by the Secretariat and Partners;
    b. the timing of the independent assessment should allow for suggested improvements to be considered on a timely basis in the finalization of the sector plan;
    c. the independent assessment should contribute to building capacity and include a mechanism to capture and share lessons learned across the Partnership;
    d. the findings of the assessment should be incorporated into the quality assurance review process for consideration by the CGPC and Board; and
    e. the timing and sourcing of expertise should balance the need for country ownership and independence.

5. GLOBAL AND CROSS-NATIONAL LEVERS

5.1 The Chair briefly summarized the related discussion during the Retreat and presented the proposed decision for comment. Comments from Board members included to reflect in the decision that the Global Partnership consider its past experience in the area of knowledge exchange, in particular the Global and Regional Activities program (GRA), and to have the proposed options paper on knowledge exchange for the December 8-10, 2015 Board meeting costed.

5.2 With regard to terminology, a Board member suggested the term Global and Cross-National Levers would likely not resonate outside the Partnership and should be revised into more practical and common terminology. A further request was made to harmonize all references related to knowledge exchange across the strategic planning documents. The Secretariat noted it would contemplate better terminology and use it consistently going forward.

5.3 With regard to the GRA, the Secretariat informed the Board that two existing reports included detailed chapters on the program: the Portfolio review and Volume 4 of the Independent Evaluation Report.

Decision:

5.4 The following decision was approved:

BOD/2015/10-04 – <u>Knowledge and Good Practice Exchange</u>: The Board of Directors:

1. endorses the Global Partnership's global and cross-national role as convener, advocate, broker and funder of knowledge and best practice in areas critical to the achievement of the Global Partnership's Strategic Goals;
2. agrees to appoint the Strategy and Policy Committee to work with the Secretariat to define the Partnership's role in these areas and prepare a costed options paper by the June 2016 Board meeting, taking into consideration the following principles:
   a. close alignment with the Goals and Objectives of the Strategic Plan 2016-2020;
   b. a focus on country needs, ownership and sustainability;
   c. drawing on our operations, experience, expertise and strengths of the Partnership; and
   d. learning from past experience, in particular the Global and Regional Activities Program and the reports on it.

6. REVISIONS TO STRATEGIC PLAN CONCEPT NOTE (BOD/2015/10 DOC 07 and DOC 04)

6.1 The Chair summarized the relevant discussion during the Retreat and requested comments on the proposed decision language. Board Members noted the need to integrate and align all documents related to the Strategic Plan and to aggregate comments on all Retreat documents related to the Strategic Plan. The Secretariat explained that any additional comments from Board members would need to be received within a few days from the Retreat in order to deliver the final Strategic Plan three weeks before the December Board meeting, or accept that the final document would not be ready until a few days prior to the Meeting. The Board agreed to the option of a short comment period, followed by inputs from Reference Group 2. The Secretariat would then share the final draft Strategic Plan with the Board three weeks before the Board meeting when the Board would have an opportunity to submit further comments. These final comments would be shared as a set of proposed changes to the final Strategic Plan at the December Board Retreat.

6.2 Board members expressed concern about how changes in the area of scope and scale would be included in the final Strategic Plan. The Secretariat and Chair stated that it would seek to include reference to the decision language on this issue in the plan, to capture aspirations for a wider ambition, while not referring to specific actions.

6.3 With respect to the proposed decision to involve Board Reference Group 2 into the finalization of the draft Strategic Plan, it was suggested to increase the membership to strengthen expertise within the group, especially as it relates to experience with theories of change and results frameworks.

Decision:

6.4 The following decision was approved:

BOD/2015/10-05 – <u>Draft Strategic Plan</u>: The Board of Directors:

1. considered proposed changes to the Vision, Mission, Goals, Objectives and Principles, including those set out in BOD/2015/10 DOC 07;
2. welcomed the draft Theory of Change and considered proposed improvements to the draft Theory of Change and Results Framework;

3. mandates Board Reference Group 2 to work with the Secretariat to finalize a Strategic Plan that includes the Theory of Change and Results Framework and is aligned with the amended GPE Operational Model by October 31, 2015 taking into consideration deliberations at the October 14-16, 2015 Board Retreat and subsequent comments from Board members and Alternate Board members and to add sections on Scope/Scale, Strategic Financing, and Knowledge and Good Practice Exchange for decision at the December 8-10, 2015 Board meeting; and
4. mandates the Secretariat to receive and aggregate comments on a draft Strategic Plan, Theory of Change and Results Framework mid to late November 2015 and prepare a proposed list of changes in advance of the December 8-10, 2015 Board meeting.

7. THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL4 (SDG4): A STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

7.1 The Chair summarized the discussion on scope and scale during the Retreat and requested comments on the proposed decision. She noted the decision language addressed comments made during the Retreat and included the need to reference SDG4 and the Education 2030 Framework for Action, recognition that replenishment is a continuing activity, and that the Global Partnership will consider the outcomes of the International Commission on Financing Education Opportunity.

7.2 In addition to some suggestions for more accurate language, comments from Board members included adding a reference to the GPE Funding Model and clarifying in the language that in the allocation of funds raised in future funding cycles, such criteria will continue to focus on and the majority of funding for basic education. A request was also made to strengthen language that in some contexts, equity issues in upper secondary education and a more comprehensive view of early childhood development, care and pre-primary education, will be appropriate for the Global Partnership to fund.

7.3 With respect to the proposal to share a strategic financing paper with the Board in December, the Board member representing the European Commission stated that such a paper is not a priority and premature. She expressed concern about the bandwidth of the Secretariat to produce such a paper in such a short time. She requested the concern be documented in the meeting report. The Secretariat informed the Board that the proposed approach is a preliminary paper on safeguards and principles in December and a more detailed paper in June. This would enable the Global Partnership to respond to the outcomes of the Financing Commission. The Secretariat further assured that staff preparing the paper were not involved in the significant amount of work related to finalizing the Strategic Plan and were in a position to deliver.

7.4 One Board Member noted the need to recognize the current large funding gap and invited the Board to consider the possibility of advancing the next replenishment cycle.

7.5 Board members reiterated the need to focus on language consistency when referring to knowledge exchange and revise the currently used “global and cross-national levers.”

Decision:

7.6 The following decision was approved:

BOD/2015/10-06 – <u>The Global Partnership for Education and Sustainable Development Goal4: A Strategic Alignment</u>:

The Global Partnership for Education endorses the new level of ambition of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) which states:

"Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all"

The Global Partnership acknowledges that its work must align with SDG4.

In the five-year period covered by its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, the Global Partnership will build this alignment in the following ways:

Planning

The Global Partnership will support the development of governments' education sector plans that align with SDG4.

Graduation

The Global Partnership needs to review its graduation criteria in the light of SDG4 and the Global Partnership's contributions to it. The Board will consider a paper on possible new approaches and criteria at its meeting in December 2016. The Board will ensure it is informed by the methodology used by other global funds.

Financing

The Global Partnership will actively seek to mobilize additional resources from both domestic and international sources, including public and private partners. The Global Partnership's next replenishment is due in 2018. However, the partnership believes that the seeking of new funding must be an on-going process. The Global Partnership intends to work closely with the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity to ensure the Commission's September 2016 Report has a high degree of impact. The Global Partnership will consider the recommendations of the Commission and the opportunities therein.

The Global Partnership recognizes that it needs to explore the potential to diversify its sources of finance to address GPE priorities. It will consider at its December 8-10, 2015 Board meeting a preliminary paper on strategic financing. This paper will outline safeguards and principles around restricted financial contributions, early analysis of comparator organizations and issues such as additionality, leveraging, co-financing and innovative financing. The paper will also consider financing of Good Practice and Knowledge Exchange.

The resources pledged at the 2014 GPE Replenishment Pledging Conference will continue to be focused on existing eligible activities and countries. The GPE Operational Model will be strengthened in line with BOD/2015/10-02 in order to ensure greater effectiveness of the use of these funds. The Results Framework being finalized in December 2015 will be used for monitoring and reporting.

Prioritization

The Global Partnership recognizes that, no matter how successful any fundraising efforts may be, decisions will always need to be made on funding priorities. The Global Partnership will, taking into account the priorities of the partner country, make decisions on the basis of what most effectively maximizes equity, quality and learning outcomes in accordance with the GPE funding model. In the allocation of funds raised in future funding cycles, such criteria will necessarily mean a continuing focus on and majority of funding for basic education (meaning at least one year of pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and second chance education). However, in some contexts the Global Partnership recognizes that equity issues in upper secondary education and a more comprehensive

view of early childhood development, care and pre-primary education, will be appropriate for the Global Partnership to fund.

Education in Emergencies

The Board notes the ongoing work of the Technical Strategy Group on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises and recognizes the importance of addressing this critical issue in a timely manner. The outcomes of the Technical Strategy Group and the advocacy of political champions will inform future Board decision-making.

NEXT MEETING

The Chair noted that the next Board meeting would take place on December 8-10, 2015 in Dakar. The Secretariat will circulate detailed information in due course.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 1:30pm.

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANT LIST

Full Name (Last, First)	Job Title	Institution/ Organization	Country/ Pays	Constituency
Adrien, Marie-Hélène	President	Universalia Management Group	Canada	Presenter
Ahmat, Youssouf Tahir	Director-General of administration and planning	Ministry of National Education	Chad	Constituent of Africa 2
Albright, Alice	Chief Executive Officer	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Amin, Hikmatullah	GPE Coordinator	Ministry of Education	Afghanistan	Constituent of EEMECA
Archer, David	Head of Program Development	ActionAid	United Kingdom	Board Member-Constituent of CSO 1 (International / Northern)
Baker, Tony	Education for All Campaign Manager	RESULTS Educational Fund	United States	Alternate Board Member-Constituent of CSO 1 (International / Northern)
Baysah, David	Project Coordinator & Technical Focal Person	Ministry of Education	Liberia	Constituent of Africa 3
Benveniste, Luis	Practice Manager, Global Engagement and Knowledge	World Bank	United States	Alternate Board Member-Multilateral & Regional Banks (MLA 3)
Bernard, Jean-Marc	Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Biney, Francis	Coordinator	Ministry of Education	Ivory Coast	Constituent of Africa 2
Bogale, Solomon	Technical Advisor	Ministry of Education	Ethiopia	Constituent of Africa 3

Full Name (Last, First)	Job Title	Institution/ Organization	Country/ Pays	Constituency
Bouapao, Lytou	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Education and Sports	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Board Member-Constituent of Asia& Pacific
Bourne, Josephine	Associate Director	UNICEF	United States	Alternate Board Member-Constituent of UNICEF (MLA 2)
Brown, Donal	Director, Global Funds Department	Department for International Development (DFID)	United Kingdom	Board Member-Constituent of Donor 3
Brüning, Marie	Education Program Officer	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC	Switzerland	Constituent of Donor 1
Burnett, Nicholas	Managing Director	Results for Development Institute	United States	Presenter
Coleman, David	Senior Education Advisor	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Australia	Constituent of Donor 6
Colenso, Peter	Executive Director, Education	The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)	United Kingdom	Board Member-Constituent of Private Sector/Private Foundation
Collins, Patrick	Senior Education Advisor	USAID	United States	Constituent of Donor 6
Di Vozzo, Donatella	Education Economist	BTC-Belgian Development Agency	Belgium	Constituent of Donor 1
Edwards, David	Deputy General Secretary	Education International	Belgium	Alternate Board Member-Constituent of CSO 3
Empey, Patrick	Human Development - Policy Team Leader	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	Ireland	Alternate Board Member-Constituent of Donor 4
Feinberg, Nathalia	Ambassador, Head of Department, Development Policy and Global Cooperation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Denmark	Board Member-Constituent of Donor 2

Full Name (Last, First)	Job Title	Institution/ Organization	Country/ Pays	Constituency
Focas Licht, Margarita	Country Support Team Manager	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Gillard, Hon. Julia	Board Chair	GPE Board Chair	Australia	Chair
Goudiaby, Gisele	Events Coordinator	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Graff, Bent	Special Advisor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Denmark	Constituent of Donor 2
Graves, Sue	Director, Sectoral Funds	Dept. of Foreign Affairs	Australia	Alternate Board Member-Constituent of Donor 6
Guétin, Christine	Board Operations Officer	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Hanif Balkhi, HE Asadullah	Minister	Ministry of Education	Afghanistan	Board Member-Constituent of EEMECA
Henfry, Sally-Anne	Special Assistant to the Board Chair	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Henke, Kerstin	Education Advisor	German Federal Ministry for Economy Cooperation and Development	Germany	Constituent of Donor 5
Hyving, Stellan Arvidsson	Senior Policy Specialist – Education	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Sweden	On behalf of Alternate Board Member of Constituent of Donor 2
Ismonov, Fathiddin	Deputy Minister of Education of Tajikistan	Ministry of Education	Tajikistan	Constituent of EEMECA
Karjalainen, Marja	Deputy Head of Unit	European Commission	Belgium	Constituent of Donor 5
Kitignavong, Khampaseuth	Deputy Director General Department of Pre-primary and Primary Education	Ministry of Education	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Constituent of EEMECA

Full Name (Last, First)	Job Title	Institution/ Organization	Country/ Pays	Constituency
Krech, Robert	Operations Officer	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Lorenzo, Veronique	Head of Unit	European Commission	Belgium	Board Member- Constituent of Donor 5
Mabumba, David	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Education	Zambia	Alternate Board Member- Constituent of Africa 1
Malik, Allah	Federal Additional Secretary	Ministry of Education	Pakistan	Alternate Board Member- Constituent of Asia & Pacific
Manigat, HE Nesmy	Minister	Ministry of Education	Haiti	Alternate Board Member- Constituent of LAC
Mbow, Cheikh	National Coordinator	COSYDEP	Senegal	Board Member of Constituent of CSO 2
Mettille, Jeff	Advisor	USAID	United States	Constituent of Donor 6
Mugemezulu, Owen	Director- Planning and Information	Ministry of Education	Zambia	Constituent of Africa 1
Mundy, Karen	Chief Technical Officer	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Naidoo, Jordan	Director of the EFA and Global Agenda Coordination Team	UNESCO	France	Alternate Board Member- Constituent of MLA 1
Nhan-O'Reilly, Joseph	Committee Chair	Strategy & Policy Committee	United Kingdom	Chair of the Strategy and Policy Committee
Nicod, Chantal	Head of West Africa Division- Education Department	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	Switzerland	Board Member- Constituent of Donor 1

Full Name (Last, First)	Job Title	Institution/ Organization	Country/ Pays	Constituency
Nippita Nalinee	Senior Adviser	UNICEF	United States	Constituent of UNICEF (MLA 2)
Nkaada, Daniel	Commissioner Basic Education	Ministry of Education	Uganda	Board Member of Constituent of Africa 1
Paradis, Anne-Françoise	Education Advisor	Ministry Foreign Affairs - Belgium	Belgium	Alternate Board Member-Constituent of Donor 1
Pompilus, Antoine Guy	Director Training & Development	Ministry of Education	Haiti	Constituent of LAC
Rose, Pauline	Professor, International Education	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	Presenter
Sakho, Marieme	General Secretary	Sypros	Senegal	Board Member-Constituent of CSO 3
Sanchez, Sandra	Vice Minister of Education	Ministry of Education	Honduras	Board Member-Constituent of LAC
Sarch, Terri	Deputy Head of Global Funds Department	Department for International Development (DFID)	United Kingdom	Constituent of Donor 3
Seim, Olav	Policy Director Education	Department for International Development (DFID)	Norway	Board Member-Constituent of Donor 4
Shouldice, Julie	Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Canada	Alternate Board Member-Constituent of Donor 3
Steckhan Uwe	Public Partnerships Specialist	Department of For Affairs, Trade and Development	United States	Constituent of Donor 6
Sumerfield, Douglas	Sr. Operations Officer	United States Agency for International	United States	Constituent of MLA 3
Svihlik, Jan	Education Advisor	GIZ	Germany	Constituent of Donor 5

Full Name (Last, First)	Job Title	Institution/ Organization	Country/ Pays	Constituency
Thiam, HE Serigne Mbaye	Minister- Committee Chair	Ministry of Education	Senegal	GERF Chair
Upadhyay, Arjun	Senior Program Associate	Results for Development Institute	United States	Presenter
Van Dyke, Johanna	Board Operations Officer	GPE Secretariat	United States	GPE Secretariat
Werner, HE George	Minister	Ministry of Education	Liberia	Alternate Board Member of Constituent of Africa 3
Wolassa, HE Shiferaw	Minister	Minister of education FDRE	Ethiopia	Board Member of Constituent of Africa 3
Zubaidulloev, Mukhibullo	Principal	International Presidential School	Tajikistan	Constituent of EEMECA