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Better Support for Education for All

High-Level Education Event

2 May 2007, 10:30 a.m., Brussels

Check against delivery!

- I. Increased financing for education
- II. Better support for education – capacity development
- III. Better support for education – changing behavior

Mr. Chairman,

Mr Gordon Brown,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Thank you for the invitation to this high-ranking summit. I very much appreciate the opportunity to speak from the perspective of Germany against the background of our EU Presidency, G8 Presidency, and our co-chairmanship of the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative.

I. *Increased financing for education*

- We want to, and indeed have to, increase financing for education in all three spheres. In 2002, in the context of launching the FTI, Germany declared that it would double its bilateral assistance for basic education by 2007. We are keeping that promise.
- In addition, Germany will make available a contribution to the FTI Catalytic Fund of 8 million euros. We are thus making an **additional** contribution so as to ensure that countries with credible sector plans will not fail because of a lack of financial resources.
- We must define education more broadly than just a focus on basic education alone. If you call for basic education you also need to include secondary education – a type of education that helps people become self-reliant, confident partners and provides them with opportunities to start a career.
- We must go even further than that! Vocational training, the practice-oriented acquisition of skills for the world of work, needs to be developed further. Well-trained skilled workers are a prerequisite for economic development and performance, a great asset for international competition.

Nor must we neglect tertiary education. Institutions of higher education are the primary schools of globalization!

II. Better support for education – capacity development

- A question that is just as important as the volume of financing needed is the issue of implementation and quality: quality schools and education systems, quality teaching and learning.
- To that end, we need reliable data, clearly defined goals, systematic monitoring and the political will to see reform through.
- We need the courage as partners in the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative to reflect on the instrument as such – to seize on its strengths and learn from its weaknesses.
- We need the courage as donors to constantly improve our behavior.
- I want to identify one specific area of "better support" at this point: support for **capacity development**.
- I would like to remind us of the political will of the OECD member countries expressed in the paper "The Challenge of Capacity Development: working towards good practice" last year.
- I would also like to remind us of the Paris Declaration. After decades of best, good and worst practices in the area of capacity development, we agree that adequate country capacity is one of the absolutely critical factors for development, and that donor capacity and behavior is critical to this success as well.
- Capacity development is more than enhancing the knowledge and skills of individuals. Capacity is also about governance and the ability of individuals to adapt to change processes in their environment.

- Sustainable, effective capacity development must be country-led and country-owned. Such partner country commitment is vital to success! Donors and other partners should lend active support to such change processes.
- The proper political and institutional conditions need to be in place to ensure that qualified personnel actually find jobs in the education sector and to provide them with good working conditions.

III. Better support for education – changing behavior

- In the context of our G8 and EU Presidencies and FTI co-chairmanship, we are pursuing the following issues in particular:
 - 1) moving forward with the requisite division of labor in development cooperation among European partners;
 - 2) highlighting the relationship between education and HIV/AIDS, and between education and good governance;
 - 3) and achieving strong support for EFA-FTI. The FTI is, to date, the best tool to make the decisions of the Monterrey Consensus and the Paris Declaration a reality at sector and country level.
- "Better support" from Germany means:
 - Supporting country ownership by concentrating on the sectors determined together with our bilateral partners.
 - That when our bilateral partners identify education as a focal area of support, this support is aligned under the principle of "one country – one plan." The priority countries for German development cooperation with a focus on basic education are Guinea, Malawi, Mozambique, Honduras, Yemen, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan.

- This means focusing on a small number of partner countries while concentrating on greater donor complementarity and alternative instruments for support (like silent partnerships and multi-donor trust funds such as the Catalytic Fund).
- Setting ambitious planning goals to increase the percentage of aid dedicated to budget and sector budget support.
- Long-term, reliable financing is our common concern. Our support to "Education for All" has to be seen in the context of not only the Paris Declaration, but also the Monterrey Consensus. Many promises have been made about increasing external assistance, good governance, the rule of law and domestic resource mobilization.
- The present meeting gives us an excellent opportunity to place education right at the center of our collective efforts for sustainable development. The high-level participation of the multilateral banks, education ministries and finance ministries, representatives from civil society and the philanthropic community is an important signal for a comprehensive approach to education that enjoys broad support.
- In an interview with a major German weekly magazine, former Zambian President Kaunda was asked if he remembered his dreams from the early days of independence. He replied, "Education, education, education." Let us help make these dreams a reality worldwide!
- In this spirit, I wish our colleagues success with the afternoon session.