Meeting of the Board of Directors
Via Audio-conference
March 9, 2016

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

1. Julia Gillard, Chair of the Global Partnership for Education ("Global Partnership or GPE") Board of Directors, welcomed Board and Alternate Board members and requested CEO Alice Albright to conduct a roll call. A quorum was declared, after which the Chair commenced the meeting (see annex 1 for a list of participants).

2. The Chair noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress on the Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises (EiEPC) platform (Platform) and potential synergies with GPE's work, and to seek the Board's guidance on GPE Secretariat engagement in the Platform, including as a potential host.

2. EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES AND PROTRACTED CRISES (BOD/2016/03–DOC 02)

Update from GPE Board Chair

2.1 The Chair introduced the topic and summarized the process to date to develop the proposed EiEPC Platform. She said the "Champions Group", consisting of Tony Lake, Gordon Brown and herself, alongside a number of key partners, have been working to raise the visibility of EiEPC. At the Oslo Summit in July last year, a Technical Strategy Group (TSG) was formed to further define the scope of the Platform. The Secretariat's engagement in the process is crucial for two main reasons: firstly, the Global Partnership has unique expertise in supporting education in crises situations; and, secondly it will help to ensure that the Board is informed and up to date on the Platform. The Champions Group has decided that the Platform should initially be hosted by UNICEF and then transferred to a long-term host, with special consideration to GPE.

2.2 The Chair invited the Board and Alternate Board members representing UNICEF to update the Board on UNICEF's engagement in the Platform, including its role as interim host. They noted that UNICEF has been involved at both the political and technical level and has agreed to host the Platform until the process of selecting a permanent host is completed. UNICEF is aiming for an efficient transition and handover and is in favor of the Global Partnership becoming the permanent host. GPE is a unique multilateral partnership with a mandate in education, and, in hosting the Platform, would help to minimize further fragmentation and duplication in the sector. As host, the Secretariat and Board would need to strengthen its humanitarian expertise. The Platform would be launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May.

Update from Alternate Board member, Donor 3, and co-chair of the TSG

2.3 The Chair invited Julie Shouldice, Alternate Board member, Donor 3, and co-chair of the TSG to present the work of the group. Ms. Shouldice said the TSG was created to provide technical support to the Overseas Development Institute, which had been contracted to research and produce a proposal for the TSG's and partner's consideration. The TSG is composed of donors, countries, multilateral agencies and NGOs. Through a process of meetings, technical work and reflection, the TSG has defined the objectives for the Platform. The proposal is currently being finalized and would shortly be submitted to the Champions Group. It is important to consider what the role of the Global Partnership would be going forward. The criteria for determining a permanent host has not been decided and this would be handed over to the Champions Group and interim High Level Advisory Panel.

2.4 The Chair said a broader Champions Group, including those who had met in Oslo last year, would meet on the margins of the World Bank spring meetings in April. She said the TSG has asked GPE to prepare an initial self – assessment of its capacity to host the Platform.

Discussion on Process and Background on the Platform

2.5 The Chair opened the floor for an initial round of questions and comments on the process and background on the Platform. A number of Board members requested more information on the interim governance arrangements and on the transaction cost of having an interim and then permanent host of the Platform. Ms. Shouldice said the TSG's focus is on the interim governance structure and that depending on the final host, additional work would need to be done on the permanent governance arrangements. She said the TSG has not considered its role beyond its current mandate to produce a proposal for the Platform.

2.6 One Board member asked about the complementarity between the Platform and the existing UNICEF/Save the Children education cluster. The UNICEF representative said the proposed Platform would be complementary and add value to the existing work of the cluster. She said based on these principles, the education cluster would be eligible to receive support under the Platform.

Update from the GPE CEO

2.7 The Chair invited the CEO to update on GPE's engagement in the Platform and next steps on the self - assessment. The CEO said the Secretariat continues to be heavily focused on delivering on its core work. She said some Secretariat technical resources have been devoted to the Platform because of the pressing need to support education in crises and because it is directly relevant to GPE's support to developing country partners. The Secretariat has been working with the TSG on a number of activities to support the design and operation of the platform and on an initial self-assessment of GPE's capacity to host. There are strong synergies between the Platform and GPE strategic objectives and a number of risks of the Global Partnership not hosting, including the potential to dilute resources for education. It is important to note that the Global Partnership already has considerable experience working with fragile and conflict-affected states as presented in BOD/2016/DOC 02 Attachment 2. DOC 02 presents a preliminary self-assessment. One of the objectives of the audio conference is to seek feedback and guidance from the Board on GPE engagement in the Platform and on whether the Secretariat should prepare a business case for decision in June.

Discussion on the GPE Self – Assessment / Business Case

2.8 The Chair invited Board members to comment. In general, the Board voiced strong support for the Platform and for the Secretariat to continue to engage in the design and operation of the Platform and to prepare a business case to host the Platform for the Board decision in June. In addition to providing funding, the Platform should enable countries to exchange knowledge and experiences during crises.

2.9 A number of Board members said the Platform should not distract from GPE's core work. The business case should consider the risk of overloading the Secretariat during the interim phase as well as how to ensure smooth integration with GPE's operations. There is a need to review the timeline for the transition of the Platform to the Global Partnership to allow for the completion of the range of preparatory activities to enhance GPE's capacity to host. The business case would need to align with the Strategic Plan and address issues such as governance, operations, and staffing as well as dovetail with the SPC-GERF work to prepare for the next replenishment and on strategic financing.

2.10 The Chair said the TSG would propose an interim governance structure for approval by the Champions Group. One Board member cautioned against an elaborate interim structure that might be hard to dismantle and that if GPE were to host this should entail only minor adjustments to GPE's existing governance arrangements. One Board member asked whether there were any implications for the current hosting of GPE within the World Bank. The Board member representing the Trustee said that any decision for the Global Partnership to host the Platform as a separate Financial Intermediary Fund within the World Bank would need approval from the World Bank Board. In its decision-making, the World Bank would consider whether the Platform is consistent with its mandate and strategic objectives, among others, and consider alternative options to the financial and operational structure proposed. One Board member recommended an independent assessment of the governance arrangements.

2.11 A number of Board members expressed concern about additional funding for the Platform. Joseph O'Reilly, SPC Chair and member of the TSG said additionality could be protected by creating safeguards and through advocacy efforts to mobilize new resources and to leverage financing for the sector. He said the Board should further consider financing of the Platform and its implications for replenishment. One Board member said the Platform should not fund countries that already receive GPE funding with the exception of countries where the Education Sector Plans do not include a response to refugees. One Board member advocated for developing a financial mechanism to increase the maximum country allocation of countries that determine to allocate part of their funding to emergency situations. Such a mechanism would help avoid any disruption to ongoing education programs.

2.13 The CEO said the business case would include details on the proposed timing of the transfer of the Platform to the Global Partnership. She said an independent assessment of the governance arrangements would have additional cost implications and would likely delay the process. Ultimately, the decision on hosting depended on the conclusion of the global process and the deliberations of the Board.

2.14 The Chair shared revised decision language to clarify that GPE's continued engagement in the design and operation of the Platform would be with either the TSG or its successor and that the business case would be for decision in June 2016.

Decision:

2.15 The Chair invited comments and questions on the revised decision language. Hearing none, she declared the revised decision approved:

BOD/2016/03-01– <u>Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises:</u>

The Board of Directors notes the progress made to date on the Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises (EiEPC) Platform and the potential synergies with the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) work.

- It therefore requests the Secretariat to continue to engage with the Technical Strategy Group (TSG) or its successor responsible for the design of the EiEPC Platform and to respond to the TSG's request for an initial hosting self-assessment.
- The Board requests that the GPE Secretariat prepare an in-depth business case for the Board's consideration in June. The business case should outline GPE's value added as a host, and include a detailed analysis of the implications for GPE's governance and institutional arrangements, core work, and the resources of the GPE Secretariat.

The Chair invited all Board members to send any comments not shared during the meeting in writing.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 The Chair said an online survey on GPE's Private Sector Engagement Strategy would be launched the same day and run through April 1. Board members would receive an email communication with further details.

3.2 The Chair said Tim Nielander, the external consultant hired to conduct the independent Governance Review, would be contacting individual Board and Alternate Board members over the coming weeks to develop recommendations for consideration by the GERF in May and subsequently for the Board in June.

3.3 The Chair reminded the Board that the next Board meeting would take place June 13-15 in Oslo. A draft agenda for the June Board meeting would be shared in the coming weeks.

3.4 There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:50am.

Annex 1 – Participants on the call

Developing Country Partners	
Africa 2	Francis Biney *on behalf of* Minister Kamissoko Camara, Board Member, Ivory Coast H.E. Ahmat Khazali Acyl, Alternate Board Member, Chad
Africa 3	Solomon Shiferaw *on behalf* of Minister Shigutie Wolassa, Board Member, Ethiopia
E. Europe, Middle East & Central Asia	Hikmat Amin *on behalf of* Minister Hanif Balkhi, Board Member
LatAm & the Carribean	H.E. Sandra Maribel Sanchez Rivera, Board Member, Honduras H.E. Nesmy Manigat, Alternate Board Member, Haiti
Donors	
Donor 1	Chantal Nicod, Board Member, Switzerland Anne-Francoise Paradis Alternate Board Member, Belgium
Donor 2	Thea Lund Christiansen *on behalf of* Nathalia Feinberg, Board Member, Denmark
Donor 3	Donal Brown, Board Member, United Kingdom Julie Shouldice, Alternate Board Member, Canada
Donor 4	Olav Seim, Board Member, Norway Patrick Empey, Alternate Board Member, Ireland
Donor 5	Klaus Rudischhauser, Board Member, European Commission
Donor 6	Charles North, Board member, United States
Non-Governmental	
CSO 1	David Archer, Board Member Tony Baker, Alternate Board Member
CSO 3	David Edwards, Alternate Board Member
Private Sector/ Foundations	Peter Colenso, Board Member, Foundations Amanda Gardiner, Alternate Board Member, Private Sector
Multilateral Agencies	
UNICEF	Geeta Rao Gupta, Board Member Josephine Bourne, Alternate Board Member
Multilateral/Regional Banks	Luis Benveniste, Alternate Board Member, World Bank

1. **Observers:**

Cindy Elizabeth Paladines, Trustee, World Bank
Marja Karjalainen, Donor 5 representative (EC)

Erfan Diebel, Donor 5 representative (Germany)
Nicolai Steen Nielsen, communications focal point, Donor 2 (Denmark)
Hannah Langfield, Donor 3 representative (UK)
Terri Sarch, Donor 3 representative (UK)
Aida Liha Matejicek, Donor 5 representative (EC)
Sadia Ijaz, communications focal point, CSO 1
Tom Edvard Eriksen, Donor 4 representative (Norway)
Rebecka Orrenius Alffram, Donor 2 representative (Sweden)

2. List of Regrets

H.E. David Mabumba, Alternate Board Member, Africa 1
Cheikh Mbow, Board Member, CSO 2

3. Chair and Secretariat Participants

Julia Gillard, Chair
Alice Albright, Chief Executive Officer
Karen Mundy, Chief Technical Officer
Alex Palacios, Chief of Staff
Margarita Focas Licht, Country Support Team Manager
Padraig Power, Chief Financial Operations Officer
Jean-Marc Bernard, Deputy Chief Technical Officer
Jesper Andersen, Senior Policy Advisor
Fazle Rabbani, Country Lead
Johanna Van Dyke, Board Operations Officer
Christine Guétin, Board Operations Officer
Michaelle Wane, Senior Board Assistant
Henfry, Sally-Anne, Special Assistant to the Board Chair
Claire A. Horton, Special Assistant to the CEO
Michelle Mesen, Developing Country Partnerships Officer