

FINAL DECISIONS

BOD/2018/12-01–Institutional Arrangements: The Board of Directors:

1. Notes that:
 - a. Since its inception, GPE has been hosted at the World Bank and this arrangement has provided considerable benefits to GPE for which it is very grateful.
 - b. In the period between its replenishment in 2014 and its most recent replenishment in February this year, GPE has pursued a strategy of increasing ambition and growth, and, as a result, has increased its financial resources, developed new capabilities and achieved a far greater global profile. GPE's aim in this strategy has been to maximize its impact in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4.
 - c. The global education community has also been pursuing a strategy of ambition and growth, which has seen, amongst other things, the seminal report of the Education Commission, the World Development Report 2018, the most recent Global Monitoring Report, the creation of Education Cannot Wait and work underway to create additional entities such as an International Financing Facility for Education, an Education Outcomes Fund and a Global Book Alliance. This new energy and momentum have arisen from the recognition that without significant new resources and innovation, Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) will not be achieved, and that education is pivotal to realizing many of the other SDGs.
 - d. The global education community is increasingly focused on what architecture will enable the most effective and efficient translation of resources into learning outcomes for children, especially the poorest and most marginalized, and the achievement of SDG 4.
2. Resolves to:
 - a. Convey to the Board of the World Bank, its President Jim Kim, its CEO Kristalina Georgieva, the hosting review team and other relevant staff of the World Bank thanks for the World Bank hosting GPE since its inception and the constructive discussions on the possibility of GPE continuing in a hosting arrangement.
 - b. Accept the hosting arrangements detailed in the document provided by the World Bank at the GPE Board meeting in Dublin on December 6 and 7, 2018 and looks forward to moving forward to the revised arrangements with the World Bank in a spirit of partnership and collaboration.

- c. Adopt this continued hosting approach because it enables GPE to benefit from World Bank services and support while having strategic and operational independence and a wide range of capabilities as it pursues its current strategic plan, increases ambition in its next strategic plan and aims to be, potentially, a platform for other entities as the global education architecture further develops.
- d. Request that the World Bank submits the final hosting arrangements for information to the World Bank Board as soon as possible.
- e. Request that the Board Chair and the World Bank CEO execute the final hosting arrangements as a written agreement following receipt by the World Bank Board.
- f. Establish a Board Working Group (BWG) to commission an independent review of how the hosting agreement has facilitated an effective hosting relationship between the World Bank and GPE. This is to be brought to the Board for its consideration in June 2021, and will assess in particular the following:
 - i. Whether the hosting agreement has guaranteed the autonomy of the Board.
 - ii. Whether it has helped mitigate perceived conflicts of interest and enabling clear accountability of the World Bank as a grant agent.
 - iii. Whether it has been conducive to more strategic alignment between the World Bank and GPE (in particular, has it translated into increased joint programming with the World Bank).
 - iv. Whether being hosted by the World Bank and the capacity to have a family of funds has contributed to the overall effectiveness of the education architecture and to the strategic positioning of GPE within this architecture.
 - v. Whether capabilities considered important to GPE's effectiveness and goal achievement have been able to be effectively operationalized under the hosting agreement.
 - vi. Whether the Host VP has successfully facilitated the smooth operation and administrative support of GPE within the World Bank with the overarching goal of helping GPE to deliver on its mandate.

Should the review highlight critical issues or limitations that cannot be resolved through dialogue with the World Bank, the Board will explore the feasibility of alternative arrangements, including actively seeking expressions of interest from countries to host an independent (fully or partially) GPE.

- g. Instruct the GPE CEO to produce for consideration at the June 2019 Board Meeting:
 - i. A plan, timetable and process for the development of GPE's next strategic plan.

- ii. A timing proposal for GPE's next replenishment along with a strategic approach to replenishment preparation that ensures GPE is able to clearly communicate the results achieved under the current strategy period.
- iii. In consultation with relevant World Bank staff and representatives from other relevant actors in the education architecture, a plan, timetable and process for developing the detail of the 'family of funds' referred to in Section 4.5 of the WB Final Offer.
- iv. In consultation with the governments of France and Switzerland, a description of the merits, risks, costs and benefits of potentially locating a number of GPE Secretariat staff in Paris or Geneva, and a proposed way forward for decision and implementation. Should any comparable offers be received from other countries a description will also be prepared of the merits, risks, costs and benefits of those offers.
- h. Ask the Board Working Group to continue and oversee the preparation of the documentation referred to in paragraph g.
- i. Call for nominees for a developing country partner Board Member or Alternate Member to join the BWG with such nominations to be made in writing to the Board Chair no later than close of business Washington time on Monday, December 17, 2018 with the current BWG to select a nominee should more than one nomination be received.
- j. Further instruct the GPE CEO to ensure as a standing item in her report to the Board information on how the World Bank hosting arrangement is working in operation.
- k. Request the Board Chair to advise and explain this decision to all GPE partners as soon as possible.

BOD/2018/12-02—June 12–14, 2018 Board Meeting Report: The Board of Directors approves the Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors in Brussels, Belgium from June 12-14, 2018 as set out in BOD/2018/12 DOC 02 Annex 1.

BOD/2018/12-03—Affirmative Vote Procedure: The Board of Directors, in reference to BOD/2017/06-08 and BOD/2017/12-04, extends the use of the Affirmative Vote procedure to Board decisions beyond those related to approval of ESPIG and Multiplier Grants per the Affirmative Vote procedure included in BOD/2018/12 DOC 02 Annex 2.

BOD/2018/12-04—Request for Costed Extension of Civil Society Education Fund:
The Board of Directors:

1. Delegates authority to the Grants and Performance Committee to review and approve a costed extension not to exceed US\$4.5 million from the Global Campaign for Education for the CSEF grant, presently set to expire on December 31, 2018.

2. Reduces the funding available for the Advocacy and Social Accountability mechanism by a corresponding amount from US\$60 million to US\$55.5 million.

BOD/2018/12-05–Application of Variable Part for Small Multiplier Grants and

Combination Grants: The Board of Directors in reference to BOD/2018/06-08–Reducing Transaction Costs and Improving Efficiency of Applications for ESPIGs:

1. Allows countries applying for a Multiplier grant where the allocation does not exceed US\$5 million to choose whether to adopt an ex-post Variable Part.
2. Clarifies that where countries apply for an ESPIG and a Multiplier grant simultaneously and where the combined grant amount exceeds US\$5 million, the standard 30% Variable Part applies to the combined grant amount.

BOD/2018/12-06–GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies: The Board of Directors:

1. Adopts the revisions to the *Operational Framework for Effective Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States* set out in Annex 2 to BOD/2018/12 DOC 05 on principles for GPE engagement in complex emergencies. The Board notes that acting on these principles requires a risk-based approach for each specific context.
2. Requests the Secretariat to develop guidelines for the operationalization of the principles under the guidance of the Grants and Performance Committee (GPC). The operational guidelines should specify the need for coordination and complementarity among key actors including with Education Cannot Wait.
3. Requests the Secretariat to continue work on other modifications to the Operational Framework, under the guidance of the Grants and Performance Committee.
4. Requests the Secretariat to proceed with the development of support to Yemen according to the application of the Principles illustrated in Annex 3 to BOD/2018/12 DOC 05, and for the Grants and Performance Committee to review and approve or recommend approval of concrete funding proposals in accordance with its delegated authority.
5. Requests the Secretariat and the Grants and Performance Committee to develop for consideration at the June 2019 Board meeting a paper on whether GPE should operationalize the Maximum Country Allocation for Syria.

BOD/2018/12-07–Review of Risk Policies and Practices: The Board of Directors:

1. Approves the risk taxonomy as set out in Annex 1D to BOD/2018/12/DOC 06.
2. Requests the Secretariat to complete the finalization of the risk appetite statement, three lines of defence model, and definition of key risk indicators for consideration by the Finance and Risk Committee and recommendation to the Board in 2019.

BOD/2018/12-08–Education Sector Investment Case (ESIC) Approach: Resourcing and Testing: The Board of Directors:

1. Approves the ESIC Approach as outlined in BOD/2018/12 DOC 07 for a demonstration and learning period of 18–24 months.
2. Requests the Secretariat to ensure appropriate monitoring and evaluation per the arrangements described in BOD/2018/12 DOC 07 to ascertain the validity and traction of the Approach.
3. Requests the Secretariat to include updates on the implementation of these arrangements in the Portfolio Review.

BOD/2018/12-09–Strengthening Safeguards Against Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and Abuse: The Board of Directors confirms its commitment to promote, implement, and where needed reinforce efforts to:

1. Ensure a culture of respect and high standards of ethical behavior as enshrined in the GPE Charter and the GPE Code of Conduct to protect the set of GPE partners and advance human dignity.
2. Establish and maintain standards aimed at preventing sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation and other forms of misconduct, with special attention to the vulnerabilities of children.
3. Provide a safe and trusted environment for those affected by sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation to step forward to report incidents and concerns, with the assurance that they will be treated respectfully and consistently.
4. Provide protection for those affected, as well as whistle-blowers and/or witnesses, and to take appropriate measures against any form of retaliation.
5. Maintain robust policy frameworks and clear institutional mechanisms that address how incidents and allegations will be handled should they arise, including internal escalation mechanisms, and cooperation with relevant national authorities where appropriate.
6. Support effective training programs so the Secretariat and staff of GPE partners understand the requirements and standards of behavior expected of them.

BOD/2018/12-10–GPE Code of Ethical Conduct: The Board of Directors:

1. Recognizes that the establishment of a Code of Ethical Conduct is good governance practice that will help foster the principles and values of GPE.
2. Approves the Code of Ethical Conduct as set out in Annex 1 of BOD/2018/12/DOC 09.

BOD/2018/12-11–Grant Agent Minimum Standards: The Board of Directors, recognizing the importance of engaging only with organizations that are committed to establishing and

maintaining standards aimed at preventing sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation, and other forms of misconduct:

1. Amends GPE's minimum standards for Grant Agents as set out in Annex 2 to BOD/2018/12 DOC 09.
2. Requests all Grant Agents to confirm to the Secretariat that they meet such standards.
3. Requests the Secretariat to report to the Finance and Risk Committee (FRC), any instances where Grant Agents fail to confirm that they meet such standards at their next scheduled meeting in April 2019, and for the FRC to consider recommendations to the Board up to and including cancelation of any Allocations to such entities.
4. Requests the Governance and Ethics Committee (GEC) to review the minimum standards with regards to safeguards as needed to ensure alignment with international efforts on the topic.
5. While respecting Grant Agents own policies and procedures, requests prompt notification to the GPE Secretariat of any credible or confirmed incidents of harassment, abuse, or exploitation involving their staff, and/or GPE programs.
6. Requests the Secretariat to promptly inform the GEC, and Board on instances that may negatively impact the reputation of GPE.

BOD/2018/12-12–Effective Partnership Review: The Board of Directors:

1. Notes that, as enshrined in the GPE Charter, the Board has a responsibility for the financial and programmatic performance of GPE investments and relies on the Secretariat to help it carry out its functions, responsibilities and duties.
2. Emphasizes the importance of the following principles with the aim of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of GPE's country-level operations:
 - a. A focus on country-level mutual accountability.
 - b. Reinforcing national government ownership and strengthening its capacity.
 - c. A rebalancing of the GPE country-level model to ensure GPE grants and processes support the development and effective implementation of high-quality, well-financed, government-owned education sector plans.
 - d. Achieving a reduction in GPE country-level processes and transaction costs while maintaining robust mechanisms for ensuring quality and managing risk.
3. Agrees to the following potential improvements to GPE's country-level operations:
 - a. Strengthening country-level partnership and policy dialogue.
 - b. Strengthening the education sector planning process, in particular to strengthen government leadership and capacity building.
 - c. Streamlining the ESPIG application process.

- d. Strengthening transparency and accountability by developing key performance indicators for core country-level GPE actors.
 - e. Ensuring country-tailored mutual accountability arrangements are effectively monitored by the Secretariat with reporting to the Board on the extent to which country-level accountability mechanisms are supporting improved performance and results.
4. Agrees that the proposals in Annex 1 of BOD 2018/12/DOC 04 should form the basis for further work by the Secretariat and the Grants and Performance Committee, and requests the associated follow-up actions be undertaken, with a view to ensuring implementation of key improvements to GPE's country-level operations are rolled out from July 1, 2019. The Grants and Performance Committee and the Secretariat will work together to identify any ideas that should be added to or removed from Annex 1 of BOD 2018/12/DOC 04.
 5. Requests the Grants and Performance Committee to report to the Board in June 2019 on progress made.