BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

VIA AUDIO-CONFERENCE

31 JULY 2012

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP *for* EDUCATION

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

1. The Chair confirmed that a quorum was present and commenced the meeting (see Annex 1 for list of participants).

Strategic Plan (BOD/2012/07 DOC 03)

2. The Chair of the Board of Directors made the following introductory remarks:

a. The decisions taken on the mission, vision, goals, objectives, and how the partnership will work, taken at the meeting of the Board of Directors on 7-8 June 2012 in Berlin, would stand. The call would focus on the remainder of the Strategic Plan, and the importance of moving forward.

b. It was important to approve the Strategic Plan so the Partnership could participate in the discussion around the post-2015 agenda and the United Nations Secretary General's EducationInitiative.

c. The implementation plan would be developed by the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG). It would address questions of division of labor, and would be drafted in time for the next face-to-face Board meeting in November 2012.

d. There would be an annual review by the Board of Directors on the progress of implementing the Strategic Plan for accountability purposes. There would also be an independent evaluation every four years.

e. There was an information briefing session held on 26 July 2012, which included a discussion on indicators contained in the Strategic Plan as follows:

- The indicators were tools to be used as markers to guide policy-making and decision-making, as well as for advocacy.
- All efforts would be made to build capacity at the local level to report on the indicators, and to ensure they reflected national priorities.
- Due to the complexity of the indicators, the Chair would establish a Technical Group that would report to the Strategic Plan Working Group, and might provide the Board of Directors with some refinements in November.
- In addition to the call, a few Board members shared written comments with the full Board of Directors.

3. The Chair of the SPWG, Jenny Da Rin, commented that the Strategic Plan should become the basis for the Board's policy debates.

4. Charles Tapp explained how the comments made by Board members in Berlin, as well as further suggestions by the Working Group,had beenincorporated into the revised plan.

5. Board members expressed support for the plan and made the following comments:

a. Scope: Some Board members said there was too much emphasis on primary school.

b . Fragile States: The language on fragile states needed work and was not always in line with OECD/DAC recommendations.

c. Value for Money: It was important to tell a compelling story about impact and results with respect to costs.

d. Modalities: The preferred funding modality of the GPE is sector budget support. In some cases (i.e., fragile states), project support might be appropriate, but careful consideration should be given to context. A request was made that this be a topic at the next face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors.

e. Access for All: The strategic goal of "Access for All" must be highlighted more strongly. Language indicating the need for a broader protection for the most hard to reach children should be integrated into the implementation plan. This should not be too narrowly defined, and it should not be concerned only with girls, but should refer to all groups who were marginalized and faceddiscrimination.

f. Indicators: It should be made clear that the indicators were intended to give a sense of what GPE wanted to achieve, and that they would be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

6. The Chair noted that the final draft of the Strategic Plan would take into account the comments made at the audio-conference as well as written communications sent in advance of the meeting. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

BOD/2012/07-01 – <u>Final Strategic Plan</u>: The Board of Directors:

a. approves the indicators and actions described in the Global Partnership for Education Strategic Plan as presented in Annex 1 to BOD/2012/07 DOC 03; and

b. requests the Secretariat to:

i. finalize the Strategic Plan, based on the comments made by the Board of Directors at the audio-conference on 31 July 2012, for publication in conjunction with the launching of the United Nations Secretary General's Education Initiative; and

ii. provide to the Board of Directors at its next face-to-face meeting, a revised monitoring and evaluation strategy that is aligned to the Strategic Plan (in addition to the other documents requested in decision BOD/2012/06-02).

7. The Chair thanked the Strategic Plan Working Group, and in particular the Chair of the SPWG, for all of their hard work on the Strategic Plan.

Recommendations of the Financial Advisory Committee (BOD/2012/07 DOC 02)

8. The Chair advised that the recommendations of the Financial Advisory Committee came out of the FAC meeting on 28-29 June 2012 in Oslo, Norway. The Chair thanked the FAC and its Chair for all of their hard work.

9. The Chair noted that, under the Policy on Conflict of Interest, the proposed Supervising Entity and the country to which a grant was made were presumed to have a conflict of interest. The World Bank mentioned a conflict given that it was proposed to act as Supervising Entity for the four program implementation grant allocations that were being considered.

10. Supervision Allocations:

a. Bob Prouty provided an explanation of supervision allocations that were paid to Supervising Entities. In fragile states, the question had been raised whether the standard allocation of US$100,000 was adequate where programs were handled by Supervising Entities and not Managing Entities.

b. Board members stated that there was a need to verify whether costs in fragile states were more than in other states. The Secretariat was requested to do an analysis for the FAC, and that the FAC subsequently present a recommended amount to the Board.

c. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

BOD/2012/07-02 – Supervision Allocations: The Board of Directors requests:

a. the Secretariat to provide to the Financial Advisory Committee ("FAC") as soon as possible a proposal for the amount for supervision allocations in fragile and conflict-affected states; and

b. the FAC to provide a recommendation on this issue to the Board of Directors.

11. Agency Fees:

a. The Chair noted that the decision sought was to approve the agency fees of for the grant allocations which had been made in December 2011. Agency fees depended on what source (fund) the grant came from and who the Supervising Entity was. When the decisions were taken in December 2011, it had not yet been determined where each of the grants would come from.

b. The Secretariat clarified that the documentation included information for the Afghanistan allocation for US$55.7 million approved in December 2011, which included an agency fee of 2%. However, UNICEF had recently reduced its agency fee to 1%.

c. Board members requested that, in the interest of transparency, the Secretariat should put together a note to the Board outlining the costs of putting together a GPE program. The Secretariat agreed to do this, but noted that in order to do a good analysis, agencies would need to provide the necessary information.

d. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

BOD/2012/07-03 – Agency Fees for December 2011 Allocations: The Board of Directors approves the payment of the applicable agency fees for the allocations for program implementation grants approved in December 2011 (decision BOD/2011/12-01).

12. Allocations for Program Implementation Grants:

a. The Chair stated that the FAC recommendations on the four allocations to Ghana, Nicaragua, Vietnam and Sudan were outlined in the FAC report.

b. One Board member requested that agency fees should be noted in the decision itself, which the Secretariat agreed to do going forward and included in the text of the final decisions taken.

c. There were no comments from the Board of Directors on the allocations to Ghana, Nicaragua or Vietnam.

d. On the allocation to Sudan, the FAC'srecommendation was to approve Components 1 and 3. With respect to Component 2 on text books, more information was needed in terms of unit costs and textbook curriculum (gender analysis and conflict sensitivity). The Local Education Group in Sudan was requested to re-submit Component 2for further review by the FAC at its next face-to-face meeting in October 2012.

e. In response to a question from a Board member, the Secretariat advised that not approving Component 2 now would not impede progress on Components 1 or 3.

f. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

BOD/2012/07-04 – <u>Approval of Allocations for Program Implementation Grants</u>:

The Board of Directors:

1. approves the following allocations from GPE trust funds to be used for program implementation grants as described in the applications submitted for funding in June 2012:

    a. **<u>Ghana</u>**:

        i. US$75,500,000 for a three-year implementation period, with the World Bank serving as Supervising Entity;

        ii. US$400,000 for a supervision allocation; and,

        iii. US$1,321,000 for an agency fee.

    b. **<u>Nicaragua</u>**:

        i. US$16,700,000 for a three-year implementation period, with the World Bank serving as Supervising Entity; and

        ii. US$400,000 for a supervision allocation.

    c. **<u>Sudan</u>**:

        i. US$50,700,000 for a four-year implementation period (as an exception to the three-year limit in the Time Frames for Grant Agreement Signing and Implementation and Procedures for Proposed Revisions to Implementation Grant Programs), with the World Bank serving as Supervising Entity,

        ii. US$500,000 for a supervision allocation; and

        iii. US$887,000 for an agency fee.

The program components that are approved for Sudan are Component 1 (increase access) and Component 3 (strengthen systems).

The Board of Directors requests the Local Education Group in Sudan to submit to the Secretariat, by no later than 31 August 2012, an application for Component 2 (provision of textbooks), for a maximum amount of US$26,000,000, which includes:

- a justification for the unit costs; and

- strengthened process for conflict sensitivity and gender analyses.

The Financial Advisory Committee will consider recommending an allocation for this component at its next face-face meeting.

d. **Vietnam**:

i. US$84,600,000 for a three-year implementation period, with the World Bank serving as Supervising Entity;

ii. US$400,000 for a supervision allocation; and

iii. US$1,481,000 for an agency fee.

2. requests the Secretariat to include in its notification to each of the relevant Local Education Groups regarding the approval of the allocations the Financial Advisory Committee's comments on the program set out in BOD/2012/07 DOC 02.

13. The Chair noted the following general observations from the Report of the FAC:

a. The critical need for more entities to take on the Supervising Entity or Managing Entity role.

b. The choice of modalities. Board members pointed out that the preferred funding modality of the GPE was sector budget support. In some cases (i.e. fragile states), project support might be appropriate, but careful consideration should be given to context.

c. The need for sensitivity in GPE's processes for fragile and conflict-affected states' contexts.

14. The Chair advised on the following next steps:

a. **Decisions**: The Chair would circulate the final approved decision language to the Board of Directors by the end of the day.

b. **Chair Summary**: The Chair would circulate a summary of the meeting shortly.

c. **Strategic Plan:** The Secretariat would finalize the Strategic Plan, taking into account the Board's verbal and written comments and, after a professional edit, would publish and launch it in conjunction with the United Nations Secretary General's Education Initiative in September 2012.

d. **Continued Work of the Strategic Plan Working Group:** The SPWG would have new co-chairs and would oversee the following set of documents to accompany the plan:
   - implementation plan;
   - communications plan;
   - budget considerations; and
   - revised M&E strategy

e. **Program Implementation Grant Allocations:** The Secretariat would immediately inform the four countries of their allocation, signing deadline, and FAC comments.

f. **Technical Group on Indicators:** The Chair would invite Board members to nominate qualified representatives to participate in the proposed Technical Group on indicators. The group would be small and focused, and would work with and give recommendations to the Strategic Plan Working Group.

g. **Next audio-conference of the Board:** The next audio-conference would take place in September 2012. The date would be confirmed soon, and items for discussion would include the Secretariat budget and some actions based on Dr. Alison Evans' report. The Secretariat and Chair would advise the Board of the date as soon as possible.

Annex 1 – Participants in the call

Chair	
GPE	Carol Bellamy
Developing Countries	
Latin America and the Caribbean	Minister Manickchand (Guyana)
Donors	
Donor 1	Vincent Snijders (The Netherlands)
Donor 2	Jenny Da Rin (Australia), Francisco Gutiérrez (Spain)
Donor 3	Simon Bland (UK), Ryan Legault McGill (Canada)
Donor 4	Tove Degnbol (Denmark)
Donor 6	Yuji Yamamoto (Japan), Wendy Abt (US)
CSO & Private Sector/Private Foundations	
CSO 1	Joseph O'Reilly (Save the Children)
CSO 2	Barbara Chilangwa (ZANEC, Zambia)
Private Sector/Private Foundations	Greg Butler (Microsoft)
Multilateral Agencies	
UNESCO	Olav Seim
UNICEF	Geeta Rao Gupta
Multilateral and Regional Banks	Beth King(World Bank)
Observers	
Jesper Andersen	Denmark
Olav Christensen	World Bank
Patrick Collins	USAID
Camilla Helgø Fossberg	Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee
MaggieKoziol	USAID
Sally Waples	DfID, United Kingdom
Global Partnership Secretariat	
Bob Prouty	Head of Secretariat
Jean-Marc Bernard	Country Lead for Nicaragua
Prema Clarke	Country Lead for Sudan
Luis Crouch	Team Coordinator, Global Good Practices
Michelle Freeouf	Board Services Team Analyst
April Golden	Replenishment Team Analyst
Douglas Lehman	Country Lead for Vietnam
Michelle Mesen	Board of Directors Liaison
Nancy Pinto	Team Coordinator, Finance, Portfolio and Administration
Padraig Power	Senior Financial Officer and FAC Liaison
Tal Sagorsky	Sr. Board Operations Specialist
Kouassi Soman	Country Lead for Ghana
Charles Tapp	Team Coordinator, Replenishment