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Embassy of Ireland

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from the British people

November 30, 2012

Mr. Bob Prouty
Programme Manager
Global Partnership for Education Secretariat
World Bank
1818 H Street, NM
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Mr. Prouty,

Re: Endorsement of new National Implementation Framework for Zambia

We write to you on behalf of the Zambia Education Sector Cooperating Partners Coordinating Committee (CPCC) regarding the assessment of the NIF III.

After an extensive appraisal which began in October 2010, the Local Education Group (LEG) have arrived at a consensus in the assessment of Zambia's third National Implementation Framework (NIF III) 2012-2015. We have assessed the education sector plan as **credible** and we would **like to endorse** it for consideration of continued support from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

The process of jointly appraising the NIF III in the context of the GPE has been collaborative and provided insight and coordination between the key stakeholders of GRZ, CSOs and CPs. It has been part of dialogue and of improving understanding of the challenges faced in the sector.

The plan has a significant but manageable funding gap of $238m for the base case. This means that there will be challenges to meet some of the ambitious targets and policy pronouncements of the new government. As a result of the appraisal of NIF III, the education CP group supports the request from the GRZ for a contribution of £35.2m over the next three years for the implementation of the NIF III.

Development assistance in Zambia has both bilateral and multilateral agencies. The support has been declining and some CPs are exiting the sector, while new CPs have come on board.. The NIF III is currently funded by the local CP group through a variety of aid modalities: General budget Support, the pooled fund and projects. The delivery of assistance is provided based on the agreed principles of the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ 2011-2015) and follows the underlying principles of harmonisation and alignment and well as strong reforms to public financial management, and public sector reform and adhering to principles that address corruption and fraud.

The application for additional assistance in the second period of GPE support to Zambia will be completed before the 3th March 2013 deadline. The funding from GPE will be delivered through the DFID's education support programme and DFID is now the supervising entity for GPE in Zambia. By endorsing the NIF III, the LEG are confirming their commitment and support of the Government in achieving their education sector priorities, objectives and goals.

Please find attached to this letter, the supporting documentation reviewed for the appraisal of the NIF III. This includes:

- Evaluation of NIF II
- Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP)
- National Implementation Framework (NIF) III
- CP Appraisal of NIF III (in draft)
- Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia (JASZ)
- 2010 and 2012 Joint Annual Review (JAR) reports
- 2011 MESVTEE Annual Progress Report
- Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF)

- Joint Financing Agreement (JFA)
- Education sector Strategic Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) (in draft)[1]

The NIF III is hereby formally endorsed by the cooperating partners.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Iyorlumun J Uhaa	**Mr. Patrick McManus**	**Mr. Malcom Geere**
Country Representative	**Head Development Cooperation**	**Deputy Head**
UNICEF	**Irish Embassy**	**Department for**
(Education co-lead)	**(Education co-lead)**	**International Development**

C.C. Education Sector Cooperating Partners
C.C. Permanent Secretary, MESVTEE, Zambia

[1] These two documents are in draft and awaiting final inputs from various sources and have not been able to be finalised by 30th November, 2012. However, they will be available in final versions by the 12th December when they are forwarded along with the DFID business case for the QAR phase 2 review.