UPDATE ON THE REPLENISHMENT PLEDGE MONITORING PROCESS

For Input and Decision

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board of Directors on the approach which is proposed to monitor and report on pledges made at the Global Partnership for Education (the "Global Partnership" or "GPE") Pledging Conference in November 2011, including strategies to overcome challenges to pledge monitoring.

2. RECOMMENDED DECISION

The Secretariat recommends that the Board of Directors approve the following decision:

BOD/2012/11-XX — Pledge Monitoring Report: The Board of Directors:

a. requests the Secretariat to produce a comprehensive report on the status of fulfillment of the pledges made by partners at the GPE Pledging Conference in November 2011 and deliver it to the Board of Directors at its next face-to-face meeting; and

b. calls on all partners to provide the required information to the Secretariat in a timely manner upon request.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 On 11 November 2011, in Copenhagen, Denmark, the Global Partnership held its first Pledging Conference aiming to mobilize:

- US$2.5 billion in new resources for the GPE Fund;
- increased bilateral and domestic funding for basic education; and
- commitments to adopt and implement policies to promote progress in four areas: improving gender equality and early learning, increasing

support for out-of-school children and for conflict-affected and fragile states.

3.2 All GPE partners were invited to make a pledge under this framework. Sixty partners delivered pledges during the Pledging Conference. These commitments cover the replenishment period from 2011 to 2014.

- Thirty developing country partners committed additional domestic resources of approximately US$5 billion between 2012 and 2014 to undertake activities designed to further progress across the priority areas of the Global Partnership.

- Fifteen donor partners pledged contributions to the GPE Fund, to improve development effectiveness and promote progress across the priority areas of the Global Partnership. In addition, five donor partners pledged to increase their aid for basic education.

- Three multilateral agencies (the World Bank, UNESCO and UNICEF) also committed pledges to the Global Partnership, including organizational and technical leadership, as well as financing for basic education.

- Six international civil society organizations and the global representative of the teaching profession pledged to invest nearly US$2 billion to promote the objectives of the Global Partnership.

- Two private sector companies pledged a combined US$30 million between 2012 and 2015 to improve basic education in Global Partnership countries. In addition, a collective private foundation pledge was made which committed that constituency to invest US$687 million between 2012 and 2014 towards the objectives of the Global Partnership through their education programming.

3.3 A copy of the outcomes report which summarizes all financial and policy commitments made at the Copenhagen Pledging Conference is posted on the GPE website.[1]

[1] http://www.globalpartnership.org/media/Misc./SummaryofPartnerCommitments.pdf

4. MONITORING OVERVIEW

Methodology

4.1 In order to determine progress towards the fulfillment of these diverse pledges and at the request of the Board of Directors, the Secretariat has developed and populated a Pledge Database which includes all of the financial commitments, policy priorities, implementation activities and, where applicable, the outcomes expected for each of the 60 pledges made at the Pledging Conference. The Secretariat has also established a baseline for donor and developing country partner financing commitments, and set up a Finance and Policy Reference Group comprised of members of civil society organizations in each donor country partner to support the acquisition and analysis of information on bilateral aid programs (deriving from legislative documents, Parliamentary hearings, policy statements, etc., by the relevant governments). In addition, the Secretariat has undertaken a review of available documentation from developing country partners, including national education strategies, joint sector reviews, and progress reports on GPE grant performance.

4.2 Each partner that made a pledge at the Pledging Conference in November 2011 will be expected to report on progress towards the delivery of their pledge. The Secretariat will prepare a survey for each partner. This survey will comprise the elements of the pledge that was made, and include additional questions to determine the extent to which policy, programs, and financing included in the pledges have been implemented in 2012. In addition to data provided in the survey, the Secretariat will also undertake telephone interviews and use additional data sources (such as databases, annual reports, EFA Global Monitoring Report data, OECD DAC reports, joint sector review reports, etc.) to determine the details of the delivery of each pledge. Monitoring of pledges to the Global Partnership's replenishment will be undertaken annually, and will require the timely annual reporting of progress by all partners that participated in the Copenhagen Pledging Conference in November 2011. The first annual report will be produced in time for consideration at the next face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors.

4.3 The pledge monitoring exercise is intended to highlight the efforts of partners to accelerate progress and resourcing for the Education for All goals. It is viewed as an affirmation of partners' openness around shared commitments, with the intent of

triggering further such pledges through future replenishment cycles, and highlighting how to maximize the benefits of such pledging events.

Challenges

4.4 Given the diverse array of commitments which have been made there are several challenges which will need to be addressed in order for the Secretariat to effectively monitor pledges. Those which are irresolvable will serve as a diagnostic tool to improve monitoring and evaluation in the sector. The following is a summary of some of the challenges anticipated:

Lack of timely data on implementation of national education plans:

- By far, the greatest challenge to monitoring commitments made by developing country partners is the weak national monitoring and evaluation capacity and paucity of data on implementation. Given the time spent to collect national data at the central level can take up to 18 months, the available data for activities in 2012 on the implementation of the 30 developing country partners that pledged is expected to be low. Furthermore, the Fast Track Initiative's mid-term evaluation and the forthcoming analysis of joint sector reviews found that there have been insufficient efforts to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation aspects of Education Sector Plans ("ESPs"), and joint sector reviews are inconsistent in monitoring the implementation of national ESPs.

- The GPE Fund has several channels for addressing planning and monitoring issues in developing country partners, including support to analytical work and baseline data through education plan development grants; support to training, education management information systems and other capacity building through program implementation grants; and opportunities for training, capacity building, piloting and experience sharing through the Global and Regional Activities program.

- In addition to these efforts, the Secretariat will conduct regional workshops on how ESPs and the monitoring of them can focus on indicators that participating countries may already have in common with the GPE Results Framework, especially outcome indicators pertaining to access and learning outcomes. The

key outcome sought from the workshops is the inclusion of targeted capacity-building work in new sector programs to address gaps identified in the implementation of existing programs, with due emphasis on goals held in common with the GPE Results Framework.

- Where data are available on implementation of the pledges, the Secretariat will include those details in the Pledge Monitoring report. The Secretariat will work closely with UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the World Bank and others to avoid duplication of national reporting efforts, and to fill data gaps. However, it is likely that the report in 2013 will rely on information provided in national ESPs, implementation and action plans, medium-term expenditure frameworks and joint sector reviews, in addition to information provided directly by developing country partners.

Submission of collective pledges by civil society, private foundations:

- The private foundations constituency and Global Campaign for Education aggregated their commitments and submitted one pledge on behalf of their respective memberships. It will be vital that a point-person from those constituencies is designated to collect and report on pledges made by individual members, even if the data are represented as an aggregate of all efforts. Reporting by these constituencies should be as transparent as possible, in adherence with the Global Partnership's development effectiveness principles.

Differing methodologies used by donors to define "basic education" and count ODA for education:

- While every effort will be made to report on a standard set of indicators (e.g., total aid to basic education in low income countries; list of recipient countries; and adherence to a subset of aid effectiveness indicators), the Pledge Monitoring Report will be explicit when there are differences in method of measurement including the different fiscal years used to calculate financing amounts.

Low response rate by developing country partners to the survey:

- Due to changes in government, weak human resource capacity, lack of data, low incentive to respond, and other issues, there is a risk that developing country partners will not provide the data needed in a timely way. In order to overcome this, the Secretariat recommends that:

  a. Board members and Alternate Board members work with their constituency to ensure that the survey has been completed and returned by the deadline;

  b. All partners should expect and plan for the time needed by staff from the relevant departments to provide the data requested between late November 2012 and February 2013; and

  c. All partners should make every effort to participate in the follow-up phone interview and be prepared to seek additional information as needed.

Differing levels of detail in pledge statements:

- While some partners provided an exhaustive level of detail with concrete deliverables, financing commitments, policies and interventions, others did not. Nevertheless, the Secretariat will report on the performance of partners in their support for the replenishment priorities in the level of detail commensurate with the available information.

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR SECRETARIAT RESOURCES

The work on pledge monitoring, including the staffing needed at the Secretariat is incorporated into the current work plan and budget of the Secretariat to 31 December 2013.

6. NEXT STEPS

The Secretariat proposes the following timeline for reporting on pledges:

- All partners will receive the survey the week of 26 November 2012.

- Completed surveys are expected to be returned to the Secretariat by the week of 7 January 2013.

- The Secretariat will undertake telephone interviews, as needed, during the period of 14 January to 22 February 2013.

- Partners will be able to review the summary report on the delivery of their commitment in advance of the report publication, and will be given the opportunity to provide additional information. These summaries will be made available as soon as possible, depending on the timely reporting by partners.

- The final report will be available in April 2013, with a presentation at the next face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors, currently scheduled for May 2013.