Global Partnership for Education –
Youth Advocates Group (YAG) aka GPE Youth Advocates
Terms of Reference (June 2017 - June 2018)

Background

Established in 2002, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is a multi-stakeholder partnership and funding platform that brings together developing country governments, donor governments, multilateral organizations, civil society, teacher organizations, private foundations, and the private sector to mobilize global and national support for education in developing countries, focusing on the most vulnerable children and youth. GPE helps developing country governments improve equity and learning by strengthening their education systems. Its strategic plan for 2016-2020 aligns GPE's vision and mission with the Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing the essential role that education plays in achieving all other global goals.

GPE's Strategic Plan places a strong emphasis on youth with "clear and ambitious goals, which encapsulates what must be done to stop children and youth being left out or left behind because education systems are not working as they should". Young people, specifically youth advocates for education at national, regional, and global levels, are central stakeholders in the education sector and bring a unique body of experience and key knowledge of local context.

The GPE governance structures also welcomed Youth recommendations and enthusiasm to engage, as expressed at the 2014 replenishment and subsequent meetings of the GPE Board, which highlighted ways that Youth can engage further within the Global Partnership and that the voice of Youth should be championed within the Global Partnership and the Board, including through:

- Engagement within the Global Partnership at both country and global level
- Observing meetings of the Board
- Participation of Youth" in the Civil Society Organizations constituency and representation through this constituency
- Integrating youth engagement activities into existing dialogue with CSOs
- Communication strategies, and appropriate forms of dialogue/consultations with youth, especially through social media

The GPE Secretariat will continue to encourage and advance the above. To help further champion the voice of youth within the Global Partnership, and strengthen youth advocacy and engagement at the global level and country level, and in support of GPE 2020, the GPE Secretariat will work with a group of youth advocates (GPE Youth Advocates Group) on a voluntary basis.

Objectives

The objectives of the Youth Advocates Group (YAG) include the following:

- To contribute to advocacy and strategic communications that advance the goals and objectives of GPE 2020 and to mobilize young people around the world to engage in advocacy on education.

- To advise the GPE Secretariat on how to champion the voice of youth in its youth advocacy and engagement efforts
- To support CSO led efforts to build and integrate youth representation within the CSO constituency
- To identify advocacy opportunities and spaces (including public policy platforms) for GPE to engage young people, and to lend their voice to these spaces in support of GPE
- To work with GPE to increase global and national financing for education.
- To engage in outreach to other youth advocates and youth networks and support GPE to build its youth network, and its dialogue with other CSOs
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Deliverables

The Youth Advocates Group will contribute to producing the following:
- Advocacy and engagement plans for the GPE Replenishment in February 2018
- Tools and communication products, in collaboration with the GPE Secretariat, for youth advocacy and communications, and to champion the voice of the youth in the GPE
- A proposed Youth Advocacy and Engagement Strategy

Selection Criteria
The GPE Secretariat will select YAG members based on the following criteria:
- Aged between 18-30 years of age
- Fluency in English
- Gender and geographically balanced representation
- Experience in youth advocacy and engagement on education in national/regional/global contexts
- Experience advocating on global development issues?
- Public speaking experience
- Ability to collaborate with GPE Secretariat for one year with a review after the 1 year has been completed
- Ability to commit two days a month to participate in bi-monthly calls, communications, one face-to-face YAG meeting a year, and available to participate in advocacy events.