

**Draft Outline of the Elements for the 2011 HLS Ministerial Declaration of ECOSOC:  
“Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”**

**A. Overall messages**

1. Reaffirm internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education as a fundamental human right.
2. Stress the linkages between education and the other MDGs and reaffirm the international commitment to pursuing a comprehensive, integrated approach to the achievement of the MDGs.
3. Highlight the centrality of education to sustainable development efforts and emphasize its role for Rio+20.
4. Acknowledge the progress made in advancing the internationally agreed education goals, specifically increased primary enrolment and improved gender parity in enrolment.
5. Express concern on the lack of progress within education, including ongoing gaps in the achievement of the EFA goals, in particular early childhood care and education, literacy and the quality of learning.

**B. Current context**

1. Recognize the impact of the uneven economic recovery, intrastate conflict, rising food prices, food and energy insecurity, high rates of youth unemployment and climate change on advancing progress in education.
2. Call for collective global action to address these threats with tools that include education as part of mitigation efforts.

**C. A way forward – an action agenda for advancing progress on the education MDGs and EFA goals**

1. Call for mainstreaming education into the design and implementation of development strategies.
2. Emphasize the need to improve the relevance and quality of learning, as well as progression through the school system.
3. Stress that the recruitment, training and working conditions of teachers must be improved, including an increase in opportunities for training and professional development; the provision of appropriate teaching and learning resources; and a commitment to pupil-teacher ratios that enable good learning outcomes.
4. Stress the importance of post-primary levels of education and improving school-to-work transitions for both youth and adults by supporting the development of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes and entrepreneurship education.
5. Call for aligning education curricula and training with the needs of local economies and labour markets, emphasizing skills development and lifelong learning opportunities that prepare young people and adults for the transition to increased productivity, “green” economies and “knowledge” societies.
6. Stress the need to strengthen commitments to closing the gender gap in education by promoting girls’ access to, and retention in, education systems.
7. Focus on equitable, inclusive policies that ensure access to education for the most marginalized children and youth (including children with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrant children and children living in rural areas). Adequate financing, fee structures, scholarships and subsidies should be targeted to ensure equal opportunities for vulnerable groups.
8. Stress the importance of investment in early childhood education.

9. Emphasize the importance of maternal education to children's health and educational attainment.
10. Recognize the importance of broad-based social protection measures to ensuring children's enrolment, retention and good learning outcomes.
11. Recognize the fundamental role of education in advancing progress towards sustainable development.
12. Further stress the need to strengthen policies for provision of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for education.
13. Recognize the need for greater accountability and transparency in the delivery of education services.
14. Recognize the need for states to enhance their capacity for strategic planning, implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of qualitative and quantitative education targets in order to achieve longer-term goals.
15. Recognize the primary importance of a national commitment to education and the concomitant allocation of public resources.
16. Recognize the need for donors to strengthen their commitments to education, in particular basic education.
17. Emphasize the need to maximize the development benefits of international migration while minimizing its negative impacts by enhancing regional and global strategies for burden and responsibility sharing.
18. Call for UN agencies to ensure that their education programmes are coherent with one another, as well as with broader national development goals.
19. Stress the importance of the ECOSOC regional meetings, which provide fora for monitoring progress, sharing good practice and formulating a global action agenda based on regional education trends and challenges.
20. Stress that while governments have to take the lead, strong partnerships with non-state actors are essential in making significant progress in education