April 30, 2018

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

Subject: Endorsement of Federal Government of Somalia Education Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2020

Dear Ms. Albright:

On behalf of the Local Education Group, this letter serves as endorsement of the 3 year Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) for the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) covering 2018-2020. This endorsement is based on the report of the technical appraisal of the plan and the numerous consultations on the plan by the partners leading to improvements in the ESSP.

We commend the leadership provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education (MoECHE) of the Federal Government of Somalia and engagement of partners in the important endeavour to develop a holistic sector plan for a country emerging from a protracted conflict. We are convinced that the policy priorities, activities and indicators articulated in the plan reflect our shared goals of advancing access, equity, quality, learning outcomes and efficiency. With this letter, we confirm our commitment to align investments with the objectives articulated in the plan.

The ESSP covers all education sub-sectors from early childhood to higher education while factoring in strengthening resilience of communities against shocks and crises. The plan is guided by the National Development Plan 2017-2019, the draft Education Act 2017, the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Safe Schools Declaration, and other key national and international policy instruments such as the global targets for achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 & to some extent SDG 5.

We note that the Ministry has addressed most of the recommendations made in the revised ESSP. We confirm improvements were made in the operational plan; data and indicators; and costing as well as financial tables. Steps that will be taken to prepare a comprehensive Education Sector Analysis (ESA) and ESSP in the future have been elaborated in the monitoring chapter. We understand that the ESSP and its operational plan are living documents that will be adapted as implementation proceeds, based on monitoring and evaluation data and annual Joint Review of the Education Sector (JRES).

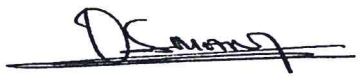
Despite the positive progress in the education sector, the education donor partners in Somalia would like to emphasize the following reflections for the Federal Ministry of Education:

1. *Focus on strategies for improving access to education as well as addressing inequities with respect to service provision.* Despite some positive developments in the last few years, education indicators for vulnerable communities, internally displaced populations (IDPs), girls, rural and nomadic populations are extremely low. Innovative solutions should be explored in areas where education services are lacking due to under-investment emanating from access and security constraints.
2. *Focus on strategies for improving quality in the context of a fragile, educational context.* In order to roll out the 2017 national curriculum framework, attention is needed on developing and rolling out learning standards; developing teachers; developing quality assurance mechanisms where government systems exist; assessing student learning where appropriate and feasible; and working with private sector actors and community actors to achieve progress in access and quality.
3. *Government commitment to increase the share of education in the budget by 3 percent per year over the next 3 years is commendable.* There is need to follow through on this commitment with concrete allocations and support, increased engagement and dialogue with the Ministry of Finance while strengthening Ministry of Education absorptive capacity and transparency mechanisms. It is recommended that education partners verifiably align their funds with the ESSP's objectives and strategies.
4. *Improve Education Management Information Systems (EMISs) by supporting MoECHE's EMIS implementation plan that seeks better alignment of development partner activities on EMIS activities within the Federal Ministry of Education.* The plan envisages integration of different data systems and adoption of a coherent EMIS framework across the Federal Member States as current data coverage is limited.
5. Embark on a process of strengthening sector policy and regulatory frameworks, and their implementation in a way that addresses the challenges of curriculum, quality and learning outcomes.

Endorsement by the representatives of the Local Education Group (LEG):



Lisa Bender, Acting Chief of Education, **UNICEF Somalia Support Centre (USSC)**



Osman Abdulahi Ali, Economist, Somalia Education Program, **World Bank Group**



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

Rina Dhalla, Acting Social Services Chief, Somalia Field Office **U.S. Agency for International Development**

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

Attachements:

Attachment 1: ESC Nairobi Endorsement Minutes
Attachment 2: ESC Mogadishu endorsement Minutes
Attachment 2: FGS Education Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2020
Attachment 3: FGS Education Sector Analysis
Attachment 3: FGS ESSP Appraisal Report
Attachment 4: Permanent Secretary Memo on the ESSP Appraisal Report

cc: Ms. Josephine Lutta Kiyenje, GPE FGS Country Lead
Mr. Hassan Mohamed Ali, Director General MoECHE