



FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN UNESCO AND UNICEF  
ON COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

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NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 9, 1999

## Background

1. UNESCO and UNICEF have had a long history of collaboration in education, dating back to the 1960s. This collaboration has become even closer since the World Conference on Education for All, held in Jomtien in 1990. It is guided by the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Education, established in 1989 by decision of the Executive Boards of UNESCO and UNICEF.

2. A Cooperative Agreement was signed by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of UNICEF in August 1991, focusing particularly on collaboration in:

- development of indicators to monitor learning achievement;
- analysis and dissemination of key innovations in basic education;
- preparation of the biennial meetings of the Joint Committee on Education, as well as annual Inter-Secretariat Meetings.

3. Collaboration between the two Organizations has further intensified in subsequent years to encompass the following additional activities :

- support for the International Consultative Forum on Education for All;
- collaboration in the preparation of the Mid-Decade Review Meeting on Education for All ( Amman, 1996);
- support for the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA);
- collaboration with the International Institute for Educational Planning;
- collaboration on inclusive education for disabled children;
- collaboration on basic education for women and girls;
- collaboration on improvement of educational data and indicators;
- collaboration on education in emergency situations .

4. The following principles, deriving notably from the recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Joint Committee on Education (Bucharest, 1997), are to guide future collaboration between UNESCO and UNICEF. Such collaboration will :

- endeavour to strengthen and broaden partnerships with all agencies committed to education for all;
- be guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- make effective use of respective strengths and resources, and respect the specific mandates of the two Organizations;
- focus on activities that contribute concretely to enhancing basic educational opportunities for children and youth;
- encourage increased decentralization of activities with emphasis on the country level;
- seek opportunities for developing essential linkages with other concerns such as health, nutrition, poverty alleviation, water, environment and sanitation.

#### Areas of Focus

5. The principal areas of focus for collaborative activities shall include the following:

- *Educational opportunities for girls and women, including the development of gender-sensitive educational programmes and materials;*
- *Early childhood education, care and development;*
- *The development of reliable, timely and gender-disaggregated educational data on countries' progress towards the achievement of education for all; this should involve support for UNESCO's global responsibility for collecting and disseminating educational statistics, as well as support for statistical capacity-building and systems development at country level; UNICEF has accepted to be a member of the Steering Committee of the new UNESCO International Institute of Statistics;*
- *Educational quality and learning achievement, based on context-specific definitions of basic learning competencies, assessment of 'lessons learned', and incorporation of these lessons in national policies;*
- *Education in situations of emergency and reconstruction, keeping in view the need to synthesize and share best practices, promoting, understanding and acceptance of diversity, and exploring ways to permit a more timely emergency response;*

- *Improvements in the status, remuneration, and training of teachers and para-professionals, with a view to enhanced and more effective learning for all children;*
- *The UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa which remains a very high priority for both Organizations;*
- *Close cooperation with other EFA partners in ensuring advocacy, monitoring of progress and shortfalls, and further mobilization in support of education for all.*

## Modalities

6. The biennial meetings of the *UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education*, composed of representatives of the two Executive Boards, will continue to be a source of strategic recommendations concerning collaboration between the two Organizations.

7. *Annual Inter-Secretariat Meetings* will be held at the headquarters of one or the other Organization. Their terms of reference will be to :

- review the progress of collaborative activities at global, regional and country level;
- set priorities and work plans for the year ahead, and adjust mutual funding support as needed;
- evaluate overall progress in UNESCO/UNICEF cooperation and identify new challenges;
- prepare for upcoming meetings of the Joint Committee on Education, including agenda, preparatory documents, etc.

8. *Collaboration at headquarters level* will be centered on knowledge-building and sharing, participation in inter-agency bodies such as the International EFA Forum and ADEA, as well as on promoting inter-regional and inter-country exchanges of information, ideas and experiences.

9. *Collaboration at regional level* will involve regular consultations between Regional offices of UNESCO and UNICEF in order to plan and conduct collaborative activities such as joint advocacy, regional seminars and studies of regional education issues. Collaboration should particularly include UNICEF contributions to UNESCO Regional Conferences of Education Ministers; orientation programmes for education staff of UNESCO and

UNICEF country offices; and training courses on strategy formulation, planning, and management of EFA initiatives for national and local counterparts.

10. *Collaboration at country level* should provide the main modality for collaboration between the two Organizations. It should be geared to the principles and areas of focus of this Framework Agreement and should include such activities as:

- sharing of research, documents, and information on projects of mutual interest undertaken in the country by either Organization;
- cooperation in education donor committees, national EFA roundtables, surveys and assessment exercises; sharing of technical assistance as required.

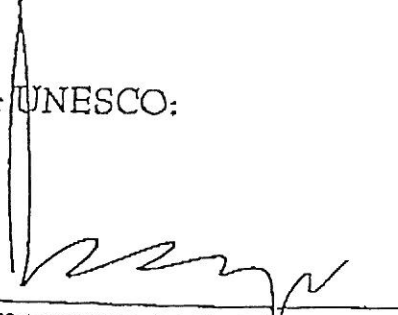
### Terms of Agreement

11. This Agreement provides a broad framework for all collaborative activities between UNESCO and UNICEF in the field of education, replacing the Cooperative Agreement of 1991 with effect from the date of its signature. It does not in any way alter the terms and conditions of any other existing agreements involving third parties.

12. Where collaboration between UNESCO and UNICEF involves transfer of financial or other resources from one Organization to the other, specific Memoranda of Understanding will be signed between the headquarters of the two Organizations within the framework of the present Agreement.


13. This Agreement will enter into force upon its signature and may be amended by written agreement between the Parties. It may be terminated by either Party upon giving 6 months' written notice to the other Party.

For UNESCO:

  
FEDERICO MAYOR  
Director-General

Date: 9. 2. 99.

For UNICEF:

  
CAROL BELLAMY  
Executive Director

Date: 9 February 1999