EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO NEPAL

Kathmandu, November 2016, 21
Ares(2016)6515014

Mr. Dhaniram Poudel
Minister
Ministry of Education
Government of Nepal

Subject: School Sector Sector Plan endorsement letter from Nepal Local Education Development Partner Group

Dear Mr Poudel

We, the Local Education Development Partner Group (LEDPG), would like to thank you for sharing the approved version of the seven-year School Sector Development Plan (SSDP) (2016/17–2022/23) with us on the 28th of October 2016, as well as the Follow up communication from the Ministry of Finance and the responses to the recommendation of the independent SSDP appraisal and consolidated comments on the 15th of November 2016. This letter provides our response to the approved plan.

We would like to express our appreciation for being intensively involved throughout the consultations, analysis and development of the SSDP. We confirm that we have been informed about the findings of the independent appraisal of the SSDP (which was completed in March 2016) that provided a positive indication with regards to endorsing the SSDP. LEDPG members provided consolidated comments on the appraisal's findings to the SSDP Technical Committee and Steering Committee, most of which have been subsequently addressed.

The LEDPG would like to echo the appraisal report's overall conclusions that:

> *"The SSDP has been prepared through an analytical and participatory process. 14 thematic working groups were formed under Government of Nepal's leadership and with participation from various stakeholders to prepare background papers for their respective sections. There have also been consultations with other ministries, at district level, with civil society organisations, including teacher unions, (I)NGOs and certainly with the DPs, both pooling and non-pooling. The analytical preparatory work has been assisted with a consulting company providing technical assistance throughout the process. Considering the very difficult environment caused by earthquakes and economic blockage, the preparation process must be seen as commendable [....]. (p.2)"*

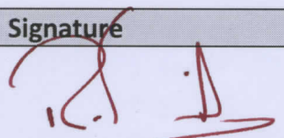
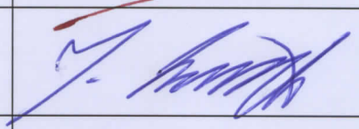
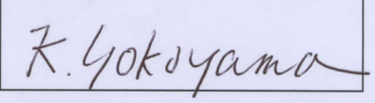
Recognizing that challenges remain and a number of recommendations need following-up (as noted in the recommendations and key findings sections of the attached appraisal report), the members of the LEDPG hereby confirm their joint endorsement of the seven-year School Sector Development Plan on the understanding that the following conditions will be addressed as committed to by the Government:

1. *Institutional readiness* — The establishment of all agreed implementation arrangements within the Ministry of Education and its central, regional and district level agencies as part of the readiness requirements for supporting the implementation of the SSDP. This includes establishing the SSDP Steering Committee, the SSDP implementation Committee and the Technical Support Unit. It also includes carrying out an institutional needs assessment based on which a capacity and institutional development plan will be produced. And, aligned with the latter plan, a common technical assistance (TA) framework will be produced that identifies TA needs.

P.B. No. 6754, Uttar Dhoka Sadak, Lainchaur, Kathmandu, Nepal. Telephone: (977-1) 4423569, 4429445, Fax: (977-1) 4423541
E-mail: Delegation-Nepal@eeas.europa.eu, Website: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nepal

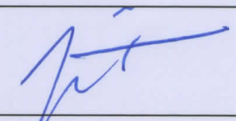
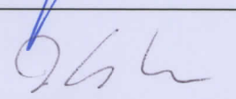
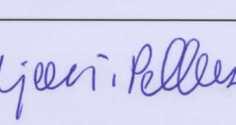
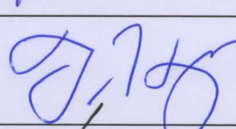
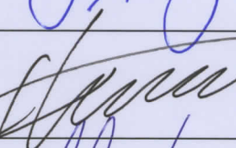
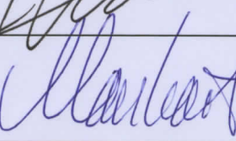
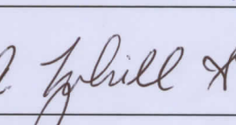
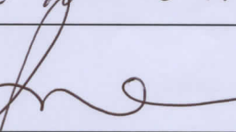
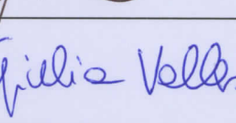
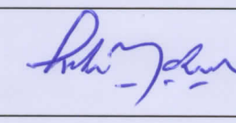
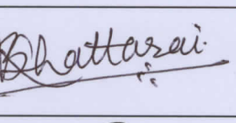
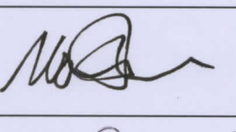
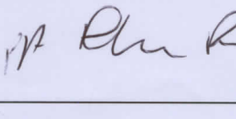
2. *Focus on learning outcomes* — The Government's commitment to put learning outcomes at the centre of the SSDP will be implemented by enabling the rollout of related strategies such as the National Early Grade Reading Programme (while recognizing Nepal's linguistic diversity), by the standardization of exams and by strengthening classroom-based assessment and in-service support for teachers to ensure that teacher training results in improved teaching and learning practices.
3. *Frameworks and action plans* — National frameworks and action plans will be produced to enable the development and reforms planned under the SSDP; notably the development of a teacher rationalization and deployment plan, the development of a National Qualification Framework (NQF), the revision of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and the development of a Fiduciary Management Action Plan (FMAP).
4. *Disaster risk reduction* — The Ministry of Education will produce a disaster risk reduction (DRR) master plan for the school education sector to ensure the recovery of the sector in the earthquake-affected districts and the strengthening of DRR nationwide along the three pillars of comprehensive school safety: i) safe schools, ii) strengthened school-based disaster management and iii) strengthened resilience in school communities with regards to DRR.
5. *Readiness for federal system* — The system's readiness to undertake a review and revision of institutional arrangements around the time of the SSDP mid-term review to accommodate the rollout of the federal system and its implications for Nepal's school education sector.

Overall, the plan is well developed and contains both the overarching seven-year policy framework, and a costed five-year implementation plan that will be further elaborated through annual strategic implementation plans (ASIPs) and annual work plans and budgets (AWPBs). Finally, the LEDPG wants to recognize the leadership of the Government in the development of the SSDP (despite the challenging context), which is expected to translate into strong ownership of the plan and its implementation at all levels. The LEDPG also recognizes that the SSDP had to be developed at a time of many unknowns in terms of the rollout of the federal structure and its implications as well as the amendments to the Education Act. We therefore greatly appreciate the emphasis that the Government has put on the mid-term review (expected in 2019) to identify and address these and other changes in context. The review will be informed by an impact analysis and evaluation that will be undertaken simultaneously with the implementation of the SSDP.
As such, the Local Education Development Partner Group assesses the School Sector Development Plan for 2016-2023 as **credible** and therefore **endorses it:**

Agency	Representative	Signature
European Union	**H.E. Ms Rensje Teerink** Ambassador	
Embassy of Finland	**H.E. Jorma Suvanto** Ambassador	
Asian Development Bank	**Mr Kenichi Yokoyama** Country Director	

P.B. No. 6754, Uttar Dhoka Sadak, Lainchaur, Kathmandu, Nepal. Telephone: (977-1) 4423569, 4429445, Fax: (977-1) 4423541
E-mail: Delegation-Nepal@eeas.europa.eu, Website: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nepal

EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO NEPAL

Australian Embassy	**H.E. Mr Glenn White** Ambassador	
JICA	**Mr Jun Sakuma** Chief Representative	
Royal Norwegian Embassy	**H.E. Mr Kjell Tormod Pettersen** Ambassador	
UNICEF Nepal	**Mr Tomoo Hozumi** Country Representative	
World Bank	**Mr Takuya Kamata** Country Manager	
UNESCO	**Mr Christian Manhart** Country Representative	
USAID	**Mr Peter A Malnak** Mission Director	
WFP	**Ms Pippa Bradford** Representative and Country Director	
UNFPA	**Ms Giulia Vallese** Representative	
Association of INGOS (AIN)	**Mr Prabin Manandhar** Chair AIN	
National Campaign for Education in Nepal (NCE-N)	**Mr Kumar Bhattarai** President	
DFID	**Ms Gail Marzetti** Head	
British Council	**Dr Jovan Ilic** Country Director	

P.B. No. 6754, Uttar Dhoka Sadak, Lainchaur, Kathmandu, Nepal. Telephone: (977-1) 4423569, 4429445, Fax: (977-1) 4423541
E-mail: Delegation-Nepal@eeas.europa.eu, Website: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nepal