NOTE ON CONSTITUENCY COMPOSITION AND REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For Discussion by Constituency Groups

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this note is to provide information to Board Members, Alternate Board Members and their constituency members regarding the process for possible re-distribution of the constituencies and selection of Board members and Alternate Board members commencing in January 2013. *This note is for information purposes only in order to facilitate discussion amongst Board members and constituencies; the Secretariat expresses no position or opinion on the issues.*

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Composition of the Constituencies

The current structure of the Board of Directors was put into place at the November 2010 meeting of the Board of Directors in Madrid, Spain. The changes were incorporated into the Charter of the Global Partnership for Education[1]. The Charter states the following regarding the composition of the Board of Directors:

[1] At the time, the Charter was known as the "Governance of the Partnership" document. The Board decision states: **BOD/2010/11-1 – Governance of the Partnership:** The FTI Board of Directors approves the revisions to the "Governance of the Partnership" document, as presented in Annex 1 to the paper prepared by the Working Group on Composition of the FTI Board of Directors, as amended at the November 2010 meeting of the FTI Board of Directors, which reflects the FTI Board of Directors' new composition and operating principles. The FTI Board of Directors requests the FTI Secretariat to disseminate the new version of this document widely, including posting it on the EFA FTI Web site.

The Charter was amended again at the May 2011 meeting of the Board of Directors in Kigali, Rwanda and again to incorporate the new name of the Partnership in August 2011. The current version of the Charter is found on the GPE website at http://www.globalpartnership.org/media/docs/publications/Charter_of_GPE_English.pdf.

4.2 Global Partnership for Education Board of Directors

Composition and Selection

4.2.1 The Board of Directors is composed of 19 members who represent the main constituencies of the Global Partnership for Education and a Chair independent of all partner organizations. Each Board member shall have one vote.

4.2.2 The 19 Board Members shall consist of the following:

a) *Six representatives from developing country partners*[2] with an endorsed education plan, divided on a geographical basis, including at least three from Africa;

b) *Six representatives from donor countries* contributing financial and other support to the Global Partnership for Education;

c) *Three representatives from multilateral agencies*: a representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a representative of the United Nations Children's Fund, and a representative of multilateral and regional development banks;

d) *Three representatives from CSOs*: one representing international/northern CSOs; one representing CSOs from developing country partners; and one representing members of the teaching profession; and

e) *One representative from the private sector/foundations*.

4.2.3 Each constituency shall appoint an Alternate Board Member to serve as an additional representative of their constituency.

The composition of each of the: (i) six developing country partner constituencies; (ii) six donor country constituencies; and (iii) three civil society organization constituencies was negotiated amongst each of the groups prior to the Madrid meeting. The reservation of seats for the multilateral agencies was suggested by a Working Group formed prior to the approval of the changes to the Charter. The current composition of each of the constituencies, as presented in November 2010, is set out in **Annex 1**.

2.2 Selection of Board Members and Alternate Board Members

The Charter states the following regarding the selection of Board Members:

Selection of Board Members and Terms

4.2.4 Each group mentioned in Article 4.2.2 above will determine a process for selecting its Board representation. Board Members will serve as representatives of their

[2] The European Commission is included in the donor country constituencies.

constituencies. Board Members will serve on the Board of Directors for two years or such other term that the Board of Directors may determine. Board Members shall be deemed to act in their capacity as representatives of their respective governments, organizations, constituencies or other entities. Each constituency of the Board of Directors shall notify the Secretariat of the appointment of its Board Member and Alternate Board Member and any modifications thereto.

The first selection of Board Members and Alternate Board Members by their constituencies occurred in January 2011, following Board decision BOD/2010-2[3]. As stated in the Charter, the terms of Board members and Alternate Board members are for two years, which means that they will expire at the end of 2012.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 Possible Changes to Constituency Composition

3.1.1 Each of the developing country partners, donor countries, and the non-governmental partners (CSOs and the private sector/private foundations constituencies) should start to consider whether the current composition of their constituencies is working well. The constituency composition is scheduled for discussion at the retreat on 6 June 2012[4]. It is expected that discussions will progress over the next several months.

3.1.2 Any proposals on constituency composition that change:

- the number of constituencies for each category; or
- the basis of constituency division as described in the Charter

must be approved by the Board of Directors, as an amendment to the Charter. Other "movements" of countries or organizations between constituencies that do not change the basis for division only require the consensus of the constituency category. **Any**

[3] **BOD/2010/11-2 – FTI Board of Directors Constituency Management:** The FTI Board of Directors requests each constituency to select its Board member and Alternate Board member as soon as possible and to communicate its selections to the Chair of the FTI Board of Directors and the FTI Secretariat no later than January 1, 2011. The new structure of the FTI Board of Directors approved in the "Governance of the Partnership" document shall come into effect upon the selection by a quorum of constituencies (as defined in the revised "Governance of the Partnership" document) of their Board member and Alternate Board member, but not earlier than January 1, 2011. Until that time, the current composition and the operations of the FTI Board of Directors will continue to be in effect.

[4] Multilateral agencies may also meet if requested. It is noted that the seats reserved for UNESCO and UNICEF are the only seats that have one organization as the sole seat-holder. The multilateral and regional banks seat is shared amongst the World Bank and the regional banks (Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank), although the participation of the regional banks has been very limited.

proposed amendments to the Charter to enable any re-distribution should be brought to the Board of Directors for decision no later than the second face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors in 2012.

3.1.3 Some issues that may arise for the donor and developing country constituencies are as follows:

a. **Developing country partners** should consider whether their current constituency composition is effective. The Charter states that the composition of these constituencies will be "divided on a geographical basis, including at least three from Africa". However, it is possible, if desired by the developing country constituencies, for this provision to be amended, provided the Board of Directors approves such an amendment. The developing country constituencies should consider their common interests, language, and having a balanced (although not necessarily exactly equal) number of countries in each constituency. As new developing country partners join the partnership after endorsement of their education plan, room needs to be made to accommodate them. It is possible to request an amendment to the Charter to add another constituency, although any change should be balanced by the addition of a donor country seat[5].

b. **Donor country partners** have a written agreement amongst themselves regarding the composition of their constituencies. The note specified that the current constituency make-up would run for *three* years. However, provision was also made to re-adjust the constituency composition as needed. The donors' agreement will be distributed to the donor members at the breakfast meeting for discussion. As with the developing country partners, the donors may request an amendment to the Charter to add another constituency, although any change should be balanced by the addition of a developing country partner seat.

3.2 Selection of Board Members and Alternate Board Members

Following any possible changes to the constituency composition, as may be decided at the second face-t0-face meeting of the Board of Directors in 2012, the constituencies will

[5] The Board of Directors decided at its meeting in Washington DC in May 2010 as follows: **BOD/2010/05-11 – Board Composition**: The principle of equity is approved. The number of developing country partner seats and votes will be equal to that of bilateral donors.

be requested to select new Board Members and Alternate Board members and inform the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Secretariat of their selection. Constituencies may re-select the same Member and Alternate if they so choose. Some constituencies may have pre-agreed to a "rotation" system. The terms of the Board members and Alternate Board members will commence in January 2013 for two years.

4. NOTE ON THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Membership on the Financial Advisory Committee is also on the basis of constituency representation. The terms of FAC members are also two years. They commenced in November 2011 and will expire at the end of 2013. Should the constituencies be re-aligned, the membership of the FAC may need to be reconsidered by the Board of Directors to ensure that representation continues to reflect the constituencies of the Board of Directors.

Annex 1: Constituencies of the Board of Directors

Developing Country Partners:

Africa 1: Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia

Africa 2: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo

Africa 3: The Gambia, Ghana, Ethiopia, Liberia, Sao Tome, Sierra Leone

Asia and the Pacific: Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Vietnam

Eastern Europe, Middle East and Central Asia: Afghanistan, Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Tajikistan, Yemen

Latin America and the Caribbean: Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua

Donor Country Partners:

Donor 1: Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland

Donor 2: Australia, Spain

Donor 3: Canada, United Kingdom

Donor 4: Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Sweden

Donor 5: European Commission, France, Germany, Italy

Donor 6: Japan, Russia, United States

Civil Society Organizations:

CSO 1: International/ northern

CSO 2: Developing Country

CSO 3: Teaching Profession

Multilateral Agencies:

Multilateral and Regional Banks

UNESCO

UNICEF