MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIA AUDIO-CONFERENCE

15 JULY 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 discuss the recommendations from the Secretariat concerning the second round of funding of the Global and Regional Activities Program (BOD/2013/07 DOC 01).

Global and Regional Activities

3. Carol Bellamy, Chair of the Global Partnership for Education Board of Directors, explained that following extensive comments by the Board of Directors at its face-to-face meeting in Brussels on 21-22 May 2013 of previous recommendations, the Secretariat had developed a new set of recommendations for funding under the second round of the GRA program that included a proposed total expenditure of US$19,546,001. The Chair acknowledged that various Board members had submitted written comments in advance of the call.

4. Alice Albright, CEO of the GPE Secretariat, noted that this was the last batch of GRA proposals that would be presented to the Board. Options for dealing with innovation, knowledge gaps, regional issues and similar matters would be presented for consideration by the Board of Directors at the next face-to-face meeting in November 2013.

5. Charles Tapp, Partnerships & External Relations Team Lead, described the recommended proposals and the scoring criteria used in developing the rankings. Charles noted that GRA in its present form was no longer fit for purpose. However, much work had been invested in GRA by GPE's various partners and many of the proposals were closely linked to the implementation plan. If the GRA concept note recommendations were approved, there would be another more detailed and rigorous technical assessment done on the GRA proposals. The Secretariat accepted Board member suggestions to publish results agreements on the website and obtain Board member oversight of the eventual results agreements for all approved concept notes. The Secretariat also accepted the suggestion by a number of Board members that there be an external course correction mid-term review of both Round 1 and Round 2 proposals.

Discussion

6. Board members made the following comments:

   a. **Monitoring:** Board members suggested a "lighter" monitoring and that the more innovative projects make presentations to the Board.

   b. **Pacific island states**: Board members were conflicted with regards to the PEARL proposal on Pacific small island states. While many approved the program, several Board members, notably Donors 1 and 5, raised concerns regarding going over the US$3 million cap that had been agreed in the GRA Operational Manual.

   c. **"Delivering on Teachers" and "Central Asia Learning Outcomes"**: Donor 3 expressed concerns about proposals 2 and 7. Although currently weak, they felt the proposals could be strengthened.

   d. **Ranking cut off**: Donor 1 asked why the concept notes were cut off at 8 and not 12. Charles Tapp responded that the eight concept notes put forward by the Secretariat reflected technical strength and alignment with the Strategic Plan.

   e. **Communications**: Donor 6 recommended that the Secretariat provide good feedback to the authors of the proposals based on comments raised by the Board.

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

   a. **Results Agreements or Mid-Term Evaluations**: Board members requested rigorous Results Agreements and mid-term evaluations of the proposals as a way to ensure that the proposals stayed on track and relevant. Members recommended establishing a working group comprised of the Board of Directors and the Secretariat to sign off on the Round 2 Results Agreements.

   b. **Integration with implementation plan**: Board members asked for clarity on how specific activities in the implementation plan would be taken forward in the absence of the GRA. Board members proposed that the unspent balance of the US$60 million nominally set aside for the GRA could be transferred to implementation plan activities, such as work in fragile states.

   c. **Innovation Fund**: Board members asked the Secretariat to share options on an innovation fund as far in advance as possible.

8. Alice Albright responded that it would be important to monitor gaps in implementation plan. Regarding the above-the-cap for the Pacific proposal, the US$3 million mentioned in the GRA Operational Manual was understood in the Secretariat as a guideline, not a cap. Nonetheless, Charles Tapp noted that US$3 million was not an adequate sum for regional work in the Pacific.

9. The Chair took note of comments raised by the Board, in particular the suggestions for mid-term evaluations, Results Agreements, transparency on the GPE website and the need to

align the proposals with the Implementation Plan. Noting the discomfort of some Board Members on the issue of the cap but finding that there was generally a consensus among the Board members present; the Chair recommended that the Board move to approve the decision.

10. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

BOD/2013/07-01 – <u>Approval of Funding of GRA Proposals</u>: The Board of Directors:

a. refers to its decision taken on 22 May 2013 requesting the Secretariat to further analyze the GRA's second batch of concept notes and to provide recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration by 15 July 2013;

b. approves an allocation of up to US$ 19,546,001 from the Global Partnership for Education Fund to fund the Global and Regional Activities ("GRA") proposals outlined below; and

No.	Idea/ Knowledge Product	Agency	Agency's Function	Approved Grant US$
1	Pacific Early Age Readiness and Learning Program PEARL Quality/Learning Outcomes	World Bank	Managing Entity	8,505,075
2	Delivering on Teachers	UNESCO	Managing Entity	1,984,850
3	Out-of-School Children - Addressing the Out-of-School Children Data and Policy Gaps	World Bank	Managing Entity	1,583,027
4	Disability/Health and Education in support of Learning for All	World Bank	Managing Entity	3,000,000
5	Learning Outcomes - Asia Region Learner assessment for instructional progress	UNESCO	Managing Entity	944,061
6	Information Feedback Processes and Tools for Increasing Accountability: Report Cards	UNICEF	Managing Entity	878,069
7	Central Asia Learning Outcomes – Students' reasoning skills	CICED	Managing Entity	1,850,919
8	Addressing School Related Gender Based Violence	UNICEF	Managing Entity	800,000
Total				**19,546,001**

c. notes that this is the last set of funding allocations under the GRA program and that the Secretariat will prepare options for dealing with innovation, knowledge gaps, regional issues and similar matters, for consideration by the Board of Directors at its next face-to-face meeting in November 2013.

Next steps:

11. The Secretariat will circulate the final decision language agreed during the 15 July 2013 Board audio-conference and the Chair's summary of the meeting shortly.

12. The Chair will establish a Working Group of the Board of Directors to sign off on the Results Agreements.

13. The next Board face-to-face meeting will be held in Addis Ababa on 17-19 November 2013.

14. Before the end of the meeting, the Chair announced that after serving as Chair of the Global Partnership for three and a half years, she would be stepping down with effect from 19 July 2013.

15. A brief discussion ensued on next steps regarding identifying an interim chair. An audio-conference of the Board will be scheduled within the next few weeks to discuss further actions.

16. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Annex 1 – Participants in the call

Chair	
Global Partnership for Education	Carol Bellamy
Developing Countries	
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
Asia & Pacific	Vice Minister Lytou Bouapao, Lao PDR
Donors	
Donor 1	Nicole Gantenbein, Switzerland
Donor 2	Chris Tinning, Chris Sturrock, Australia
Donor 3	Donal Brown, United Kingdom
Donor 4	Jesper Andersen, Denmark
Donor 5	Marja Karjalainen, European Commission
Donor 6	Natasha de Marcken, Christie Vilsack and Maggie Koziol, United States
CSO & Private Sector/Private Foundations	
CSO 1	David Archer, Action Aid Joseph O'Reilly, Save the Children
CSO 2	Madiana Samba, Sierra Leone
CSO 3	David Edwards, Education International
Private Sector/Private Foundations	Peter Colenso, CIFF
Multilateral Agencies	
UNESCO	Olav Seim, UNESCO
Multilateral and Regional Banks	Olav Christensen, World Bank
Secretariat	
Alice Albright	CEO, Global Partnership for Education
Charles Tapp	Partnerships & External Relations Team Lead
Karin Jahr de Guerrero	Sr. GRA Program Specialist
Michelle Mesen	Developing Country Partners Lead, Partnerships & External Relations
Ruth Onyancha	Sr. Board Relations Officer, Operations