



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Draft

**Address by Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO
on the occasion of the 3rd International Conference on
Financing for Development**

General Statement for Plenary

Addis Ababa, 14 July 2015

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have been very clear from the outset that the new global and transformative post 2015 agenda must go along with equally ambitious and credible means of implementation, and we have come together here in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to agree on how to deliver on this commitment.

This calls for innovative modalities of financing.

This calls for leveraging domestic and international sources of financing and capturing every opportunity for partnerships, including with the private sector.

This calls for strengthening South-South cooperation and a far greater focus on capacity-building for more effective public policies.

This is what Member States are requesting -- stronger policies, to lead better programmes, to address their challenges.

Specialized agencies are vital here – to push upstream policy support, to build capacity, to lead high-quality data collection and analysis, to provide a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement.

These are UNESCO's goals, to harness the power of education, the sciences, culture and communication and information as drivers for sustainability, ownership and empowerment.

This is clear for education.

Education is a basic human right -- it is also force for eradicating poverty and bridging inequalities, and this must be taken into account in financing and implementation arrangements.

The full realization of the education agenda and of all SDGs by 2030 will require sustained, innovative and well-targeted financing, and effective implementation arrangements.

Yet investments continue to be below what is needed.

The annual total cost of achieving universal pre-primary, primary and secondary education in low and lower middle income countries is projected to increase from US\$149 billion in 2012 to US\$340 billion, on average, between 2015 and 2030.

Spending per student will need to increase substantially in order to improve education quality as envisaged in the post-2015 agenda.

Low income countries will need to increase the amount they spend per primary school student from US\$70 to US\$197 by 2030.

There is no doubt that developing countries are committed to a bold education agenda.

The Incheon Declaration, adopted in May 2015 by 160 Member States at the World Education Forum in Incheon, Republic of Korea, has called on the Third International Financing for Development Conference to support the proposed SDG 4 *“To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”*.

Countries have expressed their determination ‘to increase public spending on education in accordance with country context, and urge adherence to the international and regional benchmarks of allocating efficiently at least 4 - 6% of Gross Domestic Product and/or at least 15 - 20% of total public expenditure to education.’

We see strategic investments being made that bear witness to a clear commitment. They are proof that rapid progress is possible. Seventeen countries that accounted for a quarter of the world’s out of school population in 2000 reduced this number by 86% - through increased spending on school fee abolition, social protection programmes, teachers and direct support to schools.

The Addis Ababa conference must nurture this vision and leadership, and create an enabling environment to realize it.

We know that domestic resources will be critical. But we also know that they will ultimately be insufficient.

We must at all costs avoid a situation where serious national commitment to the development agenda is paralyzed through lack of resources.

Even if countries meet the expenditure targets, there will remain a financing gap of \$US 39 billion between 2015 and 2030 to provide free quality education to all children and adolescents.

Across low and lower middle income countries, international aid for education will need to increase at least six-fold.

And this financing gap does not include yet the critical areas of tertiary education, skills for work and adult literacy.

The funding challenges are even starker in situations of conflict and natural disasters.

This is why it is imperative to develop more resilient education systems and ensure that education is maintained during emergency, conflict and post-conflict situations.

Education received only 2% of humanitarian aid in 2014.

There is a \$2.3 billion gap which is ten times what education receives from humanitarian aid at present. We need to strengthen our efforts to significantly increase the percentage of funds earmarked for education in humanitarian aid.

The same is true for science.

We need more robust national science, technology and innovation policies and systems, to foster innovation, to promote sustainable growth and employment.

This is why the United Nations Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board, for which UNESCO is the Secretariat, is urging significant investments in science, technology and innovation and in Research & Development.

Increasing investments and technical support for the sustainable management of water resources will be crucial to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 -- so will be support to capacity-building relating to Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the Ocean.

Establishing a technology facilitation mechanism will be vital for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals -- UNESCO stands ready to take this forward with all partners.

Lastly, the future agenda should build on the role of culture as an enabler and driver of sustainable development.

This is recognized in the Zero Draft of the post-2015 development agenda -- we need to build on this.

For all this, we must reinforce the capacities of all countries to collect reliable data and ensure a high degree of transparency.

Data should be, to the extent possible, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnic group -- this is another way to increase the effectiveness of financing and investments.

The involvement of all stakeholders in data monitoring, including free, independent and pluralist media and active citizen participation, is a key factor contributing to this objective.

Let us work together in a spirit of global partnership and solidarity to make this ambitious agenda a reality for all.

Thank you for your attention.