



Summary: Teleconference of the High Level Steering Group – Thursday 30th June 2016

Participants (in alphabetical order): Tariq Al-Gurg (CEO, Dubai Cares), Marie-Claude Bibeau (Minister of Development, Canada), Tarald Brautaset (Ambassador, Norway), Gordon Brown (Chair), Julia Gillard (Chair, Global Partnership for Education), Jakaya Kikwete (Former President of Tanzania), Anthony Lake (Executive Director, UNICEF); Eric Postel, Assistant Administrator (USAID), Elias Bou Saab (Minister of Education, Lebanon), [High Level Representatives of UNESCO, UK DFID, INEE and UNHCR]

- 1. General Updates:** Brief update on general processes and timeline of activities between now and September, including the establishment of Secretariat and resource mobilisation. No-objections were received on the Secretariat Structure and Costing Paper. Director of Secretariat vacancy announcement is now live on Economist.com. <http://jobs.economist.com/job/12789/director-of-secretariat-education-cannot-wait-programme-division-d1-/>. The deadline for applications is 25th July 2016. Other Secretariat vacancy announcements will be made during July. Resource mobilisation is a priority.

Actions and next steps:

- Chair and HLSG to advise on final selection of Director, Secretariat [summer 2016]
- Chair HLSG to share a paper on resource mobilization strategy during summer 2016 by week commencing [Justin to fill]
- HLSG to nominate working level officials for a Task Team on Resource Mobilization and Advocacy by [12th July 2016 TBC].

- 2. Agree the Criteria for Initial Investments & Establishing Longer-term Investment Criteria:** The process for developing the formal criteria for longer-term disbursements decisions during summer-autumn 2016 was noted as critical to the establishment of the fund, and a number of Steering Group members expressed an interest in supporting this work. There was discussion of ideas and guidance regarding the criteria to be considered for the initial investments (which will be brought to the High Level Steering Group for approval in September). Consensus was expressed on the initial investment criteria which had been presented and for 'proof of concept' investment announcements in September 2016 to coincide with the UN General Assembly and UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants (including US Government convened Leaders' Summit on Refugees). Broad level interest expressed by the HLSG for initial (September) investment to explore (subject to further proposal development): the Education Cluster, a Refugee crisis, underfunded emergency, Lebanon (including political advocacy to help realize pledges made at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference held in February 2016). The inclusion of girls, women and youth was raised. The Steering Group suggested that initial investment decisions be based on intermediaries' capacity to deliver, an assessment of needs, opportunities for longer term financing, and suggested that data and measurement be incorporated in any initial proposals. It was suggested that the Steering Group consider an appropriate level of contingency to be retained after the initial investments in September 2016, once additional pledges are received, in order to maintain a balance for investments in 2017 (based on long term eligibility and criteria) and to have sufficient funding to engage in any new emergency.

Actions and next steps:

- HLSG members to nominate working level officials for Task Team on long term Fund Parameters [by 8th July 2016]; initial interest in participating from: UK DFID, USAID, UNHCR, Save the Children, UNICEF, GPE and Norway working level contacts.
- A small senior-official sub-group of no more than 6 (Special Envoy's Office, UNICEF, UNHCR, GPE, one donor rep, one CSO rep) will issue invitations to submit proposals for initial investments, against the criteria [to be tabled for HLSG decision in September 2016].

3. Terms of Reference for the HLSG: Introduction of the draft terms of reference for the High-Level Steering Group and solicitation of any initial thoughts and recommendations from the HLSG members. There will be a period for review and non-objection approval following the meeting. Discussion focused on roles of the Task Teams and in particular, on potential need for a working level delegated authority from the HLSG to make more regular operational decisions and free up the HLSG for strategic decision-making. The importance of civil society representation from affected countries was raised.

Actions and next steps:

- Comments on the Draft Terms of Reference for the HLSG to be sent to Chair, HLSG [by 12th July 2016].