

**"Keeping Our Promises on Education"  
High Level Education Event  
Brussels 2 May 2007**

## **OUTCOMES**

### **Introduction**

In 2007 at the halfway point to 2015, it is estimated that US\$ 9 billion of external aid is needed per annum to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for primary education and \$11 billion per annum to reach all the Education for All goals. If all children are to be in school by 2009 (to complete by 2015) then this will require tripling of aid for basic education for low income countries.

In recognition of the urgency to make progress on these objectives, Louis Michel, EC Commissioner for Development, Gordon Brown, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer and Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank, co-convened a high level education event which took place in Brussels on 2 May, hosted by the European Commission. The event built on the political momentum of the 2005 "year of development", the African Financing for Development initiative, the 2006 Singapore meeting and various other recent high level events.

### **Attendance**

In addition to the 3 convenors, the event was attended by over 200 people including Ministers and other representatives from OECD, Middle East and developing countries and high level representatives of the private sector, international organisations, foundations and civil society organisations.

### **Key Messages**

The Conference agreed to increase efforts to Keep Our Promises for education and called on all participants to make concrete, action-oriented and specific commitments. Discussion stressed the need for action to be taken by both developing countries as well as the donors in line with agreements reached in Monterrey. All agreed on the need for more, better and faster support for education and to identify ways to ensure long-term predictability in planning and financing. Participants also strongly endorsed the key role of the EFA FTI in developing sound policies and plans, enhancing implementation capacity, improving donor harmonisation and mobilising financial assistance.

### **Outcomes**

The outcomes of the event reflect the four pillars of more, better, faster and long term predictable aid.

#### **More funding, including from new sources:**

Remarkable progress has been made in many countries, but to realise the possibility of being the first generation in history to have all children in school more resources are still needed. The meeting generated some new financing commitments (see table 1), and highlighted new sources of funding.

The three co-convenors announced their plans to contribute to the shortfall: The EC announced estimated direct aid for education in the new programming cycle of €1.7 billion up to 2013 from the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF and the EC budget. This will include €80 million for basic education under its thematic programme "Investing in People", out of which €22 million will support the Education Fast Track Initiative (FTI)

The UK outlined the initial allocation of its \$15 billion over 10 years with \$1 billion between Ethiopia and Tanzania, plus \$1 billion to other countries including four countries affected by conflict (Nepal, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Somalia) and £20million to UNICEF for emergency/conflict/post crisis countries. (The UK has allocated \$300 million to FTI so far).

The World Bank will commit \$1.5 billion to education in the poorest countries during 2007, at least that much in 2008 and hopefully more in future through IDA replenishments. The World Bank is also extending its support for post-conflict countries and will continue to support the FTI to accelerate progress to universal primary completion (UPC).

*OECD countries* also announced their intentions to increase aid to education: The two funds of the FTI will benefit from €159.8 million from The Netherlands(€150 million), Germany (€8 million) and Japan (€1.8 million). In addition, Canada, France, Portugal and Sweden reported planned increases in their aid to education by 2009.

The governments of Bahrain and Qatar and The Saudi Fund also stated their commitment to education and outlined their increasing aid to the sector and their willingness to share their experiences in basic education with other countries.

*The Private sector and civil society* announced their support to more aid for education with the Soros foundation promising \$5m for Liberia (if donors agree to fund the 5 yr plan); the Hewlett foundation outlined its new \$60m research programme into innovative funding mechanisms and quality education; UNESCO, FTI and the World Economic Forum described their ideas for more and better public private partnerships for education, and Save the Children made a commitment to get 8 million children into school in countries affected by conflict.

Commissioner Michel pointed to the opportunity provided by the EC and the 27 EU Member States, who between them give over half the aid for education, to contribute towards reducing the annual funding gap by fulfilling the EU commitment to reach 0.7% of GNI allocated to aid.

A number of speakers called on members of the G8 to realise their promises made at Gleneagles.

#### **Better and faster use and improved effectiveness of aid for better outcomes:**

Both developing country and donor representatives agreed the need for improving their effectiveness in line with the Paris Declaration on Harmonisation and Aid Effectiveness through instruments such as the EU

Code of Conduct for Division of Labour. The discussion of aid must look at a broader set of issues beyond schools and teachers, to improvement in delivery, demand and effectiveness. Speakers discussed their plans for better instruments, alignment behind government policies, a greater focus on outcomes and more effective capacity development.

There was general agreement that more robust indicators of aid disbursement and outcomes need to be developed in a more results-based approach. Countries need to develop comprehensive sector plans and insure that they invest across the sector as a whole.

Proposals were made to speed up disbursement through the catalytic fund of FTI and George Soros pointed to the possibilities for faster delivery of aid through public – private partnerships.

### **Long-term, predictable aid:**

All agreed on the need for partner governments to have less volatile and longer term mechanisms for aid to education. The EC invited others to join it in undertaking an MDG Contract which would have a six-year span. The World Bank underlined the importance of IDA for long term planning and countries such as Ireland, Denmark, Sweden and the UK stressed the importance of predictability and their countries' moves towards longer programme periods.

### **New possibilities**

The meeting highlighted a number of new possibilities: the opportunities to expand the involvement of the private sector with initiatives such as that of the World Economic Forum; the important role that foundations such as Soros, Hewlett-Gates can play and the expanding role of non-DAC donors such as the Middle Eastern countries and new EU member states such as Romania.

### **Follow Up**

Mr Manning in his summing up, pointed to the need:

- For greater alignment amongst all partners and appropriate complementarity and division of labour for scaling up;
- To capitalise on the opportunities offered by the expanding role of non-DAC donors and non-state providers. Mechanisms need to be found to take this forward;
- For better data and information on disbursement as well as commitments and the development of more robust information on the scaling up of resources and on country level allocations;
- An emphasis on quality, capacity development and educational outcomes and how to measure and evaluate these

Ministers and delegates looked forward to future opportunities to take stock of further progress and build on momentum generated in Brussels. Significant opportunities for continuing the agenda include:

- The Financing for Development conference in Accra, a follow up to the Abuja Commitment to Action (May 2007)
- FTI Technical Donor Group meeting (Bonn May 22-25, 2007)
- G8 Summit at Heiligendamm (June 2007)
- Bonn Capacity Development Forum October 8 – 10, 2007)
- WB/IMF annual meeting, October 2007, Washington
- The EU/Africa Summit (under Portuguese presidency – end of 2007)
- EFA High Level Group meeting (Dakar December 2007)
- The 2008 G8 Summit in Japan

**Annexe: TABLE 1**

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Funding commitments</b>	<b>Contributions to FTI</b>
EC – Commissioner Michel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated €1.7 Billion from EDF and EC Budget (new allocation) to 2013, including €80 m for Basic Education</li> </ul>	€22m to catalytic Fund (from the €80 million)
World Bank – Mr Wolfowitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.5Bn p.a. in IDA for Education for 2007 (50% increase on 2006);</li> <li>• At least \$1.5Bn for 2008 and beyond through IDA 15 replenishment;</li> <li>• New mechanisms for support to fragile states</li> </ul>	
UK – Mr Brown, Mr Benn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reiterates \$15 Bn over 10 yrs to education; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allocations of \$0.5 each to Ethiopia and Tanzania in support of national plans;</li> <li>○ \$1Bn for 8 countries over next 5yrs to include Somalia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Burundi)</li> <li>○ \$20 m to Unicef for emergency/ post conflict countries</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Continued support to FTI (\$300 m so far)
Canada – Mr Greenhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase from \$100m to \$150m for basic Education</li> </ul>	
France – Mr Deberre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €300m for Basic education increasing funding in over 30 countries.</li> </ul>	
Germany – Ms Kortmann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• €120m p.a</li> </ul>	Additional €8m for FTI
Japan – Mr Sugita		\$1.2m each to EPDF and CF
The Netherlands – Mr Koenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15% Dutch ODA on Basic Education (€700m p.a.)</li> <li>• €166 m for Unicef in emergencies in 40 countries</li> </ul>	€150 million to FTI
Norway – Mr Solheim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong commitment to Education</li> </ul>	Maintain support to CF
Portugal – Mr Cravinho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triple aid to education by 2009, focus on Lusophone countries</li> </ul>	
Soros Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5m to Liberia if matched by other donors</li> </ul>	
Hewlett Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$60m for 3 yrs for research into quality education</li> </ul>	
WEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased partnerships for education and in-kind donations working with UNESCO</li> </ul>	