PARTNER COUNTRY CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS

Background

Since their inception, the objective of partner country constituency meetings has been to strengthen and amplify partner country voices. Constituency meetings provide a platform for partner countries to learn about GPE policies, grants, operations, tools and other resources, while also providing them with the opportunity to share the experiences and challenges they face within their respective education sectors with the Secretariat and with their fellow constituency members directly. This includes closed-door sessions for constituency members without the Secretariat present. As such, the meetings improve consultation and coordination within and between partner country constituencies and enable dissemination of information on the GPE operating model, policies, goals, and objectives.

In June 2014, the Board of Directors mandated the GPE Secretariat to organize constituency meetings for each of the six partner country constituencies (BOD decision BOD/2014/06-03). The primary objectives of partner country constituency meetings are:

- Strengthen partner country engagement in **GPE's governance processes**.
- Enhance **networks, consultation and coordination** among constituency members.
- Provide insights into **GPE's operational model, policies, and goals**.
- Facilitate **peer learning and exchange of experiences** among participants.
- Share perspectives on **challenges facing education** and provide **input into GPE's policies**.

In November 2018, partner countries agreed to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the constituency meetings based on the recommendations of an independent review. As a result, the meetings changed from bi-annual global meetings to annual regional meetings for each constituency group to allow more opportunities for partner countries to influence decision-making at both Board and Technical Committee meetings (BOD/2018/11 DOC 02).

Partner country constituency meetings

One regional constituency meeting is held each year for each of the partner country constituency groups: 1) Asia and Pacific; 2) Eastern Europe, Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia; 3) Latin America and the Caribbean; and 4) Africa 1, 2, 3 combined. The meetings are held in-person in the respective region of the constituency group that is meeting. While the meetings are organized by the GPE Secretariat, the meeting agendas are co-created with constituency members based on their priorities. Discussions are focused on learning how GPE's operational model, policies, goals, and objectives can support countries in transforming their education systems, as well as discussing how partner countries can engage with GPE's governance process and impact decision-making at the Board.

The agenda also includes focused discussions on existing challenges in the sector and innovative solutions that address these challenges, including opportunities to showcase examples of good practice from across the partnership.

Meeting participants

Meeting participants are the official partner country focal points who have been appointed by their Ministers of Education to serve as the primary liaison between the GPE Secretariat and the Ministry of Education, in the management of the constituency and through active participation in constituency deliberations. It is the partner country focal point's role to help ensure that there is a better understanding of GPE processes at the country level by government partners. Invitations to the regional meetings are extended to all partner country focal points from the respective constituency as well as partner countries that are not yet members but are from GPE-eligible countries from the relevant region.

Invitations may be expanded to include other regional development partners to deepen discussions on improving alignment among other partners at the country-level who can add additional perspectives given their varied experience in the region (e.g., local education group members, development partners, and local civil society).