Concept note

Title: Empowering Teachers

Time: June 26 – 9:35 a.m.

Venue: Restaurant

Summary:
Evidence supports the importance of investing in and involving teachers in order to achieve high quality educational processes and outcomes for students. Yet, very little action has been taken to harness the expertise and experience of teachers/educators in designing and delivering education policies that work. In addition, current processes aimed at setting targets and related indicators for the new education goal in the post-2015 development strategy have tried to involve teacher organizations at global level. It is desirable that this practice transpires into national processes to garner teachers' support and ownership of policies aiming to address the quality of teaching and other teacher issues.

Objectives:
In line with the GPE strategy, which aims at improving teacher effectiveness by training, recruiting and retaining teachers, and supporting them to provide good quality education, this session will focus on the critical contribution of teachers to achieving EFA and a bold vision of quality education for all. The discussion will include a critical review of some of the major challenges and opportunities to ensure broad participatory approach to teacher issues in order to enhance the quality of teaching needed to meet global education targets.

We will hear from the direct experiences of teachers, policy makers, and private sector: some of the panelists will present a specific model that has been effective in improving the quality of teaching in field experiences. Education International will share preliminary findings from its EFA Assessment, drawn from the experiences and feedback from classroom teachers around the world. The Teacher Task Force will also contribute its experiences in participatory analysis of teacher issues in supported countries.

This dialectic of the global and the local will be an opportunity to propose actions that can be taken to harness the expertise and experiences of teachers to achieve national and global education goals towards and beyond 2015.

Expected outcomes:
Key questions that will be addressed in this session are:

- What are the major challenges and opportunities to expand the quality of teaching?
- How can policy makers engage with teachers/teacher organizations in national education policy reforms?
- What tools and support mechanisms are needed to enable policy makers and teachers to engage in constructive dialogue for creating effective learning environments?
- Can we envision a new governance model that promotes the involvement of various stakeholders in teacher/education policy making?

Key outcome will include:

- A Call for Action from GPE partners that Teachers Associations will participate in the policy dialogue on education at national and global levels.

Panelists:

Part I: Opening Remarks:

- Mr. Ziauddin Yousafzai, Malala Fund,
- Ms. Esther Mac Farlane, Youth Representative and teacher, South Africa.

Part II: Discussion on global issues:

- Mrs. Etmonia Tarpeh, Minister of Education, Liberia,
- Mr. Qian Tang, Assistant Director General for Education, UNESCO,
- Mr. Fred van Leeuwen, General Secretary, International Education,
- Alioune Badara Diop, Directorate of Elementary Education, Project Manager, "Strengthening Mathematics, Science, and Technology (JICA-TA)," Senegal,
- Mrs. Martina Roth, Sr. Director Global Strategy, Research and Policy, Corporate Affairs Group, Intel Corporation.

Moderator:

- Mrs. Christie Vilsack, Senior Advisor for International Education, USAID.

The moderator will be expected to comment on how to bridge the dialogue between the global challenges and the local experiences described by panelists. And will also prepare reflective questions to incite the participation of the audience.

Respondents:

- Mr. Edem Adubra, Head of Secretariat, Teacher Task Force,
- Mr. Chernor Bah, Youth Representative.

Format & number of people: Plenary-style panel – 5 panelists
Question box to collect questions from delegates beforehand and identify the most pertinent ones, so as to avoid lengthy questions.

Audio visual/ technical requirements: Screen projection, computer set up, microphones.

Translation requirements: English/French.

Materials requirements: Paper and pens, Video-projector.

Session Flow

9:35 – Welcome to participants and opening of the session by Mrs. Christie Vilsak, Moderator

9:38 – First opening remarks by Mr. Ziauddin Yousafzai, Malala Fund

9:42 – Second opening remarks by Ms. Esther Mac Farlane, Youth representative and teacher, South Africa

9:45 – Objectives of the session and opening of the discussion by Mrs. Christie Vilsak, Moderator

9:47 – Discussion between the panelists

10:20 – Remarks by the respondents, Mr. Edem Adubra, Head of Secretariat, Teacher Task Force, and Mr. Chernor Bah, Youth Representative

10:26 – Questions from the Box

10:30 – Responses by the panelists

10:38 – Call for Action by Mr. Edem Adubra, Head of Secretariat, Teacher Task Force

10:42 – Closing remarks by Mrs. Christie Vilsak, Moderator

10:45 – End of the session

Bios

Mr. Ziauddin Yousafzai, Malala Fund

Ms. Esther Mac Farlane, Youth Representative and teacher, South Africa



Esther is a Master's student in Educational Planning and Policy at the University of Cape Town and involved with improving equality in education. She has engaged with school children at the grassroots level as a part-time teacher in impoverished communities throughout Africa and a full-time teacher at Claremont High School, a school aimed at empowering underprivileged learners. As a World Innovation Summit for Education Learners' Voice member, she is designing an educational arts program for children in conflict zones.

Mrs. Etmonia Tarpeh, Minister of Education, Liberia



Mr. Qian Tang, Assistant Director General for Education, UNESCO



Mr. Tang was appointed Assistant Director-General for Education in May 2010, after carrying out the functions ad interim since November 2009. His career at UNESCO started in 1993 as Senior Programme Specialist in the Section for Technical and Vocational Education. He then occupied different senior positions, the last one being Deputy Assistant Director-General for Education (from July 2005).

Born in 1950, Mr. Tang obtained a B.A. (1976) in Education from Shanxi University, China. He then taught at high-school level for two years before moving to Canada, where he completed his graduate studies with an M.A. in Exercise Physiology and a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Windsor. Before his career at UNESCO, Mr. Tang occupied many distinguished positions in his country, starting in 1985 as First Secretary for Academic/Educational Affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa (Canada). Upon his return to China, he joined the Ministry of Education in Beijing (1989-1992). In 1992, he became Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of Science and Technology of the Shanxi Provincial Government in Xi'an.

Mr. Fred van Leeuwen, General Secretary, International Education



Former teacher in The Netherlands, he joined the Dutch union Algemene Bond van Onderwijs Personeel (ABOP) and became responsible of this union's International Affairs Department in the late 70s.

Fred van Leeuwen was elected General Secretary of the International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions (IFFTU) in 1981 and held this post until the dissolution of the Secretariat in 1993. During his term of office, the membership of the organisation almost doubled, rising from 5.5 million to 9 million members.

After spearheading the merger of IFFTU with the World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP), Fred van Leeuwen took the office of General Secretary of the EI Interim Board during the Education International Constituent Congress held in Stockholm (Sweden) in January 1993. He was re-elected as EI General Secretary at EI's next World Congresses in July 1995 (Harare, Zimbabwe), in July 1998 (Washington D.C., USA), in July 2001 (Jomtien, Thailand), in July 2004 (Porto Alegre, Brazil), in July 2007 (Berlin, Germany) and in July 2011 (Cape Town, South Africa).

Education International now comprises 403 national organisations representing over 30 million teachers and education workers in 171 countries or territories.

Alioune Badara Diop, Directorate of Elementary Education, Project Manager, "Strengthening Mathematics, Science, and Technology (JICA-TA)," Senegal

Mrs. Martina Roth, Sr. Director Global Strategy, Research and Policy, Corporate Affairs Group, Intel Corporation



Dr. Roth is responsible for Global Education Strategy, Research and Policy at Intel's Corporate Affairs Group. In this capacity she drives Intel's education engagement with strategic alliance partners like UNESCO, OECD, IEA, the WEF, GPE, World Bank and governments and industry partners, drove Intel internal research for education and initiated new research alliances like ATC21S (Assessment and Teaching of 21st Century Skills). She is member of various global and regional education and research boards and author and co-author of various publications in the field of education research and policy.
Dr. Roth joined Intel in 1997 as Program Manager for "Kids and Creativity" at Intel's Content Group, managing Intel education software developers throughout Europe. From 1999 to 2002 she led the Intel Education Group and programs for Central Europe, from 2002 to 2007 for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA).
Prior to joining Intel Corporation Dr. Roth was Methodic Director of the Management Training Center at Carl Zeiss Germany; Learning System and Multimedia Manger at the Start up 3V Multimedia in Munich/Germany; Lecturer and Scientific Collaborator at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena/Germany.
Dr. Roth holds a M.A. in Pedagogy and a Ph.D. in Philology from the University of Jena/Germany. She holds a Certificate as Media-Didactic and Lecturer for Learning Systems from the IBI, Munich/Germany, a Certificate on Market Strategy from INSEAD, Fontainebleau/France and a Certificate for Entrepreneurship from
UC Berkley/US.

Mr. Edem Adubra, Head of Secretariat, Teacher Task Force



Dr. Edem Adubra currently heads the Secretariat of the International Task Force on Teachers for EFA. He joined UNESCO in 2003 in the Division of Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education. In 2006, he was transferred to Windhoek to the field to lead UNESCO education programme in Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, coordinating the partnership in education between UNESCO and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
He was reappointed as Chief of Section for Teacher Policy and Development at Headquarters where he transited from in 2012 to the Teacher Task Force. Prior to his career at UNESCO, Dr. Adubra spent over sixteen years as a teacher, a high school principal and a teacher trainer in his native Togo.
Adubra got his Bachelor of Arts from Université of Lomé (Togo), his Masters in Linguistics from Lancaster University (UK), and a dual Doctoral degree in Educational Administration and Comparative and International Education from Pennsylvania State University (USA)

Mr. Chernor Bah, Youth Representative



A youth advocate and former refugee, Chernor is the youth representative on the High Level Steering Committee for GEFI and Chair of the Youth Advocacy Group. Chernor founded and led the Children's Forum Network, Sierra Leone's children parliament. He holds a Master's Degree in Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Sierra Leone.