BOD/2012/01—DOC 02

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

VIA AUDIO-CONFERENCE

12 JANUARY 2012

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP *for* EDUCATION

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

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1. Having confirmed that a quorum was present (see Annex 1 for list of participants), the meeting proceeded with introductory remarks from the Chair including the following:

    a. The objective of the audio-conference meeting was to approve the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) recommendations regarding the following:

        i. Needs and Performance Framework (NPF); and

        ii. List of indicative allocations for education plan implementation grants 2012-2014.

    The basis for the recommendation and proposed decision language was included in the BOD/2012/01—DOC 01 "Revised Needs and Performance Framework" sent to the Board of Directors on Tuesday, 27 December 2011. As indicated in the paper, the list will be reviewed annually by the FAC for possible modification, which will be recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

    b. In addition, prior to the meeting, the Secretariat delivered to the Board of Directors information on the then-current financial situation of the Global Partnership, including the Global Partnership for Education Fund and the Catalytic Fund.

2. The Secretariat responded to written comments received from Board members in advance of the audio-conference. These included further clarification that the resources used for the NPF calculations were calculated by taking the US$ 2 billion amount, subtracting the allocation amount for the 7 countries already funded and other expenses, and over-programming by 25%. The Secretariat also provided additional information regarding the expectation to reach the US$ 2 billion target based on having received informal indications of future contributions or increases in current pledges.

3. The Chair opened the floor for debate based on the decision sought. The following issues were discussed:

    a. **Cap**: Some Board members raised concerns regarding the use of a US$ 100 million cap on allocations. Some partners felt that since additional funding may be raised, an "over-programming" at 150% should be considered, which would eliminate the need for a cap. Some partners felt the language around applications above the cap ("exceptional circumstances") was vague. Some noted that those who apply for amounts above the cap should explore other additional sources of financing and should demonstrate the ability to use the funds. Others noted that any additional allocations should be left open and based on the need and capacity of a country to successfully implement its allocation

because it afforded the opportunity to use incentives for absorptive capacity and performance. The Chair noted that these issues will be discussed by the FAC and brought to the Board of Directors for further consideration.

b. **Performance top ups**: Board members raised concerns regarding the difficulty in establishing criteria for performance top up allocations and setting up a reporting system to monitor and evaluate these criteria. The Chair noted that these issues will be discussed by the FAC and brought to the Board of Directors for further consideration.

c. **Communications to developing country partners**: Board members noted the need to emphasize to developing country partners that the allocations were indicative, particularly given the global financial environment. The Secretariat assured Board members that this will be made clear in all communications.

d. **"Crowding in" vs. "crowding out"**: There was recognition that following the successful replenishment in Copenhagen 2011, it will be important to leverage all partner resources. Allocations from the Global Partnership should help leverage other sources of funding including bilateral and multilateral sources in order to reach the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. With reference to the US$ 750 million pledged by the World Bank for GPE-eligible countries, the Secretariat noted that it takes the "crowding in" issue very seriously. The Chair assured Board members that helping to draw down the full US$ 750 million is a high priority of the Global Partnership. The issue will be further considered by the FAC in relation to the annual review of the indicative allocations list.

e. **Eligibility**: One Board member noted that allocations should include middle-income countries because otherwise they might be discouraged from participating in the partnership. This issue will be taken up by the Strategic Plan working group.

f. **Requests to the Secretariat**: The following specific requests were made:

    i. Updated reporting on what had been allocated/disbursed in the past from the Catalytic Fund; and

    ii. More detailed reporting from meetings, beyond the key decisions made, for purposes of transparency and accountability, as well as to follow up on previous decisions taken. The Chair advised that going forward, a summary will be distributed to members following the meetings.

g. **Other Business**: The following additional issues were raised:

    i. Need to discuss the process of working on the Strategic Plan. Board members should be informed when any working group is set up (including the name of the chair and members). The Chair assured this would be done.

    ii. Request for clarification whether sub-national entities within federal states can apply for funding. The Secretariat noted that it is working on a policy which will be discussed by the FAC in April 2012.

    iii. Request for clarification on how the issue of "learning" was being addressed within the NPF to ensure alignment with strategic priorities. The Secretariat noted the lack of data for learning indicators prevented it from being included in the NPF formula. Learning outcomes will be considered as part of the top ups discussion to be held by the FAC in April.

4. **Final Decision:** The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

> **BOD/2012/01-01 – <u>Revised Needs and Performance Framework and Indicative Allocations for Education Plan Implementation Grants</u>**: The Board of Directors approves: (i) the revised Needs and Performance Framework (NPF) as presented in BOD/2012/01-DOC 01, Annex 1; and (ii) indicative allocations for education plan implementation grants from the Global Partnership for Education trust funds for the period 2012-2014 based on the application of the revised NPF to an indicative allocation total of US$ 2 billion and as presented in BOD/2012/01-DOC 01, Attachment 1 (with the US$ 100 million cap applicable).
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> In exceptional circumstances, a Local Education Group in a country to which the US$ 100 million cap applies may present a proposal for a higher amount.
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> The indicative education plan implementation grant allocations shall be subject to an annual review by the FAC based on available resources and projections of the applications that will be submitted. Any changes shall be recommended by the FAC for approval by the Board of Directors.
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> The Board of Directors requests that the Secretariat advise developing country partners of their indicative allocations and post the list on the Global Partnership website as soon as possible.

5. Next steps:

    a. The Chair will circulate the final approved decision language, including a summary of the report of meeting, to the Board of Directors;

    b. The Secretariat will inform countries of their indicative allocations, indicating they may be changed in the annual review process;

    c. The Secretariat will post the list of indicative allocations on the Global Partnership website; and

    d. The issue of the standards applicable to the annual review and the cap will be discussed by the FAC and brought to the Board of Directors for further consideration.

6. Chair adjourned the meeting.

Annex 1

Chair	
Carol Bellamy	
Developing Countries	
Africa 3	Momodou Sanneh (The Gambia)
Asia & the Pacific	Naranzogt Tschuluun (Mongolia)
E. Europe, Middle East & Central Asia	H.E. Minister Farooq Wardak (Afghanistan)
Donors	
Donor 1	Vincent Snijders (The Netherlands)
Donor 2	Francisco Gutiérrez and Margarita Pascual (Spain)
Donor 3	Sara Nicholls (Canada)
Donor 4	Lena Ingelstam (Sweden)
Donor 5	Elisabeth Féret and Marja Karjalainen (European Commission)
Donor 6	Wendy Abt (United States)
CSO & Private Sector/Private Foundations	
CSO 1	David Archer (ActionAid)
Private Sector/Private Foundations	Lynn Murphy (Hewlett Foundation)
Multilateral Agencies	
UNESCO	Olav Seim
UNICEF	Geeta Rao Gupta and Susan Durston
Multilateral and Regional Banks	Elizabeth King (World Bank)
Observers	
Camilla Helgø Fossberg	Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee
Global Partnership Secretariat	
Bob Prouty	Head of Secretariat
Sandra Barton	Team Coordinator, Country Support Team
Luis Crouch	Team Coordinator, Global Good Practices
Michelle Mesen	Board of Directors Liaison
Tal Sagorsky	Board Operations Specialist
Charles Tapp	Acting Team Coordinator, External Affairs and Communications