



International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All

MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) MEETING

26 November 2013

Grand Hotel, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

1.1 Opening and Introduction

Ms. Katja Steurer, the co-chair from European Commission (EC), greeted the participants and opened the meeting. The participants of the meeting introduced themselves. (See full list in annex 1)

1.2. Adoption of the agenda:

The agenda was presented by Mr. Edem Adubra. He informed the meeting that item 2.1 Report on 2013 activities and 2.2 Highlights of the first phase report (2009-2013) would be delivered as one presentation as “2009-2013 Activity report”.

Decision:

a. *The agenda was then adopted, after observation by participants that agenda adoption should precede introductions in future meetings.*

1.3. Minutes of the 5th July SC Meeting

1.3.1 Follow up on vacant seats of SC members

Discussion:

The SC members enquired about the follow-up to the issue of vacant seats in the SC. The Secretariat informed the members that the Secretariat had received expressions of interest from some members for the following constituencies:

- Arab States: The Sultanate of Oman (who was already observer in the July meeting)
- Asia and Pacific: Thailand (but is absent in Kinshasa)
- Latin America and Caribbean: Brazil
- International NGO: Humana People to People,
- Intergovernmental Organizations: l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF) and the Commonwealth Secretariat) have both indicated interest in one of the seats to be left by either ILO or UNICEF. (In the meantime, the Secretariat had informed ILO and UNICEF to discuss between them which organization would step down, but neither is present at the Kinshasa meeting);

- Private organizations/foundations: Hamdan Award and GEMS Varkeys Foundation.

In addition, the secretariat reported on organizations that have expressed interest in joining the Task Force as members: Fondation Paul Guerin-Lajoie and Center for Mathematics, Sciences and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA).

Decision:

- a. *The SC welcomed the idea of new organizations willing to join the partnership, and authorized the secretariat to notify them of their admission*
- b. *With regards to membership to the Steering Committee, the meeting requested a full list of current members in each constituency where seats are to be taken. Candidates that would take the vacant seats would be decided in the Task Force meeting in the afternoon with minimum requirement that they needed to be present to clarify their intention and commitment.*

1.3.2 On the visibility of Task Force

First, in relation to UNESCO's reports to its governing bodies: The SC members (India, Norway, EC, Namibia, EI) complained about the lack of mention of the Task Force activities in UNESCO reports to its governing bodies. Member States and partners committed resources through UNESCO, hosted or co-organized major events with the Task Force, and benefit from interventions that are not reflected in UNESCO reports. The head of the Secretariat indicated that this situation has been corrected in recent months at the instruction of Assistant-Director General for the Education Sector, and inputs are now regularly sought and provided for inclusion in such reports.

Decision: *The meeting appreciated the new development and insisted that the practice should be pursued for maintaining clear synergy both in planning and in reporting on teacher issues to Member States and partners.*

Secondly, with regards to the Secretariat's involvement and participation in major events: It was noted that at some events where it would have been desirable for the Secretariat to showcase the partnership's relevance and contribution, it has not been there. The Secretariat explained the budgetary constraints of the Task Force, but also the monitoring of staff missions by UNESCO Education sector management.

Decisions: *The Secretariat needs to be authorized to represent the voice of the Task Force partnership in major events when possible; the co-chairs will be called on to play this role also; other SC members could also do so, making sure that they speak, not on behalf of their countries/organizations alone, but also about the Task Force in a forceful manner*

1.3.3 On enhancing the *impact* of the Task Force Activities

Several members of the SC raised concerns about the **actual impact** of the Task Force activities. Publications: who uses them? Policy dialogue forums and advocacy events: how do we know about their effects in countries? Acknowledging the pertinence of the issue, the meeting agreed that impact takes long to observe and measure; other participants (India, Namibia) reported how

after hosting the policy dialogue forum their countries have initiated major teacher reforms; Senegal indicated the impact of the TF-led study on the regionalization of their teacher recruitment policy. The Secretariat also informed of requests for copies of publications by practitioners. In countries where it supports diagnostic studies the highest government authorities participate in validation workshops; studies conducted at country level are always validated by all teacher stakeholders for national ownership. The Secretariat however highlighted that the country/organization focal points ought to play a bigger role in reinforcing the feedback loops with the Task Force network. In terms of engagement with the Secretariat, for instance, several SC members had been involved in the planning of the 6th Policy Dialogue Forum, including GIZ, EI, ILO, VSO, Namibia, India and Indonesia. VSO had been very active, including, through giving input for the Task Force's website. Jamaica also contributed information on what had been happening in teacher preparation in the LAC.

Decision: *The meeting requested the secretariat to develop a monitoring framework for better following the outcomes of its work. For the websites for instance, user reports could be initiated. The meeting also insisted on a more result-oriented planning of future activities and called on members to continue providing substantive support to the Secretariat*

1.3.4 Follow-up on draft Strategic Plan for the Second Phase

The meeting appreciated the revised version of the draft strategy submitted by the secretariat after the July review. (Detailed discussions in session 3 below)

1.3.5 Follow-up on Funding for 2nd phase

The secretariat informed the meeting that GIZ had contributed Euros 110 000 for organizing this 6th Policy Dialogue Forum.

1.3.6 Dissemination of the new Term of Reference (ToR) of the Task Force

After its adoption by the SC, the new TORs will be presented to the TF meeting in the afternoon.

Decision: *Beyond presentation in the meeting, the TORS are to be put on the Task Force website and members to create links to their own websites.*

2. Reports on the Task Force Programme Implementation

The Report on 2009-2013 plan of action was presented by the head of Secretariat. He insisted that the transition period (from the external evaluation to the adoption of revised TORs) has lasted too long and the Secretariat has been maintained only thanks to UNESCO's support (its paid staff member heads the Secretariat)

He then went over the various realizations as per the key areas: Advocacy and coordination; addressing the policy gaps; addressing the capacity gaps and addressing the financing gaps. (It must be noted that the initial formulation of the gaps as objectives was highlighted as one of the reasons for difficult monitoring)

Discussion:

- The meeting expressed appreciation for the achievement of the Secretariat in implementing the volume of activities reported on, despite its being understaffed. The meeting congratulated the Task Force for supporting the countries on Diagnostic Studies in a very comprehensive way to inform responsive Teacher Policies.
- The meeting insisted that more research needs to support the work of the TF. For instance, the results of the studies had been and would be presented in the Policy Dialogue Forum (PDF) as a platform to share results and findings. The study on Inclusive Education had been presented in the 5th PDF, Namibia and the study on Policies and Practice on TVET Teachers and Instructors in Arab Region will be presented in this 6th PDF.
- Teacher policy matters, so it was suggested that for the next studies the theme could be related to (i) teacher policy on how to attract the best in the teaching profession like what Finland had done and (ii) teacher policies in the perspective post 2015.
- The meeting recognized that little has been done in terms of addressing the financing gaps. That needs to be reconsidered in defining objectives for the new strategy.
- Jamaica pointed out that the report had left out a major event in the LAC supported by the Task Force, which required follow up with the Task Force. The Secretariat assured that it would be put in the revised report.
- VSO informed the meeting that it had a Global Monitoring Team to cohost global launch in Uganda, a country in conflict.
- UNESCO (i) added that the new ToR enabled the TF to move forward and secure donor funding (ii) urged SC members to have a broad perspective of the Strategic Plan and (iii) proposed more articulation with the global EFA movement. Teachers will be an important element beyond 2015 agenda. UNESCO reiterated its support to the TF including hosting the Secretariat of the TF and assisting the TF for looking for sponsors.
- Regarding in-kind contribution, the meeting expressed appreciation to Indonesia and Quebec for sending a seconded staff and a young professional respectively.

Decision:

- a. *The meeting adopted the activity report 2009-2013 with revision on LAC workshop. The Secretariat took note on the observations and comments made for the future reports and activities*
- b. *The meeting urged that the TF to enhance its linkage with the GMR for its upcoming report on Teaching and Learning. Other strategic partnerships with EI on its Campaign on “Unite for Quality” and with GPE in the implementation on its strategic objective on teachers were to be seriously promoted*

3. Strategic Plan for the second phase (2013-2016)

Edem Adubra presented highlights of the Strategic Plan. The highlights included *Key Basic Principle, Thematic Focus Area, Vision and Mission, Objectives, Main Line of Actions (MLA) and Resources.*

MLA 1: Advocacy and coordination with global and regional initiative

MLA 2: Knowledge creation and sharing

MLA 3: Facilitation of Country support

Discussion:

- Participants suggested adding other organisations for the Key Basic Principle number 4, “Reinforce synergy with UNESCO” so it became “Reinforce synergy with UNESCO and other organisations”.
- The meeting requested that key agencies should be involved in activity implementation. Education Forum and GMR 2013/2014 are to be added and linked to the TF contribution to post 2015 development agenda in the Strategic Plan.
- It requested that beneficiaries of the TF work to be expanded; it is not only for countries furthest away from reaching the EFA goals and with the largest teacher gaps but it should be for all countries. The focus should be on countries struggling, in broader scope.
- How the TF works with GPE should be explored and put differentiation between the work of the TF and GPE. Furthermore, the Strategic Plan needs to contain an added value (selling point) to put into practice.
- A logical framework (log frame) and indicators were urgently needed. They should be outcome based rather than output based.
- Learning from activity report 2009-2013 and the external evaluation recommendations, the Strategic Plan should be made implementable and result-oriented.
- Some participants proposed a meeting early in 2014 to finalize the plan before adoption; but the Secretariat clarified that key aspects of the Plan were approved in July and there was a risk of delaying the approval of funding by the only sure donors without an approved Strategic Plan. The same applied for UNESCO who may have no basis for keeping its staff to the TF. The Secretariat suggested the meeting to adopt the Strategic Plan (Objectives, MLAs) and to mandate some SC members to work with the Secretariat in adding the log frame and indicators, which the Secretariat had actually developed for project proposals to EC and Norway.

Decision:

The meeting adopted the Strategic Plan 2014-2016 with revisions, and mandated a small group representing donor (GIZ), country (Jamaica, Senegal) and permanent seat organization (EI) and started working on Friday (29 Nov 2013) afternoon and report to the larger group.

4. Work Plan 2014

For the Secretariat, a work plan for 2014 could not fully be presented in the absence of a strategic plan and the funding. Activities carried forward from the first phase will be completed and upon approval of the full strategic plan and the transfer of committed funds from EU and Norway, notably, the work plan will be presented to the next SC meeting

Decision:

The meeting authorized the Secretariat to implement activities carried forward from the first phase and upon approval of the full strategic plan and the transfer of committed funds from EU and Norway, to present its annual work plan to the next SC meeting.

5. Rotation of co-chairs and Steering Committee Membership

- The head of secretariat recalled that as per the provisions in the TORs, the European Commission (EC) should hand over to another donor this year. The donor group informed the meeting that Norway would become the co-chair succeeding EC.

5.1. Regional representation

- Africa: Senegal finished its membership so the seat was under rotation.
- Asia: India was still the co-chair for next year. For 1 seat under rotation, Indonesia would like to continue if no other candidate is interested.
- LAC: 1 seat was vacant. Brazil would like to take this seat.
- Arab States: 2 seats are vacant. Oman had been endorsed by the Arab group to take 1 seat. In the meantime, Morocco was interested in taking the other one.

5.2. International Intergovernmental Organisation

UN organization would be represented by 1 organization, either ILO or UNICEF. UNESCO would liaise with both to decide which organization would stay.

5.3. International Non-Governmental Organisation

GCE having missed two meetings in the row, VSO is willing to keep its seat in the SC for another year

5.4. Foundations & private organizations

Hamdan Awards and GEMS Foundation were interested in taking the SC seat. The SC members requested the Secretariat to provide them information before the TF meeting in the afternoon on who and what contribution the organizations have made in relation to the work of the TF.

6. Next Steering Committee and Task Force meetings

6.1. Date and Venue

- The meeting proposed that the next Task Force Steering Committee meeting would be held on the occasion of Global EFA meeting in Oman in May 2014. As the second annual Steering Committee meeting, the Task Force meeting and the policy dialogue forum that are held back-to-back, the Secretariat should verify EFA global agenda and the availability of the potential host for a decision to be taken at the Oman SC meeting. Preferably, the dates should be towards the end of November or early December.
- The policy dialogue fora have become the flagship programme of the Task Force. But given their costs, Task Force members should be encouraged to include the cost of participating in their organizations and ministries' budget. The secretariat is tasked with undertaking targeted resource mobilization to this end and to identify potential host countries.

7. AOB

VSO announced that it had published an article on why teacher should be at the center of priorities

EI provided details on its Campaign on “Unite for Quality Education”.

8. Points to be reported to Task Force Meeting

The Co-chair (EC) will go straight to the points agreed in the SC meeting. The head of secretariat will give an overview of the main documents. Opportunity will be given to members to express their perceptions on the Task Force and the situation of teachers in their countries. Election to the SC will be conducted.

For the afternoon Task Force meeting, both EC and Norway (with the late arrival of the Indian co-chairs’ representative) would chair the meeting.

9. Closing

The Co-chair (EC) thanked all SC members for their active participation. The Head of the Secretariat added his appreciation to all SC members for their constructive feedback and support.

Norway reiterated its commitment to finance the TF.

See the table below recapturing the key decisions and actions carried forwards.

Recap of key decisions and actions carried forward

Agenda item	DECISION	ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD
Adoption of the agenda	<i>Agenda adoption should precede introductions in future meetings.</i>	Applied in SC meeting agendas
Reports on the Task Force Programme 2009-2013 Implementation	<i>The Secretariat to be authorized to represent the voice of the Task Force in; the co-chairs will be called on to play this role also; other SC members could also do so, making sure that they speak, not on behalf of their countries/organizations alone, but also about the Task Force in a forceful manner</i>	Mission justification by secretariat and immediate supervisor have led to more approval for the Secretariat staff to participate in major events. VSO has been asked to attend the EI forum on behalf of Secretariat
	<i>TF and UNESCO to maintain clear synergy both in planning and in reporting on teacher issues to Member States and partners.</i>	Task Force strategic plan and work plans have been shared with UNESCO Teacher entities (and vice versa); several activities are planned and executed jointly both at global and field level TTF Head of Secretariat participates in Sector management meetings Inputs on TTF activities are reflected in C5 and EX 4
	<i>The secretariat to develop a monitoring framework for better following the outcomes of its work. For the websites for instance, user reports could be initiated.</i>	A logframe is added to the Strategic plan Each activity has a specific work plan with benchmarks, beneficiaries, partners and deliverables, as well as performance indicators (SISTER)
	<i>A more result-oriented planning of future activities, and members to continue providing substantive support to the Secretariat</i>	A monitoring report on website access is available
	<i>the new TORS are to be put on the Task Force website and members to create links to their own websites.</i>	Done.
	<i>The TF to enhance its linkage with the GMR for its upcoming report on Teaching and Learning. Other strategic partnerships with EI on its Campaign on "Unite for Quality" and with GPE in the</i>	Joint side event held with EI and IICBA at launch of GMR in January GMR team and UIS included in pre-discussions on global teacher report TTF is key partner of EI in its campaign and on other activities Dialogue is underway with GPE for TTF

	<i>implementation on its strategic objective on teachers were to be seriously promoted</i>	leading its COP on teacher effectiveness
Strategic Plan for the second phase (2013-2016)	<i>A small group representing donor (GIZ), country (Jamaica, Senegal) and permanent seat organization (EI) were mandated to work with secretariat on finalizing the Plan and report to the larger group.</i>	The team met and worked on the document. Final Strategic Plan circulated among all SC members and donors. Available on TF Website
Work Plan 2014	<i>The Secretariat to implement activities carried forward from the first phase and upon approval of the full strategic plan and the transfer of committed funds from EU and Norway, to present its annual work plan to the next SC meeting</i>	Done see document for agenda
Rotation in Steering Committee Membership	<i>Candidates that would take the vacant seats would be decided in the Task Force meeting with minimum requirement that they needed to be present to clarify their intention and commitment.</i>	Election done at TF meeting and new composition of SC circulated. Brazil however pulled back.
Next Steering Committee and Task Force meetings	The next SC C meeting to be held on the occasion of GEM in Oman in May 2014.	Here we are!
	As the second SC meeting, the Task Force meeting and the policy dialogue forum that are held back-to-back, the Secretariat should verify EFA global agenda and the availability of the potential host for a decision to be taken at the Oman SC meeting.	See proposed list of potential hosts in draft presentation of PDF document. Decision to be taken on dates
	Task Force members should be encouraged to include the cost of participating in their organizations and ministries' budget	Message sent in TF meetings;
	The secretariat is tasked with undertaking targeted resource mobilization and to identify potential host countries.	Underway

Annex 1

The participants in the meeting were:

a. SC members:

1. Ms. Katja STEURER, Education Expert in DEVCO B4 – Education, Health, Research, Culture, European Commission
2. Alessandro RICOVERI, Basic Education Programme Manager- DEVCO B4 – Education, Health, Research, Culture, European Commission
3. Mr. David ATCHOARENA, Director, Division for Teachers and Higher Education, UNESCO
4. Mr Dankert VEDELER, Permanent Delegation of Norway to UNESCO
5. Ms. Winsome GORDON, Chief Executive Officer, Jamaica Teaching Council, Ministry of Education, Jamaica
6. Ms. Adelheid AWASES, Director of Planning and Development, Ministry of Education, Namibia
7. Ms. Poppy Dewi PUSPITAWATI, Deputy Director for Secondary Teachers and Educational Personnel, Ministry of Education and Culture, Indonesia
8. Mr. Diatta ABDOULAYE, Ministry of Education Senegal
9. Mr. Purna SHRESTHA, Education Policy & Advocacy Adviser, VSO International, United Kingdom
10. Mr Dennis SINYOLO, Education International, Senior Coordinator, Education International – Brussels, Belgium
11. Mr. Erfan DIEBEL, Advisor, Sector Program Education, Division of Education, Health and Social Protection, GIZ on behalf of BMZ, Germany

b. Secretariat of the Task Force on Teachers for EFA

1. Mr. Edem ADUBRA, Head of the Secretariat
2. Ms. Carolina BELALCAZAR CANAL, Programme Specialist
3. Ms. Puji IRYANTI, Loaned Expert

c. Observers

1. Mr. Paul CONSTANTIN, Attaché de programme, IFADEM, Direction de l'éducation et de la jeunesse
2. Ms. Imma TOR FAUS, Directrice de la langue française et de la diversité linguistique, OIF
3. Ms. Joana de Baros AMARAL, Coordinator for Africa and Portuguese Language at the International Advisory, Ministry of Education, Brazil
4. Mr. Dilvo RISTOFF, Director of Higher Education, Policies and Programmes, Ministry of Education, Brazil
5. Mr. James TWEHEYO, General Secretary, Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU)

Agenda of the Steering Committee Meeting

Time	Items	Responsible Person
09:00- 9:15	1. Agenda and Minutes of the SC Meeting 1.1. Adoption of the agenda 1.2. Opening and Introduction 1.3. Adoption of the minutes of the 5 th July 2013 SC meeting	Co-chair
09:15-10:15	2. Reports on the Task Force Programme Implementation (by the Secretariat) 2.1 Report on 2013 activities 2.2 Highlights of the first phase report (2009-2013) 2.3 Discussions (All) Action required: - SC to react on the reports and adopt them	
10:15-10:30	COFFEE BREAK	
10:30-11:30	3. Strategic Plan for the second phase (2013-2016) 3.1. Presentation by the Secretariat – Edem Adubra 3.2. Discussion Action required: - SC to react on the Strategic Plan and adopt it	Co-chair
11:30-12:00	4. Work Plan 2014 Action required: - SC to adopt the work plan	
12:00-12:30	5. Rotation in Steering Committee Membership 5.1. Regional representation - Africa: 1 seat under rotation - Asia: 1 seat under rotation - Arab States: 2 seats are vacant - LAC: 1 seat is vacant: to be filled 5.2. Intergovernmental Organisation: 1 seat under rotation 5.3. International Non-Governmental Organisation: 1 seat under rotation; 1 vacant seat after EI got a permanent seat 5.4. Foundations & private organizations : 1 seat assigned and vacant Action required: - SC to take note of the rotation process and decide on procedure during Task Force Meeting	
12:30-13:00	6. Next Steering Committee and Task Force meetings 6.1 Date and venue 6.2 Funding Action required: - SC to advise on date and venue - SC to make recommendations on funding of future SC and TF Meetings 7. AOB	Co-chair

Time	Items	Responsible Person
	<p>8. Points to be reported to Task Force Meeting</p> <p>Action required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- SC to decide on points to bring to Task Force meeting in the afternoon <p>9. Closing</p>	