

## **Education for All Steering Committee**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Background**

Education for All (EFA) is a global partnership which calls for commitments and efforts by all UNESCO Member States, international organizations, bilateral agencies, civil society and the private sector. The Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum (Senegal, 26 - 28 April 2000) mandated UNESCO to coordinate this collective momentum while serving as the Secretariat for EFA. UNESCO's role as the EFA global coordinator has evolved since 2000, influenced by changes in the global context surrounding the EFA movement.

Based on a major review of global EFA coordination conducted in 2010 and 2011, a new coordination mechanism is being established, as described in document 187 EX/8 Part I. Within this new mechanism, an EFA Steering Committee is being set up.

#### **Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee**

The primary objective of the EFA Steering Committee is to discuss the political and strategic orientation and activities of the EFA movement, and to make suggestions to facilitate urgent actions to meet the six EFA goals, in particular mobilizing stronger political and financial commitment at the country, regional and global levels.

To achieve this objective it will:

- discuss and make recommendations to the partnership on strategic and policy issues with regards to the EFA coordination process up to 2015 and beyond;
- discuss and make recommendations on guidelines for national EFA status reports in the period leading up to 2015, and mobilize support that will enable Member States to develop high quality reports;
- discuss and make recommendations on the post-2015 agenda, based on inputs from various constituencies and consultations, reviews and stock-taking at the national, regional and global levels;
- provide guidance to UNESCO on its EFA coordination role, to ensure that ongoing and new EFA developments and initiatives receive due attention;
- provide direction on the preparation for, and follow-up of, key EFA meetings, in particular the Global EFA Meetings (GEM) and High-Level Forums (HLF), especially to ensure linkage, continuity and accountability;
- agree on the agenda of the GEM, which should be based on the evidence of the EFA Global Monitoring Report and complementary studies and documents;
- agree on the agenda of the HLF, identifying and focusing attention on the key decisions which the HLF might take;

- monitor and follow up on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the GEM and the HLF; and
- monitor closely the delivery of commitments made by EFA constituencies.

Each member of the Steering Committee will share information with and consult their respective regions and/or constituencies.

### **Composition of the Steering Committee**

The EFA-SC will consist of 18 members. The membership of the EFA-SC will be as follows:

- one Member State representative from each UNESCO regional electoral group, designated by their respective regions on a biennial rotational basis (six members);
- one representative from the E9 initiative on a rotational basis;
- one representative from each EFA convening agency and the EFA-Global Partnership for Education and OECD as permanent members (seven members);
- two representatives from civil society and one from the private sector, on biennial rotational basis (three members); and
- one representative from Education International as a permanent member, representing teachers.

The size of the EFA-SC has been carefully considered in order to enable in-depth discussion and consensus-building to provide strategic guidance. It should be noted that countries participate in the EFA-SC on behalf of their region, not as national members. It is therefore the responsibility of the Member States to ensure appropriate designation and sufficient communication within their regions.

### **Working modalities**

- The EFA-SC will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair at its first meeting.
- The EFA-SC will meet regularly, at least three times a year (two of the meetings will be held in connection with the GEM). Further meetings via teleconferencing and email consultations will be held as necessary.
- EFA-SC members are expected to cover their meeting travel costs, except for representatives of civil society from developing countries and representatives of Least Developed Countries.
- UNESCO will provide funding to cover meeting interpretation costs.
- UNESCO will provide a Secretariat for the EFA-SC.

