**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
**VIA AUDIO-CONFERENCE**
**7 OCTOBER 2013**

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP *for* EDUCATION

## CHAIR'S SUMMARY

### Introduction

1. After taking a roll call, Geeta Rao Gupta, the Interim Chair of the Global Partnership for Education, confirmed that a quorum was present and commenced the meeting (see Annex 1 for list of participants).

2. The Interim Chair welcomed Christina Buchan (Director for Health and Education Programming Division, Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development) as the new Alternate Board Member for Donor 3. She also thanked Ryan Legault McGill for having served as interim Alternate Board Member since January 2013.

3. The Interim Chair reminded the Board that Josephine Bourne and Jordan Naidoo had accepted to be acting Board Member and acting Alternate Board Member respectively, for the Multilateral Agency 2 (UNICEF) constituency.

4. The Interim Chair advised the Board that the objectives of the 90 minute call were to:

    a. Approve the Financial Advisory Committee's (FAC) recommendation for an emergency grant to Somalia (South Central) under the Guidelines for Accelerated Support in Emergency and Early Recovery Situations;

    b. Approve the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Independent Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education ; and

    c. Discuss GPE's possible role in support to the Syrian refugee crisis.

### Proposal to provide Emergency Funding to Somalia (South Central)

UNICEF recused itself from the discussion due to conflict of interest since it was the Managing Entity for the grant under consideration.

5. Camilla Fossberg, Chair of the FAC, informed the Board of Directors that a request had been received from Somalia's South Central Zone for funding under the Guidelines for Accelerated Support in Emergency and Early Recovery Situations (approved in November

2012). This was the first application received for funding under these guidelines. The requested amount was US$ 1,380,000 for a one-year implementation period, with UNICEF serving as Managing Entity; and US$96,600 for an agency fee. The request had been reviewed by the FAC at its Audio Meeting held on September 12 2013 and the FAC had submitted its recommendation to the Board of Directors on September 24 2013.

***Discussion***

6. Board members made the following comments:

   a. The FAC recommendation seemed broadly sensible;

   b. The management and administrative costs of the grant appeared high;

   c. Should the application await full appraisal and approval by the Board of Directors at its face-to face Board meeting in November 2013?;

   d. Concern over the security situation and how that could affect implementation of the proposed program:

   e. Confirmation that the amount of this accelerated funding request is within the $8.2 million full grant proposal that would be presented to the Board of Directors in November 2013.

7. Padraig Power of the Secretariat advised the Board of Directors that the question of agency fees would be considered by the FAC at its meeting to be held from October 15-18, 2013. He also confirmed that the program implementation grant is included in the $8.2 full implementation grant proposal that will be submitted to the Board of Directors at the face-to-face Board meeting in November 2013.

   a. The reason for the accelerated funding request is to help get teachers working immediately and not waiting until January 2014 after the full implementation grant proposal is approved by the Board. Finally, security was acknowledged to be a challenge; however, the proposal was considered to be strong and implementable.

8. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

   **BOD/2013/10-01 – <u>Approval of Allocation for Program Implementation Grant</u>**: The Board of Directors:

   a. Approves the following allocation from the GPE trust funds to be used for a program Implementation Grant as described in the accelerated funding request submitted in September 2013;

      Somalia (South Central):

      i) US$ 1,380,000 for a one –year implementation period, with UNICEF serving as Managing Entity; and

ii) US$ 96,600 for an agency fee.

b. Requests the Secretariat to include in its notification to the relevant Local Education Group of the approval of the allocations, the Financial Advisory Committee's comments on the program set out in BOD/2013/10 DOC 01.

**Comprehensive Evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education: Terms of Reference for and Membership of the Independent Steering Committee**

9. Jean Marc Bernard, Monitoring and Evaluation Team Lead, GPE Secretariat, noted that during its November 2011 meeting, the Board of Directors had requested the Secretariat to prepare terms of reference (TOR) for an Independent Steering Committee to oversee an independent evaluation of GPE, and propose selection criteria and a process for membership in the Committee. There were some delays for initiating these tasks, and at the start of 2013, the Secretariat identified 5 individuals with the experience and expertise needed in order to start the development of a concept note for the Independent Evaluation and to help the Secretariat draft the TOR for the Independent Steering Committee.

10. On July 1 2013 the Secretariat submitted to the Board of Directors for written comments a draft concept note for the independent evaluation and draft TORs for the Independent Steering Committee.

11. Many Board members had provided useful and detailed comments. The Secretariat had reflected on the comments and had prepared the revised paper now before the Board of Directors for further consideration and approval.

12. The Secretariat also proposed to appoint an Independent Steering Committee (ISC) comprised of the following six identified experts: Birger Fredriksen (Norway), Rasmus Heltberg (Denmark), Karen Mundy (Canada), Moses Oketch (Kenya), Pauline Rose (Great Britain), and Liesbet Steer (Netherlands). In addition Board Members had recommended that there be included an additional expert from a developing country.

***Discussion***

13. Board members made the following comments:

a. Several Board members advised that it was necessary to identify and include an additional expert from a Developing Country. The selected person did not need to be an Education Expert but rather have operational quality experience.. Many Board members also noted that the number of experts should be decreased to a maximum total of five to ensure that the costs are kept within reason. A sensible travel policy would also need to be implemented.

b. The proposed timeline for completion of the evaluation appeared to be very long. Completion before the end of 2015 to align with the next strategic plan period would

be preferable. Board members requested to meet with the ISC and discuss directly issues of budget, scope and proposed timelines;

The Chief Executive Officer agreed that it was important to ensure that the evaluation exercise and results received are fit for purpose, with appropriate budgets and scope of work agreed upon and documented. To this end, members of the Independent Steering Committee would be invited to discuss the issues raised by the Board at the next face-face Board Meeting in November 2013. The Secretariat also agreed to reduce the initial number of experts to 5 including an additional member from a developing country

14. The Board of Directors approved the following decision:

**BOD/2013/11-XX – Approval of the ISC TOR and the ISC Membership for the Comprehensive Evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education**:

The Board of Directors approves:

(i) the TOR for the ISC for the evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education with the deletion of a specific timeline; and

(ii) a total of five experts for the ISC, four from the five proposed candidates with one additional member from a developing country with complementary skills and with policy implementation experience if feasible.

**Support for Syria**

15. The Interim Chair drew the attention of Board members to an e-mail received from the Chief Executive Officer advising that the Global Partnership had been approached to provide support to Syrian refugee children during this time of crisis. This matter was further discussed at a meeting at UNICEF chaired by the UN Special Envoy, Gordon Brown, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September. Since that meeting, UNICEF, as the lead agency and GPE staff have been working to develop a program proposal to facilitate decision making by donors and agencies regarding potential contributions.

16. The Chief Executive Officer further explained that GPE had been requested to provide support to Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. She acknowledged that neither country is eligible for Global Partnership financing. Nevertheless, the magnitude of the crisis and the threat that it will rob a substantial number of children from their one chance to receive a basic education calls for a response and engagement by the Global Partnership. Such engagement can be qualitative as is already being provided, involve advocacy, or a financial contribution on an extraordinary basis. At this point in time, given that no technical proposal has been received, the GPE Secretariat is not able to make a specific recommendation regarding a further role for the Global Partnership or financing.

17. The Chief Executive Officer also noted more broadly that emergency education financing has reached an all- time low of 1.4% of all emergency funding and that given its global

advocacy role the Global Partnership must address this challenge. She advised that the Syrian crisis and expectations that the Global Partnership play a role suggests that we begin to consider general principles around the role of the Global Partnership in humanitarian crises involving non-member countries.

***Discussion***

18. Members of the Board expressed sympathy and concern for the humanitarian crisis in Syria, noted its magnitude and extraordinary nature, and largely expressed support for the Global Partnership's engagement. It was noted by one member that although the countries in question are not technically LDCs, the huge refugee populations in the region are completely without resources and in dire need. Most members noted openness to consideration of financial support on a special case basis, based on a strong technical proposal and a clear role for the Global Partnership. All agreed that any financial support should not be at the expense of eligible countries to which resources had been allocated. A few members expressed the view that the Global Partnership's engagement should be limited to that of a convening partner and advocate. Some members asked for a clearer description of what value-added the Global Partnership would bring by taking this on and what role the Global Partnership would play.

19. A broader discussion ensued regarding the low level of support for education in emergencies and GPE's possible role(s) in response to this broader challenge. Members expressed interest for a discussion on this, possibly as soon as the November Board.

20. The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Global Partnership's consideration of possible financial support would need to be based on a logical approach beginning with review of a strong technical proposal that confirms an added value role for GPE. However, she noted that GPE is not currently in a position to make a financial contribution as its resources are already allocated and committed to eligible countries. She advised that absent additional support specifically for Syrian refugees the Global Partnership would have to de-obligate an allocation to an eligible country. She also noted that a continuing role for the Global Partnership as convener or similar function would require additional staff resources. The CEO suggested that the Board of Directors hold another conference call to discuss the Global Partnership's role once a proposal has been received and reviewed.

21. The Interim Chair agreed with the suggestion of another Board of Director's call on Syria's refugees and also advised that the Board of Directors should be updated at the face-to–face Board meeting in November and should also spend some time on the broader issue of funding for education in emergencies.

**November Board Meeting**

22. The Interim Chair reminded Board members that its next face-face meeting would be held from November 17-19 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This would be preceded by the Partnership for Results meeting, also to be held on 17 November 2013.

23. Site Visits will be held on 20 November, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

24. A registration site has been created and will be shared with Board members next week. The Secretariat will publish the final Board Agenda and will circulate and post all the Board Papers two weeks prior the Board meeting.

25. The Secretariat will circulate the final decision language agreed during the 7 October 2013 Board audio-conference and the Chair's summary of the meeting by October 17.

The Interim Chair adjourned the meeting.

## Annex 1 – Participants in the call

1. **List of Confirmed Board Participants (as of October 2, 2013):**

| **Developing Country Partners** | |
|---|---|
| Africa 1 | Daniel Nkaada, Uganda- **Alternate Board Member** (Not able to connect) |
| Africa 3 | Charles Y. Aheto- Tsegah, Ghana – **Board Member** |
| **Donors** | |
| Donor 1 | Ronald Siebes, Netherlands |
| Donor 2 | Chris Tinning, Australia- **Board Member** |
| Donor 2 | Francisco Gutiérrez Soto, Spain- **Alternate Board Member** |
| Donor 3 | Donal Brown- **Board Member**, Sally Waples & Jennifer Stockill, UK |
| Donor 3 | Christina Buchan -**Alternate Board Member**, Ryan Legault McGill, Canada |
| Donor 4 | Paul Fife -**Board Member**, Grant Dansie, Norway |
| Donor 4 | Nathalia Feinberg, Denmark |
| Donor 5 | Marja Karjalainen, EC- **Board Member** |
| Donor 6 | Atsushi Karimata, Japan- **Alternate Board Member** |
| **Non-Governmental** | |
| CSO 1 | Joseph O'Reilly, UK- **Alternate Board Member** |
| CSO 2 | Cheikh Mbow, Senegal-**Board Member** |
| CSO2 | Madiana Samba, Sierra Leone- **Alternate Board Member** |
| Private Sector/Private Foundations | Amanda Gardiner, Pearson- **Alternate Board Member**<br>Peter Colenso – **Board Member** |
| **Multilateral Agencies** | |
| UNESCO | Olav Seim, UNESCO- **Alternate Board Member** |
| UNICEF | Jordan Naidoo, UNICEF- **Alternate Board Member** |
| Multilateral and Regional Banks | Elizabeth King, The World Bank- **Board Member** |

2. **Observers:**

Camilla Fossberg, Norway (FAC Chair)
Jay Pascual, François Marius Lefebreve & Chie Ingvoldstad, Trustee

3. **List of regrets from Board participants (as of October 2, 2013):**

| **Developing Country Partners** | |
|---|---|
| Africa 1 | Keratile Thabana, Lesotho-**Board Member** |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | Vice Minister Sandra Maribel Sánchez, Honduras- **Alternate Board Member** |

4. **List of Secretariat participants:**

Geeta Rao Gupta – Interim Chair
Alice Albright- Chief Executive Officer
Alex Palacios-Director, Special Projects

Lisa Gomer- Chief Operating Officer
Charles Tapp-External Relations Team Lead-Senior Replenishment Adviser
Paul Coustère-Country Support Team Lead
Jean-Marc Bernard-Monitoring and Evaluation Team Lead
Ruth Onyancha-Governance/Senior Board Operations Officer
Padraig Power- Senior Financial Officer
Michaelle Wane- Governance Analyst