

International Task Force on Teachers for EFA



Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting

July 5, 2013

Introduction

The Steering Committee of the International Task Force on Teachers for EFA met via teleconference on July 5, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm (Paris time). Participants, among whom those present in Paris physically (hence marked with “P” in the list below) joined the Secretariat at UNESCO to take part in the meeting, include:

1. Ms. Marja KARJALAINEN - Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid (**Co-chair**)
2. Mr. Amarjit SINGH – Joint Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, India (**Co-chair**)
3. Mr. Alessandro RICOVERI – DEVCO/B4 - Education, Health, Research and Culture, Directorate-General for Development and Co-operation – EuropeAid, European Commission
4. Mr. David ATCHOARENA (P) – Director, Division for Teachers and Higher Education, UNESCO
5. Mr. Oliver LIANG – Education and research sector specialist, ILO - Geneva, Suisse
6. Mr. Ahlin BYLL-CATARIA – Executive Secretary, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) –Tunis (Tunisia)
7. Mr. Purna SHRESTHA – Education Policy & Advocacy Adviser, VSO International, United Kingdom
8. Mr Dennis SINYOLO - Education International, Senior Coordinator, Education International - Brussels (Belgium)
9. Mr. Erfan DIEBEL – Advisor, Sector Program Education, Division of Education, Health and Social Protection, GIZ on behalf of BMZ, Germany
10. Mr Dankert VEDELER (P)– Norway – Permanent Delegation of Norway to UNESCO
11. Ms. Winsome GORDON – Chief Executive Officer, Jamaica Teaching Council, Ministry of Education – Kingston (Jamaica)
12. Ms. Siti Sofia SUDARMA (P) & Mr Yosep TUTU (P) for Indonesia – (out-going and in-coming) Deputy Permanent Delegates, Delegation of Indonesia
13. Ms. Adelheid AWASES (P) - Director of Planning, Minister of Education, Namibia
14. Mr. Isidore BOURSIER/MOUGENOT – Education-Formation-Insertion, Pôle développement humain, Ministère des Affaires étrangères, France
15. Ms Yara AL GHAFRI (P, as observer) – Oman: Permanent Delegation of Oman to UNESCO

The Secretariat for the International Task Force on Teachers for EFA:

16. Mr. Edem ADUBRA, Head of the Secretariat
17. Ms Carolina Belalcazar, Programme specialist
18. Ms Puji Iryanti, Loaned Expert/Indonesia
19. Ms Sophie D’Aoust, Young Professional/Quebec
20. Ms Blanche Pichot De Champfleury, Intern
21. Ms Mildred Duran, Project assistant

Did not participate and did not send apologies: Mr Djibril NDIAYE DIOUF (Senegal)

Did not participate but sent apologies: Ms Changu MANNATHOKO (UNICEF)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Marja Karjalainen of the European Commission, and Mr. Amarjit Singh, India.

1.1. Before the adoption of the agenda, the co-chair (Ms. Marja Karjalainen) gave the floor to Mr. David Atchoarena who welcomed the participants and stressed the strong support that UNESCO has for the mission and upcoming plans of the Task Force. He recalled the context of the meeting, from the outcomes of the 2012 Task Force evaluation and the subsequent preparation of new Terms of Reference. He noted the importance of the second phase of the Task Force with regards to the pre-2015 EFA assessment and post-2015 agenda. He also indicated the new EFA coordination architecture and major global initiatives such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the UN SG Global Education First Initiative, all providing a favourable environment to pursue a vibrant partnership on Teachers that UNESCO is keen to strengthen.

On his part the co-chair from India, Dr. Amarjit Singh, sought the floor to put on record his appreciation of the work undertaken by the Secretariat, under the leadership of its head, particularly under the difficult circumstances of the preparation and completion of the new Terms of Reference, the organization of two very successful policy dialogue fora in 2012 (New Delhi and Windhoek), which have had a positive impact on the national plan of action regarding teachers. Other SC members later echoed him on the accomplishments of the Secretariat.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda (see annex 1)

The agenda was then presented and adopted, with an observation that the adoption of the agenda should have been the first matter to consider, and a recommendation that the right sequence be observed in future meetings agenda.

2. The New Task Force Terms of Reference

2.1. New Terms of Reference: (see annex 2)

The new Terms of Reference were presented by Edem Adubra who drew the SC members' attention to items arising from the consensual text:

- a. Suggestions from Indonesia :
 - In Annex 1, pg. 5, 1st item, 1st line: "National ownership of policies regarding teacher education, recruitment, employment" should be followed by the words "continuous development, career development" – **The meeting approved this insertion.**
 - In Annex 1, pg. 5, 2nd item, 3rd line: after the words "for consultation and negotiation between education employers" the words "educational personnel" were suggested to be added – **The meeting approved this insertion.**
 - In Annex 1, pg. 5, 6th item, 2nd line: after the words "situations of fragility" the words "(national disaster, earthquakes, tornado, tsunami, etc.)" were suggested to be added. **The meeting did not approve these insertions.** The initial wording being considered generic enough to encompass all forms of fragility (e.g. the ones proposed and other ones, i.e man-made situations that are not spelt out either).
- b. Regarding the frequency of Steering Committee Meetings: The meeting decided that the TORs will include in page 6, Annex II an indication as follows: "The Task Force meeting

will be preceded by a meeting of the Steering Committee, ***which will also meet at least on another occasion during the year***". In this respect, suggestions for holding also virtual meetings were recommended.

- c. A permanent seat for Education International (EI) on the Steering Committee Seats.

Unanimity was reached on the allocation of the permanent seat to Education International for its status as the largest global organization representing teachers, and because of the mandate of the Task Force focusing on teachers. In addition to the permanent seat to EI, **the meeting decided to keep the two (2) seats to the constituency of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in the Task Force Steering Committee**. The 2 seats will be taken on rotation basis by the other INGOs.

The Secretariat was urged to reach out to more INGOs for their membership to the Task Force, and their interest in assuming responsibility in the Steering Committee.

The above decisions take the number of the Task Force Steering Committee members to nineteen (19) instead of eighteen (18), and will be reflected in the Terms of Reference.

- d. Overview of Rotation of Current Members:

For the co-chairs: In May 2012 in New Delhi (India), Indonesia was replaced by India as co-chair representing countries from the South; The European Commission was kept as co-chair representing the donors. The next rotation will concern the donors' constituency. (Candidates meeting the criteria are EC, Norway and Germany).

For the Regional members:

- The African group met in Windhoek (November 2012) and replaced Kenya by Namibia. Senegal would be the next standing for rotation;
- The two seats for the Arab Region are both currently vacant. Oman (sitting as observer in the meeting) is interested in taking one seat in the Steering Committee. The meeting recommended to the Secretariat to reach out more to the countries of the region to increase interest in membership by attending major events such as a Conference in Education in UAE or "Educate a Child" Initiative in Qatar.
- Asia region: India and Indonesia represent the region on the Steering Committee. One of them will be rotating at the next Task Force meeting;
- The Latin America and Caribbean Region (LAC): Only one seat has been occupied by Jamaica. The Region needs to identify another candidate for the second seat.

For the donors group: all current donors are members (EU, Norway, Germany and France). According to the new TORs, three seats are assigned to this constituency in the Steering Committee. As France informed the SC that no funding for the second phase of the Task Force is available for the time being, the three seats are taken by EU, Norway and Germany for the next two years.

For the International Intergovernmental Organizations: The constituency is currently represented by ILO and UNICEF. The constituency will experience rotation in the next meeting. Two Organizations have expressed interest in joining the SC: OIF ("Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie") and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

For the Regional Intergovernmental Organizations: ADEA and the African Union are sharing the single seat assigned. Two Regional Intergovernmental Organization, CARICOM (the Caribbean region) and ALECSO (the Arab region) expressed their interest to become a member.

For the Global Private Sector Organizations and Foundations: the one seat assigned is vacant. The meeting tasked the Secretariat to inform the current member and those joining of the situation so that the seat is filled.

Conclusion: The principle of rotation as included in the Terms of Reference is meant to offer the opportunity to a wide variety of members to take turn in playing an active role in the steering committee. Proposals from constituencies have to be validated by vote in the Task Force meeting.

With regards to the admission of new members to the Task Force, in order not to delay the process for motivated candidates, the meeting decided that the Secretariat must collect the applications as it receives them and communicate a list to the SC members who could take a decision through virtual consultation every 2 or 3 months between SC regular meetings.

2.2 Modalities for dissemination of the new TORs among the members:

The new Terms of Reference (TORS) will be disseminated via email to the membership by the Secretariat and through the Task Force's website and Newsletter. They will be made available at all Task Force meetings/policy dialogue forums and other events.

3. 2013 Interim Activity Report

3.1 An interim activities report (January to June 2013) is presented to the Steering Committee by Edem Adubra who first recalled that:

- The activities implemented during the timeframe under consideration were those extended from the 2012 work plan.
- Implementation and staffing were made possible because of EC's acceptance of an extension on its budget allocation from December 2012 to August 2013; UNESCO's availing staff for heading the secretariat; Indonesia maintaining its expert in the Secretariat, and Quebec supporting a young professional to work in the Secretariat.

Highlights of activities reported on include: The development of a new Website, the publication of a bi-monthly Newsletter, Major International events with the Task Force participation, the status of country support, on-going studies on teacher policies in Francophone Africa and in the Arab region on technical and vocational education - TVET – teachers and instructors.

Feedback from the Steering Committee:

- The members of the SC expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the work accomplished
- For the visibility of the Task Force, its accomplishments and the recognition of the initiative as part of the global EFA agenda that UNESCO coordinates, the Steering Committee members insisted that the Task Force achievements must be incorporated in UNESCO' reports to Members States and to its Executive Board. (The Secretariat reassured participants that the UNESCO Education Sector has taken steps to include the Task Force activities in its next report);
- The meeting reiterated the demand that the report should strive more to document and highlight the impact of the Task Force activities; emphasis to be put on conclusions,

recommendations and findings of commissioned studies and by noting follow up actions to policy events at national levels. Lessons learnt should be part of the report. In the meeting, Namibia expressed gratitude for Task Force's work in helping advance their national teacher policy following the policy dialogue forum that was hosted by them in November 2012; ADEA informed of the exemplary coordinated support the TF Secretariat, UNESCO and ADEA have initiated in Niger on contract teachers; India mentioned the involvement of TF members and Secretariat in the International Conference on Education in Thailand in June, as well as the interest expressed by Korea and Thailand to become more active in the Task Force following their participation in recent TF events;

- The meeting took note of the Secretariat's efforts to improve the website, but indicated to the Secretariat to share the new structure and content before the planned launching. Participants also agreed that having the website updated should be a top priority. The Task Force members should be active in providing inputs and material that help keep the website current and dynamic.
- The meeting suggested that a link on each member country/organization should appear on TF website.
- The meeting observed that the information provided in the report on "Financing gap" should rather reflect the impact that the Task Force has had regarding national and regional levels of financial investment to address the teacher gap; it requested a revision on this section.
- Concerning the list of events in which the TF participated, a short description, including the dates and the contribution/impact of the TF must be provided.
- On the report item on Global Action Week, participants used the opportunity to call for more synergy with the Campaign, which has focused this year on teachers and offers room for visibility and outreach

Conclusion: The meeting endorsed the interim activities report, with the recommendation that the observations made be taken into consideration when the full first phase Activity Report is prepared and presented.

4. Draft strategic plan for the second phase (2013-2016)

4.1 Discussion of the draft strategic plan (All)

Edem Adubra presented the draft Strategic Plan for the Second Phase (2013-2016) prepared by the Secretariat. The following comments were made by the Steering Committee members on the structure and content of the proposed document:

- An Introduction Section to be added including a) the importance of EFA goals related to access and quality education in connection to the teacher gaps; b) the strategic plan must be articulated to the debate on the pre and post-2015 education and development agenda; c) a brief overview of the teacher situation justifying the policy priorities to pursue with the strategic plan with the transformative role of teachers in society.
- The three main lines of actions were deemed appropriate
- To the list of key thematic aspects of the programme, which represent the substance of activities to be developed under the Main Lines of Action (page 1) - The themes "bearing on the quality and quantity of the teaching force" – bullet items (a) through (e), it is important to include an item on "**teacher management**" as point (f).

A refined version of the strategic plan will be sent back to the Steering Committee for approval by the end of July. A log frame and an annual work plan for 2014 will be added upon approval of the new document structure.

4.2 Funding for 2nd phase was reviewed:

- UNESCO has initiated discussions with EC in relation to a funding extension agreement until the end of 2013 (for the current budget). EC and UNESCO are also completing plans for EC funding for the second phase.
- For the new phase, the same process is underway with Norway, which confirmed the principle of future funding and is awaiting the availability of the new strategic plan for completing its review of the proposal.
- Germany, through GIZ and BMZ, has confirmed its financial support to the next Task Force meetings and policy dialogue forum in November 2013.
- France has not made plans to make any financial contribution
- EI expressed support regarding the organization of an EI meeting being dedicated to the Task Force as part of the second phase activities.

Participants in the meeting took note of the indication of financial contributions known to date. They urged the Secretariat to pursue resource mobilization with other potential donors, and to target an active partnership with GPE, notably for the development and implementation of joint activities. The co-chair from EC and EI pledged to facilitate the connection.

5. Next Steering Committee and Task Force meetings

5.1 The next Steering Committee meeting will be held at the end of November (last week; specific dates to be confirmed). The program will be partially funded by Germany. The Steering Committee and Task Force statutory meetings will take place back-to-back with a Policy Dialogue Forum. A host country has yet to be identified. The following have been approached:

- Korea (may not host this year));
- Liberia;
- The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). (Note that the Chair of francophone group (Canada) at UNESCO will mobilize for a francophone country to host the meeting for the first time.
- Oman has offered to circulate the concept note among Arab states via email to initiate interest.

5.2 Funding

- Ninety thousands (90,000) euros are pledged by Germany for the organization of the meetings and policy dialogue forum.
- The meeting urged the Secretariat to explore more joint organization of the event with initiatives like the Global Partnership for Education. EI as board member of GPE offered to facilitate the linkage.

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Announcement and invitation from EI: launching of the campaign: *“Mobilizing for Quality Education”* in New York and Paris, on Oct. 4 which will run for a year until 2014 - working with UNESCO and other partners very closely. In May 2014 – Global Education Conference – debate on the future of education.

(Note that some virtual participants in the meeting experienced cuts in the communication (Purna from VSO, Erfan from Germany, Winsome Gordon from Jamaica, notably reported such cuts. The Secretariat extends apologies for the inconveniences)

The meeting was then adjourned by the co-chairs around 15:30.