POLICY ON TRANSPARENCY

For Recommendation

1. STRATEGIC PURPOSE

1.1 The Governance, Ethics, Risk and Finance Committee ("GERF") proposes the formal adoption of a Policy on Transparency for the Global Partnership for Education in accordance with best practice and governance standards of global multilateral partnerships.

2. RECOMMENDED DECISION

2.1 The GERF recommends that the Board approves the following decision:

BOD/2015/12-XX— Policy on Transparency: The Board of Directors:

1. adopts the Policy on Transparency;
2. requests the Secretariat to disclose to the GERF on an annual basis the circumstances of any requests for information that were denied.

3. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

3.1 The Governance, Ethics, Risk and Finance Committee ("GERF") reviewed a draft Policy during its meeting which was held in Paris, November 5 and 6th, 2015, welcomed the development of a GPE specific transparency policy and decided to make minimal amendments as presented in Annex 1.

3.2 The GERF specifically agreed to add/strengthen language to better clarify:

a. That the specific provisions of the policy apply primarily to the Secretariat, Board, and Committees, but that the principles of transparency should be encouraged across all actors in the Partnership in accordance with their own transparency policies;
b. Ensure that grant information is made publicly available (e.g. progress reports from Grant Agents) and if necessary reflect these requirements in the future revisions to the Financial Procedures Agreements.
c. Clearly define what is considered a "deliberative process" in relation to Board and Committee papers, and request the Secretariat to add a specific mention or disclaimer on

those documents.

d. Include reference in the Policy that GPE publishes its financial data on the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry.

3.3 Some GERF members also requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to make the website more user-friendly and to have better access to grant documents. The Secretariat clarified that substantial information is now available through the country pages section of the GPE website: http://www.globalpartnership.org/developing-countries

4. NEXT STEPS

4.1 If approved the policy will be published on the GPE website, and the Secretariat will disclose to the GERF on an annual basis the circumstances of any requests for information that were denied.

5. RISK

5.1 The risk that the Global Partnership does not fully comply with its transparency policy will be mitigate by the Secretariat responsibility to oversee the detailed implementation of this policy and to annually report to the GERF.

6. ANNEX

Annex 1: Transparency Policy

ANNEX 1 – GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION POLICY ON TRANSPARENCY

I. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Transparency is a guiding principle of the Global Partnership for Education ("GPE"). Information about GPE's decisions and operational activities will be made available to the public in the absence of a compelling reason for restricted information.

The Global Partnership recognizes that the effectiveness of its programs is strengthened by providing public access to information concerning decisions and operational activities. The broad availability of information to the public will increase understanding and support of the Global Partnership's mission, and increase transparency, accountability and public oversight of GPE-supported operations during their preparation and implementation. Transparency and objective use of restricted information will contribute to protect the reputation and integrity of the Global Partnership and to promote broad public trust in its activities.

The Global Partnership also publishes its funding data on the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry.

II. POLICIES APPLICABLE TO GPE OPERATIONS AND DECISIONS

The Global Partnership acknowledges the World Bank's Policy on Access to Information as well as similar policies of its Partners. The Global Partnership also encourages all stakeholders participating in the work of the Global Partnership at global and country level to adhere to and respect those principles in accordance with their own policies. The specific provisions in this policy apply to the GPE Secretariat, Board and Committees.

The World Bank's Policy on Access to Information applies to all activities undertaken or managed by the GPE Secretariat as well as staff of the World Bank, acting as Trustee of the Global Partnership for Education Fund. Under this policy, the GPE Secretariat provides access to all information in its possession, except information for which disclosure could cause harm to specific parties or interests. Restrictions are considered exceptions and need proper justification (e.g., deliberative information, personal information, information provided by partners or third parties in confidence, Board Executive Sessions and corporate administrative matters).

In order to allow for a thorough deliberative process and to avoid miscommunications on issues that have not yet been decided on by the Board, Committee papers are normally considered to be part of a deliberative process and are not made public unless part of a subsequent Board paper or unless otherwise agreed by the relevant Committee Chair or Board Chair. Board papers are considered to

be deliberative until after they have been considered by the Board at an official meeting, at which point the paper will be made publically available on the GPE website. When a paper is deliberative and not publicized on the GPE website, the status of such papers will include a statement to that effect.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

The oversight of the detailed implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Secretariat's Chief, Finance and Operations. The Secretariat will disclose to the GERF on an annual basis the circumstances of any requests for information that were denied.

The absence of a document or information on the GPE website does not necessarily point to its confidentiality nor should it prevent any member of the public from requesting that document or information. For any queries in relation to this policy, they may be addressed to gpegovernance@globalpartnership.org.

ATTACHMENT 1 : ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF DOCUMENTS POSTED ON GPE WEBSITE

The following documents are routinely posted on the Global Partnership's external website www.globalpartnership.org:

- Global Partnership for Education Financial Reports
- Global Partnership Grants Portfolio Review Report
- Global Partnership Annual report
- Approved administrative budget
- Charter, Fund governance documents, policies and key guidelines of the Global Partnership applicable either at global or country level
- Education Sector Program Implementation Grant Application Form once the grant is approved by the Board (subject to the disclosure policies of the submitting Grant Agent)
- GPE grant performance information (e.g : joint sector review reports, progress reports from Grant Agents)
- Independent External Evaluation of the Global Partnership mandated by the Board of Director
- Board documents for discussion or decision (posted at the end of the Board's deliberative process, once they have been finalized).
- Board documents distributed to Board members for information.
- Board Proceedings (Reports, Final Decisions, Documents)
- Minutes from Board Committee meetings and reports to the Board from its Committees if a subsequent Board discussion is not expected.
- List of current Board members and Alternate Board members for each constituency and list of all members of Board Committees