



PROGRAMME
"Keeping our Promises on Education"
High-Level Education Event
May 2, 2007, Brussels
Berlaymont Building, rue de la Loi 200

Overall format of the Event

Political Session	9.00 – 13.00	Political decision-makers Leaders of international organisations, private sector, foundations and civil society organisations
Lunch	13.00 – 15.00	
Technical Session	15.00 – 17.30	Director Generals High-level representatives from private sector, foundations, and international organisations
Reception	17.30 – 19.00	

POLITICAL SESSION
9.00 – 13.00

The Event seeks to mobilise high-level political will and commitment to delivering on our promises for education, with a focus on basic education, particularly the education Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of universal primary education. Taking stock of progress to date, the political session will centre on the key challenges and proposed responses for reaching the education MDGs and the broader Education for All (EFA) objectives. The interventions by the invited speakers and the plenary discussion should identify concrete proposals and commitments for action to keep the MDG timeframe, particularly in terms of solutions to the challenge of doing 'more, better, and faster' and of providing long-term predictability in planning and financing and ensuring implementation capacity. Speakers are invited to offer their vision of the roadmap to achieving the education MDGs and of the conditions that will be needed to be met if this achievement is to be made sustainable in the long term.

**PART I:
OPENING: OUTLINING THE CHALLENGE
9.00 – 10.30**

Chair: Ms Glenys Kinnock, MEP

The fact that millions of children throughout the world continue to be denied their basic right to a decent education is a scandal. The peace and security of our world depends on the creation of stable, democratic societies committed to open government – education is the foundation stone for effective states, building national identity and promoting tolerance and respect for others. Despite overwhelming evidence that investing in education, particularly for girls, can spur economic growth, slow the spread of HIV/AIDS, and reduce poverty, there are still 77 million children out of school - including 44 million girls - and at the current rate of progress at least 75 countries will not achieve universal primary completion by 2015, the key MDG and EFA target.

Urgent action is needed now. If all children are going to complete their primary education by 2015, they must be enrolled in school by 2009 at the latest. This means that plans to increase access and improve the quality of education provision must be finalized this year and the necessary resources mobilized quickly.

A video message from Mme Graça Machel

Ms Karin Kortman, Deputy Minister, Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, Germany

**Mr Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson of the Global Campaign for Education
Children from developing countries**

Mr Kwadwo Baah Wiredu, Finance Minister, Ghana

Mr Nicholas Burnett, Director, EFA Global Monitoring Report

Mr Haja Nirina Razafinjato, Minister of Education, Madagascar

Ms Shantha Sinha, Chairperson of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, India

Mr Aires Bonifacio, Minister of Education, Mozambique

Ms Jasmin Whitbread, Executive Director, Save the Children

Mr Joern Kalisnki, Director of Policy and Campaigns, Oxfam, Germany

A representative of the Davos group of young leaders

**PART II:
RESPONSES TO THE CHALLENGE
10.30 – 11.15**

Chair: Mr Paulo Renato Souza, Congressman, Brazil

The education goals are within reach. With firm political will and effective collaboration between all partners, progress can be made even in the poorest countries. Ours could be the first generation in history to provide primary education for every child, everywhere. If ever aid and collaborative effort can make a difference – it is here!

Aid needs to be delivered more effectively. More long term predictable financing is essential. It is very difficult for ministries to plan strategically to build schools, train teachers etc if they do not know from one year to the next how much support they will get from donors. Many donors – and their partner countries – have made a significant effort to increase financing for education. Donors will need to re-align their aid for education – more aid for basic education, and more aid for low income countries. Aid for basic education still represents less than 4% of all aid. There is currently a gap between the policy rhetoric of commitment to the Universal Primary Education and the reality of aid allocation decisions.

Aid for education also needs to be delivered in support of a single, country led education sector plan to maximize impact and minimize transaction costs for the government. More, better and faster support for credible education sector plans will be needed to achieve Universal Primary Education and the broader Education for All goals.

**Commissioner Michel
European Commissioner
Development and Humanitarian Aid**

**Mr Gordon Brown
Chancellor of the Exchequer, UK**

**Mr Paul Wolfowitz
President, World Bank**

**COFFEE BREAK
11.15 – 11.30**

**PART III:
PLENARY DISCUSSION:
COMMITMENTS/CONCRETE ACTION
11.30 – 12.45**

Chair: Mr Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid

Commitments and promises have been made before. It is nearly seven years since the Education for All Dakar conference and the Millennium Summit where the EFA and MDG goals were set. It is five years since agreement was reached on the Monterrey Consensus to increase aid as part of the compact with developing countries. The time for talking is over - 2007 is the year for keeping our promises on education.

The EFA Global Monitoring Report estimates that US\$9 billion external aid is needed per annum in order to achieve the primary education goal and US\$11 billion to achieve all the EFA goals – this would require a tripling in aid for basic education in low income countries over the next 2 -3 years.

Heads of delegations - ministers, leadership of international organisations, civil society, private sector and foundations – are called on to make concrete action-oriented and specific commitments

- *to provide more, better and faster support for education*
- *to identify ways to ensure long-term predictability in planning and financing*
- *to help build implementation capacity.*

Short interventions, maximum 3 - 4 minutes each.

Speakers will include:

H.H. Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Mr Armand de Decker, Minister for Development Cooperation, Belgium

Mr Bert Koenders, Minister of Development Cooperation, the Netherlands

Mr Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom

Mr Erik Solheim, Minister for Development Cooperation, Norway

Mr Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director General, UNESCO

Mr George Soros, Chairman of the Open Society Institute and Soros Foundations network

Mr Richard Samans, Managing Director World Economic Forum

Other distinguished speakers at the invitation of the Chair.

**PART IV:
CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING
12.45 – 13.00**

Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission