December 8, 2017

Alice Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education
900 19th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006
USA

Subject: **Endorsement of Somaliland Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2021**

Dear Ms. Albright:

On behalf of the Education Sector Committee (ESC) members in Hargeisa and Nairobi, this letter serves as endorsement of the 5 year Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) for Somaliland.

We commend the collaborative approach taken to develop the ESSP for Somaliland. The ESSP outlines constraints and key policy outcomes in the areas of access, equity, quality, efficiency and capacity development. These are consistent with our vision and objectives for the sector. With this letter, we give our commitment to align investments with the objectives articulated in the plan.

We note that the Ministry has addressed most of the recommendations made in the appraisal report. The ESSP is a living document that will be adapted on a rolling basis, thus enabling commitments and milestones to reviewed and adjusted. We are confident that the annual Joint Reviews of the Education Sector (JRES) will feed into this process, especially in the monitoring of policy strategy implementation and review of annual implementation plans.

We recommend that the new Government in Somaliland reviews and clarifies the projected share of education in the budget over the period of the plan. Financing model 1which foresees an annual budget increase of US$ 4 million was used to complete the plan but this doesn't offer a growth path commensurate with annual increase in the national budget. While the prevailing weak economic capacity is appreciated, it is desirable that the clarification demonstrates government commitment to progressively increase domestic share of resources to education. Moreover, the new Government should commit itself to the implementation of the new ESSP.

As planning and implementation proceeds, the ESC recommends the Ministry's continued reflection in the following areas.

1. Expansion of access to education and equity: With low GER and NER and slow growth in enrolment, targeted measures are necessary to expand education opportunities for children in Somaliland. The government should identify outliers for replication and constraints that lie ahead to adapt interventions. Marginalized groups mentioned in the ESSP such as girls, children with special education needs, children from pastoralist communities as well as those affected by cyclical emergencies like drought should be given particular attention. We recognize that the plan proposes key strategies to address challenges related to access to education and equity and these could be achieved through effective partnerships.

2. Addressing quality concerns and learning outcomes: successive reviews of the sector have raised concerns about quality of education. A substantial number of children in Somaliland schools do not reach the expected basic learning benchmarks in numeracy and literacy. The plan puts

forward sound strategies to deal with this but a focus on high impact solutions may be necessary. There is need to promote quality through improving learning monitoring by learning assessments, and through developing targeted programmes that improve teaching and learning. The Government should operationalize and provide sustainable budgetary allocations to the new National Teacher Training Institute in Hargeisa whose construction was co-funded by the GPE and EU.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework: We recommend that annual implementation plans are better prioritized and supported by a strong M&E framework. We urge continued stakeholder consultation in the framework of the ESC, Pillar Working Groups and JRES while taking into account analytical work that may be available during implementation of the ESSP.

Signed by the representatives of the Education Sector Committee (ESC) members

12/7/2017

Neven Knezevic, Chief of Education, **UNICEF Somalia Support Centre (USSC)**

Viola Muhangi Kuhaisa, Somalia Education Programme Coordinator, **UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa**

12/8/2017

Rina Dhalla, Education Office Chief, Somalia Field Office **U.S. Agency for International Development**

12/15/2017

Mohamed Sabul, Education Programme Manager, **European Union Delegation (Coordinating Agency)**

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Participant Lists of ESC Hargeisa & ESC Nairobi
Attachment 2: Somaliland Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2021
Attachment 3: Somaliland Education Sector Analysis
Attachment 3: Somaliland ESSP Appraisal Report
Attachment 4: Director General Memo on the ESSP Appraisal Report

cc: Mr. Sven Baeten, GPE Somalia Country Lead
Mr. Ahmed Abokor, DG MoEHS Somaliland
Mr. Abdullahi Habane, Minister of Education, MoEHS Somaliland