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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

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Fifth Meeting of UNESCO's Collective Consultation
of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA)

22-24 March 2010
Dhaka, Bangladesh

DHAKA DECLARATION

**Fifth Meeting of UNESCO's Collective Consultation
of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA)**

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 22-24 March 2010

DHAKA DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

With barely five years remaining to achieve the Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals, we, the representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and regional and national networks from different parts of the world, have gathered at the Fifth Meeting of UNESCO's Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 22 to 24 March 2010. We have reflected on progress towards the EFA goals, the recent financial crisis, growing marginalization and various forms of exclusion of large numbers of people, and about the collective capacities of citizens, civil society organizations and social movements to face these challenges.

Re-affirming our commitment at the Fourth Meeting of the CCNGO/EFA in Dakar, Senegal, 3-5 September 2007, to build alliances among EFA advocates and other social movements; our call to UNESCO and other United Nations agencies to harness effective support for CCNGO/EFA both in funds and human resources; our demand to national governments to keep their commitments, fully meet the obligations to fulfil the right to EFA and lead national partnerships, including civil society, to this end; and our demand to international development partners to live up to their pledges to fill the resource gaps for achieving EFA;

Recalling the declaration at the Ninth meeting of the High-Level Group on EFA in Addis Ababa, 23-25 February 2010, about overcoming marginalization in education and increasing and enhancing effectiveness of financial and political support for education:

1. We recognize education as a fundamental human right and its role for human development and declare our conviction of the absolute importance of galvanizing and accelerating actions, resources and commitment in the countdown to 2015 and the historic responsibility that this imposes on all of us.
2. We are concerned about the slow progress and the insufficient importance given to all six EFA goals which will prevent many countries from achieving them, leaving large segments of the population marginalized and deprived of the right to education. We challenge governments and development partners to fully honour their commitments to EFA.
3. We recommend increased attention at national and international level to neglected dimensions of EFA including the perspective of lifelong learning, effective governance in education, and

education for sustainable development, recognizing their relevance to reaching marginalized and excluded groups.

4. We express serious concern at the consequences of extreme poverty, climate change, food and fuel crises and their negative impact on development and education, especially for vulnerable population groups. We emphasize that the global financial crisis and the inadequate response to its human impact further aggravates vulnerability and serious problems of inequity and exclusion that affect large numbers of people all over the world, particularly in developing countries.
5. We value the participation of civil society and social movements as an essential element of a strong, participatory and sustainable democracy and underscore the role and responsibility of national governments in building partnerships. We encourage civil society to continue and accelerate its creative efforts towards the enforcement of the right to quality Education for All.
6. We emphasize that at this time of crisis, marginalized children and youth, especially girls, must be given special attention. Efforts in advocacy and programme actions should be directed to increasing public investment for these groups, strengthening early intervention and prevention services for families, maintaining and increasing support for the most vulnerable, and intensifying efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments.
7. Recognizing the serious financing gaps to be bridged in order to meet the EFA goals by 2015, we propose the following international actions for urgent consideration:
 - increased financial support through bilateral and multilateral aid, South-South cooperation and concessional windows from international financial institutions;
 - monitoring and evaluation of the current and long-term implications of the global economic downturn for the financing of development targets in advance of the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Summit and beyond;
 - making the EFA Fast Track Initiative more effective, broaden its scope to the whole EFA agenda, including its governance and implementation process, taking into account the recommendations of the ongoing external evaluation of UNESCO;
 - an emergency pledging conference during 2010 to mobilize additional aid for EFA;
 - monitoring budgets to pick up early warning signs of fiscal adjustments that threaten education financing, with UNESCO encouraging and supporting involvement of national stakeholders including civil society and NGOs;
 - revision of loan conditions of the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions to ensure consistency with national poverty reduction and EFA priorities;
 - improving aid effectiveness and governance and challenging the narrow perspective of international and national financial establishments that neglect the human impact of the crisis. National and international NGOs have a watchdog, education and awareness-raising role in this regard which should be fully funded.
8. We value the achievements of the CCNGO/EFA since its creation in 1984 and consider that time has come for a qualitative change in its proposals and working procedures. We notably recommend the following changes:
 - Provide space to collectively analyse and understand concepts and approaches concerning new EFA challenges. In particular, we draw attention to the strengthening of the particular roles and accountability of each actor.

- Revision of the name, process and functioning, and enlargement of the composition of the CCNGO/EFA in order to enrich it with the new and multiple expressions of civil society that share spaces and tasks with the NGOs. Reinforcement of the representativity of the diverse organizations and regions within the CCNGO/EFA.
 - Building a core political and social agenda that aims at the complete fulfilment of the right to quality education.
 - Development of regional, sub-regional, and national strategies and plans for CCNGO/EFA that are accompanied by UNESCO; implementation of new strategies of consultation, of preparation of studies and proposals that harness the results of the ordinary meetings and create new forms of socialization, debate and joint action. To that end, the UNESCO Secretariat should be strengthened at regional level.
9. We propose to UNESCO and all other EFA partner organizations to develop new mechanisms of collecting and processing information on EFA in countries, to improve reliability, highlight opportunities and potential, and present a holistic view of progress and deficiencies, making visible the demands and proposals of the marginalized and excluded groups. We ask UNESCO, and through UNESCO other EFA partners, to foster linkages and encounters for civil society with diverse actors.
10. We ask all CCNGO/EFA members to:
- Report the outcomes of their initiatives to increase public expenditure on education and citizen participation in EFA
 - Monitor and report on their own expenditure on education
 - Exert pressure on national governments to legislate on the right to education.

We undertake to direct our endeavours to action along the lines indicated above and to persevere in our bid to secure the right to education for all citizens.

Dhaka, 24 March 2010