MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIA AUDIO-CONFERENCE

18 DECEMBER 2012

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP *for* EDUCATION

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Introduction

1. After taking a roll call, the Chair confirmed that a quorum was present and commenced the meeting (see Annex 1 for list of participants).

2. The Chair advised that the objective of the call was to consider approval of the allocation for the Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF). The proposed decision language had been sent to the Board of Directors on 13 December 2012.

3. The Chair advised that following the CSEF discussion, there would be a short intervention by the Secretariat on an issue dealing with Guinea Bissau.

Civil Society Education Fund

4. The Chair reminded the Board of Directors that they had agreed at their face-to-face meeting in Paris, France, to meet by audio-conference to discuss a revised proposal from the Global Campaign for Education (GCE),following an expedited review of the proposal by the Secretariat. Both the review and revised proposal had been delivered to the Board of Directors on 11 December 2012.

5. The Chair noted that the proposed decision charged the Secretariat to continue to work with GCE and UNSESCO on the arrangements and to report back in one year, after which the Board of Directors would consider committing additional funding.

6. Bob Prouty, Head of the Secretariat, provided an overview of the process to date. The Secretariat had conducted an expedited review with external support and the report had been delivered to the Board of Directors. The review showed that the proposal has strengths, but there remained a number of areas of concern. The process had been quick, given time constraints, but there had been a positive dialogue with GCE. As a result of the expedited review process, the recommendation from the Secretariat is that funding be allocated, but given the outstanding issues, the best way to handle was by having two steps, with the release of half of the funds initially with a Managing Entity agreement and the other half following a meeting of the Board of Directors in 2013 after further review and conversations between the Secretariat, UNESCO and the Global Campaign for Education. Some of the outstanding issues include development of a full implementation planwith clear milestones, and additional work on the budget.

Discussion

7. The Chair opened up the discussion, requesting David Archer, on behalf of GCE, to respond to the Secretariat's comments.

8. Over the course of the discussion, declarations of conflicts of interest were received by David Archer on behalf of GCE, Olav Seim on behalf of UNESCO and Boaz Waruku, on behalf of the CSO 2 constituency.

9. Mr. Archer advised that he appreciated the speed of the review and that GCE was consulting with various actors on a revised/updated proposal to address the concerns. GCE welcomed the overall assessment from the Secretariat and would be developing an implementation plan. GCE will also take comments on governance arrangements into consideration. There was acceptance that there needs to be continuing conversation between the Secretariat, GCE and UNESCO to address other issues. They were pleased with the proposed decision language.

10. Board members requested clarification of the following issues:

    a. **Mode of Execution:** Board members noted that the expedited review referred to a supervising entity arrangement and the decision referred to a managing entity arrangement. The Secretariat advised that since Supervising Entity arrangements generally referred to an agency passing money onto a government, the Managing Entity mode would be most appropriate, although UNESCO's exact role is still to be developed.

    b. **Milestones:** Board members requested that the proposed Board decision be amended to refer to the need to reach certain milestones. Board members requested details of these milestones, to which the Secretariat replied that they were still being developed and the final Board decision would reflect the need for such milestones to be agreed.

    c. **Global and Regional Activities (GRA) program budget:** Board members requested clarification whether the allocation for this proposal fit within the existing GRA budget. The Secretariat clarified that there was no Board-approved GRA budget, but that they would suggest that this amount would be in addition to the currently projected amount of US$60 million over the next two years. At some point, the Board of Directors may consider approving a decision on the budget for GRA.

11. Board members also made the following comments and observations:

    a. **General support of the proposal**: Board members expressed support for the CSEF proposal and underlined strong support for civil society by the Global Partnership.
    b. **Agreement with the results of the expedited review:** Board members noted that the expedited review process pointed to some weaknesses in the proposal, some of which had been addressed, but many of which needed further work by the Secretariat, GCE and UNESCO.
    c. **Need for an external review of the implementation of the CSEF proposal:** Board members noted that a review of the implementation of the proposal was needed in order to inform any future support of civil society by the Global Partnership, including releasing the second tranche of funds, but also regarding future sustainability of this separate stream of funding. One Board member suggested that the Board of Directors should approve the terms of reference for the independent evaluation. A suggestion was made to add the qualifier that the allocation is "up to" the full amount.
    d. **Concern with governance arrangement, management costs and monitoring and evaluation arrangements:** Board members expressed

concern with the complex governance arrangements being proposed. In addition, there was a need to keep management costs at a reasonable level, ideally on a cost-recovery basis with no duplication. In addition, the fees for UNESCO would need to be negotiated and clarified. The Secretariat stressed that the amount should not be based on a percentage of the grant amount, but as a real cost of management, depending on what UNESCO is tasked to do. A strong system for monitoring and evaluation of the program was also stressed especially given the request for broad commitment to the continued support for civil society.

e. **Format of Expedited Review:** Board members requested that in the future the results of the review and recommendation of proposals from the Secretariat be consolidated into one recommendation, rather than presenting the views of different reviewers. The Secretariat agreed to do so for future GRA proposal reviews.

12. The Chair advised that the decision language would be revised to include the addition of the "up to" qualifier for the allocation amount and a reference to milestones to be agreed between the Secretariat, GCE and UNESCO.

13. Mr. Archer stressed that he trusted that UNESCO would deliver the costed plan for management of the grant quickly so that the Financial Advisory Committee could approve it and the agreement could be signed. In response to a question, the Chair advised that the decision delegated to the FAC the authority to approve the costs and that the FAC would report back to the Board of Directors after its approval. The FAC Chair confirmed that the FAC will do so, as is the case for all of FAC's activities.

14. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

BOD/2012/12-1—<u>Civil Society Education Fund</u>: The Board of Directors:

a. approves an allocation of up to US$14.5 million from the Global Partnership for Education Fund to fund the proposal submitted by the Global Campaign for Education delivered to the Board of Directors on 11 December 2012 (the "CSEF Proposal"), with UNESCO serving as Managing Entity. The Trustee is requested to commit:

i. US$7.25 million of this amount upon the signing of an agreement with UNESCO; and

ii. a further US$7.25 million of this amount upon further instructions from the Board of Directors, which will be considered at the second face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors in 2013.

b. requests the Secretariat to continue to work with the Global Campaign for Education and UNESCO to further address issues raised in the expedited review of the CSEF Proposal, and to agree to milestones to be reached which may result in revisions to the CSEF Proposal;

c. delegates to the Financial Advisory Committee the authority to approve an additional agency fee or other direct management costs to be paid from the GPE Fund, based on a costed plan provided by UNESCO;

d. requests the Secretariat to provide a report on progress of implementation of the CSEF Proposal, based on input from the Managing Entity, at the second face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors in 2013; and

e. confirms its commitment to the principle of strategic civil society engagement being a core element of the Global Partnership for Education, and requests the Secretariat to work

with partners to develop a plan for such engagement, for consideration by the Board of Directors at its second face-to-face meeting in 2013.

Update on Guinea Bissau

15. Nancy Pinto, on behalf of the Secretariat, advised that the allocation for Guinea Bissau's program implementation grant was originally approved in December 2011 and reapproved in September 2012, when the implementation arrangements were transferred from an arrangement with the World Bank acting as Supervising Entity to UNICEF acting as Managing Entity. As part of decision language, there was instruction that allocation would be canceled if funds not transferred by 31 December 2012.

16. The financial procedures agreement is still under negotiation with UNICEF, which has nothing to do with the readiness of the Guinea Bissau program. The Secretariat and Trustee were still working with UNICEF to finalize the agreement. Most of the issues are resolved, but there will be a few that will need further input from the Board of Directors. In particular, there will likely be a request for waiver of third party rights. Because the agreement will include terms for the overall arrangement with UNICEF, and because the donor third-party rights cannot be unilaterally waived by the Trustee, an explanation for request for waiver will be brought by UNICEF in early new year for consideration by the Board of Directors, which will likely require a discussion. The Secretariat is continuing this work on the assumption that the allocation to Guinea Bissau will not be cancelled because funds will not be transferred by 31 December 2012.

17. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the update and requested any Board members that had further questions or concerns to contact Nancy Pinto.

Next Steps:

18. The Chair advised that the Secretariat would circulate the final approved decision language as soon as possible and a Chair summary of the meeting shortly.

19. The Chair reminded Board members to submit their Board member selection forms and to provide comments on the Governance Working Group terms of reference by 7 January 2013.

20. The Board Chair advised that the next meeting by audio-conference would be tentatively held on 7 February 2013 where the first batch of GRA proposals would be considered for approval.

21. After wishing the Board of Directors happy holidays, the meeting was adjourned.

Annex 1 – Participants in the call

Chair	
Global Partnership for Education	Carol Bellamy
Developing Countries	
Africa 3	Charles Aheto-Tsegah (on behalf of Mahama Ayariga, Ghana)
Eastern Europe, Middle East & Central Asia	Farid Tanai (on behalf of Minister Farooq Wardak, Afghanistan) Alexander Kvitashvili (Georgia)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Evelyn Hamilton (on behalf of Minister Manickchand, Guyana)
Donors	
Donor 1	Ronald Siebes (The Netherlands)
Donor 2	Chris Tinning(Australia)
Donor 3	Simon Bland (United Kingdom)
Donor 4	Lena Ingelstam (Sweden)
Donor 5	Fanny Gazagne (on behalf of Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali, France)
Donor 6	Karimata Atsushi (Japan) Natasha deMarcken (USA)
CSO & Private Sector/Private Foundations	
CSO 1	David Archer (ActionAid) Joseph O'Reilly (Save the Children)
CSO 2	Boaz Waruku (ZANEC, Zambia)
CSO 3	Monique Fouilhoux (Education International)
Private Sector/Private Foundations	Martina Roth (Intel Corporation)
Multilateral Agencies	
UNESCO	Olav Seim
UNICEF	Jordan Naidoo
Multilateral and Regional Banks	Beth King(World Bank)
Observers	
Patrick Collins	USAID (Donor 6)
Camilla Helgø Fossberg	Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee
Margaret Koziol	USAID (Donor 6)
Global Partnership Secretariat	
Bob Prouty	Head of Secretariat
Sarah Beardmore	Policy Specialist
Luis Crouch	Coordinator, Global Good Practices
Michelle Freeouf	Board Services Team Analyst
Karin Jahr de Guerrero	Senior Operations Analyst
April Golden	Replenishment Team Analyst
Michelle Mesen	Board of Directors Liaison
Nancy Pinto	Coordinator, Finance, Portfolio and Administration
Tal Sagorsky	Senior Board Operations Specialist