Note regarding the Ministerial Aide Memoires, the ministerial call on COVID and the various DCP consultations

On the occasion of the GPE Board meeting, the DCP constituencies would like to reiterate and highlight the following key points. These points come from various ministerial meetings coordinated by Minister Serigne Mbaye THIAM of Senegal, from the high-level ministerial consultation dedicated to mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on education which was coordinated by Minister David Moinina SENGEH of Sierra Leone, as well as from other meetings of representatives of member countries and partners. The very fruitful discussions between country officials, including also sometimes donors and other representatives of the Partnership, highlighted the main challenges that we are facing across the world and that have been aggravated because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To face the learning crisis, we need innovative solutions in terms of our governance, our operating model, resource mobilization etc ... More recently, GPE's response to the COVID-19 crisis through accelerated funding offers useful avenues which must be considered as key success factors for our partnership in the coming years: flexibility, agility, and a response adapted to country contexts. To summarize the key points:

Continue to be bold and ambitious, real progress requires a paradigm change:

- Push GPE to break from business as usual as we develop and operationalize the new strategic plan;

- The plan should emphasize leaving no-one behind, focusing on gender equality, and creating the conditions necessary to transform education systems to meet the challenges of the 21st century and the COVID 19;

Strengthening government-led systems is core to transformation:

- The Partnership must leverage its collective resources and knowledge in support of a country's own national education plans, reinforcing and strengthening national systems and capacities;

- Essential that countries are provided with an opportunity to learning from one another and share knowledge/lessons learned with regards to COVID 19 experience. KIX should be used a platform to promote greater knowledge sharing;

- Essential that partners' financial supports and KIX are aligned with country priorities;

An increased focus on mutual accountability is key:

- The Partnership is currently unbalanced including heavy requirements placed on Developing Country Partner governments, who are in turn unable to hold donor partners, Grant Agents, and Coordinating Agents and civil society accountable. Responsibility and accountability must be mutually shared;

- New Strategic plan should emphasize accountability and alignment and better leverage the Partnership in support of DCPs. The upcoming governance review is a key opportunity to look at this.

- We need to lower transaction costs and countries need support from CSOs, Donors and other constituencies for the delivery of programs.

A differentiated incentives-based approach will achieve greater impact:

- The Partnership should be groundbreaking in finding and scaling solutions that address common education challenges facing developing country partners.

- We must adopt a more differentiated and sophisticated approach to GPE funding that takes country contexts into account. The approach should be lighter and combine incentives and support for reform minded leadership.

- The Partnership should continue to be innovative in finding and scaling solutions that address common education challenges facing developing country partners including on domestic financing.

- It is essential that the new MEL framework reflects the differentiated approach and articulates how indicators will respond to country context, while considering the new challenges created by the COVID-19.

Adapt an agile and flexible approach which is adapted to country contexts:

- The Partnership must review its operating model in order to improve its impact at country level by making procedures more agile and taking more into account the challenges and reality of each country;

- The Partnership should build on the experience of the accelerated window which swiftly mobilized governance and resources to support member countries.

- It is essential that past experiences and the COVID-19 response are well documented and shared for lessons learned to strengthen our local and global governance, our operational model, the mobilization of resources and ultimately the effectiveness of the Partnership.