MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIA AUDIO-CONFERENCE

3 APRIL 2013

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

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 purpose of the meeting was to: i) collect feedback on the Implementation Plan of the GPE Strategic Plan 2012-2015; and ii) consider approval of a revised Financial Procedures Agreement with UNICEF.

Implementation Plan

3. Geeta Rao Gupta (co-Chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group) explained that, following the Board face-to-face meeting in Paris in November 2012, the SPWG decided, as part of its consultation process, to establish five Thematic Groups to address each of the five Strategic Objectives in the Strategic Plan. The Thematic Groups conducted a short-term consultation with a wide variety of GPE partners in order to develop recommendations on outcomes, activities, roles and responsibilities and a timeframe for implementation. Each Thematic Group was co-led by one developing country partner and one donor, civil society, or multilateral partner. The level of participation and "opting-in" to these groups was impressive and very encouraging. Indeed, 18 of the 19 constituencies were actively involved in at least one of the thematic working groups. In a number of cases, follow-up groups and communities of practice are emerging and this will be one of the options for partners to opt-in further on implementation. The SPWG strongly encourages more partners to opt-in to help with implementation. There are various ways to do this and the benefits of concerted, collective action are considerable. This cannot just be left to the Secretariat. In parallel to the work of the Thematic Groups, the Technical Group on Indicators worked to finalize its revised priority and costing analysis of the Strategic Plan indicators. The Secretariat also developed a report on broader issues not addressed by each of the five Thematic Groups, characterized as "Strengthening the Partnership."

4. The SPWG met face-to-face in London on 18-19 February 2013 to discuss the reports and recommendations of the 5 Thematic Groups for the Implementation Plan. During this meeting, the SPWG prioritized and consolidated the various recommendations. At this time, it became apparent that the collective of what was produced by all of the different groups

was in essence "un-implementable" because it was too much for the partnership to take on, placing particular burden on the Local Education Groups (LEGs) and on the Secretariat. The discussion resulted in a consolidated list of outcomes, next steps, activities and timeline, and organizations that would be responsible (based on self-identification) for delivery. After the face-to-face meeting, the SPWG co-Chairs worked with the co-leads of the Thematic Groups and the SPWG to further refine this list and developed a narrative component. The final product, following extensive consultation with a variety of partners, was shared with the Board of Directors on 20 March 2013 for discussion during the 3 April 2013 Board of Directors audio-conference meeting.

5. The current version of the Implementation Plan does not include two key elements that will be incorporated into the final paper to be discussed at the Board of Directors face-to-face meeting in May 2013. The first element refers to the process indicators to measure progress on implementation. These are different than the outcomes indicators, which were the basis of the work of the Technical Group on Indicators, co-led by Luis Crouch from the Secretariat and Maggie Koziol from USAID. A final report from the Technical Group on Indicators was included in the draft Implementation Plan submitted to the Board. An information session on indicators will be scheduled prior to the Board of Directors face-to-face meeting in Brussels in May 2013. The second element that will be included in the final paper presented to the Board of Directors for discussion in May refers to the financial implications of implementing the plan.

6. Due to a variety of factors, including a tight time schedule and the desire to provide an opportunity for further consultation with the thematic groups, the SPWG agreed that a decision for approval of the Implementation Plan would not be requested until the face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors in Brussels in May 2013. Therefore, the purpose of the Board audio-conference meeting of 3 April 2013 was not to make a decision on the plan, but rather to collect feedback from Board members about its draft version.

Discussion

7. Board members made the following comments:

   a. **Indicators:** Board members observed that the indicators, especially those measuring progress towards the achievement of learning outcomes, should be clearer in order to allow for easier and more effective monitoring. They should also be aligned with other data measurement systems (e.g., PISA, GMR, OECD, etc.). In addition, they should build on the work of the Learning Metrics Task Force (LMTF).

   b. **Accountability mechanisms:** Board members felt these mechanisms should be made more explicit in order to have a clearer allocation of responsibilities. This would also help reduce the workload of the Secretariat.

   c. **Objective 1 (Fragile and conflict-affected states able to develop and implement their education plans):** Board members observed that there is a lack of

balance between the financing targets indicated for this objective and those included under Objective 5 of the Implementation Plan.

d. **Objective 4 (Improving teacher effectiveness by training, recruiting and retaining teachers and supporting them to provide a good quality education):** Board members remarked that this is the newest and possibly most complex area of focus for the partnership. There was some uncertainty about how the activities under this objective could be aligned with the Global and Regional Activities program (GRA).

e. **Local Education Groups (LEGs):** Board members noted that there is a need to improve the inclusiveness of LEGs by enhancing transparency in their composition and increasing participation of teachers and CSOs. Additional efforts might also be required to strengthen the capacity of LEGs.

8. Board members presented the following proposals and/or requests:

a. **Financial implications of the Implementation Plan:** Board members requested that these be made available earlier than two weeks before the next face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors in Brussels.
b. **Participation:** Board members proposed to increase the use of Communities of Practice (CoPs) to improve inclusiveness, and to involve Ministries of Finance in addition to Ministries of Education in order to have greater influence.
c. **Accountability mechanisms:** In order to improve clarity in the allocation of responsibilities, some Board members suggested having a lead partner for each action included in the Implementation Plan.

9. Geeta Rao Gupta responded that the challenge in drafting the Implementation Plan is how to develop a global plan while still ensuring specificity of targets. This issue will be addressed when developing the process indicators.

10. Charles Tapp, from the Secretariat, stated that the Secretariat will do its best to meet the Board request to receive cost implications of the Implementation Plan earlier than two weeks before the Board meeting in Brussels, yet this would likely be beyond the current limited capacity of the Secretariat.

11. The Chair reminded the Board that all written comments on the Implementation Plan should be received by 5 April 2013.

Financial Procedures Agreement with UNICEF

12. The Chair explained that during the Board of Directors audio-conference meeting on 7 February 2013 there was no consensus for approval of the Financial Procedures Agreement with UNICEF, therefore the Secretariat had worked with dissatisfied Board members, with UNICEF, and with the World Bank to resolve all outstanding issues. As a result of these negotiations, a revised version was circulated to the Board of Directors on 27 March 2013 for approval.

13. The Chair emphasized the importance and urgency of this issue, and that she was hopeful the Board would reach a resolution quickly. At present, there is no clear alternative to UNICEF as a Managing Entity in most fragile contexts. The Partnership has identified engaging in fragile states as a high and strategic priority. In the future there may be other Managing Entities, but currently GPE is highly reliant on UNICEF to fulfill this role in fragile contexts.

14. Following a brief discussion, UNICEF noted that in the documents circulated to the Board of Directors for approval on 27 March 2013, the decision language included the following sentence: *Further, the Board of Directors, in agreement with the World Bank as Trustee for the GPEF, approves this content as the basis for the Financial Procedures Agreement between UNICEF as Supervising Entity for the GPEF and the World Bank as Trustee of the GPEF*. UNICEF clarified that this additional sentence should not be included as the arrangements regarding UNICEF as Supervising Entity had already been settled.

15. The Chair took note of UNICEF's comment, and finding that there was a consensus among the Board members present, recommended that the Board move to approve the decision.

16. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

BOD/2013/04-01 - Financial Procedures Agreements with UNICEF: The Board of Directors, in agreement with the World Bank as Trustee for the GPEF, approves the content of the Financial Procedures Agreements between UNICEF as Managing Entity for GPEF funds and the World Bank as Trustee of the GPEF Contribution Agreements. Further, the Board of Directors, in agreement with the World Bank as Trustee for GPEF, approves the content as the basis for the financial Procedures Agreement between UNICEF as Supervising Entity for GPEF funds and the World Bank as Trustee of the GPEF.

17. The Chair reminded the Board that the deadline for Guinea Bissau to sign its grant technically expired on 31 December 2012, yet the Secretariat thinks the country should not be penalized for the delay as this was directly related to the ongoing negotiations on the financial procedures agreement. Once the Financial Procedures Agreement is finalized, the Secretariat will present to the Board a resolution by no-objection, in order to overturn the automatic cancellation of the Guinea Bissau program implementation grant that took place after the expiration of the extension on 31 December 2012.

Next steps:

18. The Secretariat will circulate the final decision language agreed during the 3 April 2013 Board audio-conference shortly.

19. Board members will submit written comments on the draft Implementation Plan by COB 5 April 2013.

20. Board members will submit written comments on the replenishment paper by COB 10 April 2013.

21. A final version of the Implementation Plan will be included in the background documents for the Board face-to-face meeting in Brussels.

22. The next Board face-to-face meeting will be held in Brussels on 20-22 May 2013. The Board meetings will take place on 21-22 May, with a pre-meeting on 20 May. Board members are

encouraged to attend all three days. The Secretariat will send out the meeting registration link and revised agenda to the Board shortly.

23. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Annex 1 – Participants in the call

Chair	
Global Partnership for Education	Carol Bellamy
Developing Countries	
Africa 1	Keratile Thabana, Lesotho
Africa 3	Charles Aheto-Tsegah, Ghana
Eastern Europe, Middle East & Central Asia	Farid Tanai, Afghanistan (on behalf of Minister Farooq Wardak) Minister Nuriddin Saidov, Tajikistan
Donors	
Donor 1	Ronald Siebes, Netherlands
Donor 2	Chris Tinning, Australia
Donor 3	Simon Bland, United Kingdom Ryan Legault McGill, Canada
Donor 4	Camilla Fossberg, Norway Jesper Andersen, Denmark
Donor 5	François Sow and Fanny Gazagne, France (on behalf of Gustavo Gonzalez-Canali)
Donor 6	Natasha de Marcken and Maggie Koziol, United States Atsushi Karimata
CSO & Private Sector/Private Foundations	
CSO 1	David Archer, Action Aid
CSO 2	Cheikh Mbow, COSYDEP (Senegal)
CSO 3	David Edwards, Education International
Private Sector/Private Foundations	Peter Colenso, CIFF Amanda Gardiner, Pearson
Multilateral Agencies	
UNESCO	Olav Seim, UNESCO
UNICEF	Geeta Rao Gupta and Jordan Naidoo, UNICEF
Multilateral and Regional Banks	Beth King and Olav Christensen, World Bank
Observers	
Jay Pascual	World Bank (Trustee)
Secretariat	
Alice Albright	CEO, Global Partnership for Education
April Golden	Operations Analyst, Replenishment Team
Carmine Soprano	Consultant, Replenishment Team
Charles Tapp	Senior Replenishment Advisor, Replenishment Team
Luis Crouch	Coordinator, Global Good Practices Team
Jean-Marc Bernard	Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation Team
Michelle Mesen	Board of Directors Liaison, Board Services Team
Nancy Pinto	Coordinator, Finance, Portfolio and Administration