



**GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP
for EDUCATION**

Framework Arrangement

Between

The Government of BELGIUM

and

The Global Partnership for Education

September 23, 2016

Introduction

The Government of Belgium (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”), represented by the Minister of Development Cooperation, and the Global Partnership for Education (hereinafter referred to as “GPE”), Each one hereinafter referred to as “Participant” and together the “Participants”,

Considering that the GPE has been created to attract, leverage and invest additional resources with a view to accelerate progress towards the Education for All goals,

Considering that the GPE mobilizes global and national efforts to achieve quality education and learning for all, through inclusive partnership, a focus on effective education systems, and financing for basic education,

Considering that the GPE is committed to playing an important role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and has therefore fully aligned its vision statement on Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) : “Inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all,”

Considering that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development acts as the trustee of the Global Partnership for Education Fund (hereinafter referred to as “the Trustee”),

Considering that the Government is committed to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and will focus on two main policy areas: sustainable inclusive economic growth and the rights-based approach to development and is committed to spend at least 50% of its official development assistance (ODA) to the least developed countries (LDCs),

Considering that Education is a basic human right and an enabler of other rights,

Considering that the Government supports the Global Partnership in its mission to galvanize and coordinate a global effort to deliver a good quality education to all girls and boys, prioritizing the poorest, most vulnerable and those living in fragile and conflict-affected countries,

Now, therefore, have decided to enter into a Framework Arrangement to strengthen their relationship and therefore provide a coherent, predictable and structured framework for collaboration between the Government and the Global Partnership for Education.

The Government and the Global Partnership mutually decide as follows:

Paragraph 1: Objectives

The objectives of the Framework Arrangement between the Government and the Global Partnership for Education are to facilitate enhanced collaboration at all levels and to support the GPE in the realization of its objectives through provision of voluntary contributions.

Paragraph 2: Scope

1. Policy issues

a. The Government and the Global Partnership for Education mutually recognize that the strategic objectives guiding the work of the Global Partnership are set forth in the GPE Strategic Plan.

b. The Government and the Global Partnership mutually recognize that policy issues of mutual interest include:

- GPE's role and efforts to reach inclusive and equitable access to quality education for all children, including the most vulnerable and girls, to strengthen education systems, to improve learning outcomes, with special attention to fragile states, to countries in crisis and to the partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation,
- Efficiency of GPE grants, inclusive policy dialogue (civil society) and monitoring at country level,
- Governance and "Fitness for purpose" of the GPE in the realization of the 2030 Agenda,
- Follow up on the implementation of the Strategic plan,
- GPE's role and efforts to mobilize resources for education at country and global levels including the role of Private sector,
- Aid effectiveness and simplification of the international aid architecture in the education sector,
- Partnership development including with the Private sector,
- Policy coherence,
- Capacity building, i.a. on data collection and digitalization.

c. The Government and the Global Partnership mutually recognize that the following components are integral to the GPE model: Education as a human right, transparent processes, alignment around country-led and owned national education-sector plans, the inclusion of civil society in the policy dialogue, assurance provided at multiple levels, including through the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the GPE Secretariat and Grant Agents, and through performance-based financing.

2. Provision of resources

a. The Government intends to provide voluntary financial contributions to the Global Partnership for Education for the implementation of its Strategic Plan. From 2017 onwards, the Government intends to engage financially with GPE for periods of 4 years.

b. After parliamentary approbation on the Belgian financial contribution, a Multi-Year Contribution Agreement (the "Contribution Agreement") regulating the administration of the contribution will be concluded between the Government and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, acting as Trustee of the Global Partnership for Education Fund. This Contribution Agreement, once finalized, will be attached to this Framework Arrangement as Annex 1 .

c. The voluntary contribution covered by the Contribution Agreement will be paid in yearly instalments after reception of a yearly payment request which would include the payment details information.

Paragraph 3: Follow-up Consultations

a. The Government will participate in the GPE Board through the Donor 1 constituency (Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Russia, and Switzerland). Through its participation in the Board, the Government will have input into key GPE policies, strategies, budgets and reports.

b. The Government and the Global Partnership for Education Secretariat will hold biennial consultations on a date mutually decided by the Participants to exchange views on policy issues mentioned in paragraph 2. As far as possible, these consultations will be held alternately at the headquarters of the organization and in Brussels.

c. Beyond formal monitoring and reporting requirements, the Global Partnership for Education Secretariat consents to keep the Government informed of key issues, problems and progress in the specific areas, as appropriate through routine meetings with the GPE focal point for the Government.

d. In order to facilitate coherence, collaboration and exchange of information on in-country education programs, the Government and the Global Partnership will indicate focal points in the partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Morocco, the Palestinian Territory and Mozambique).

Paragraph 4: Audit and oversight

The Participants acknowledge that, as specified in the Contribution Agreement, the Trustee will provide to the Government via the World Bank's Trust Fund Donor Center secure website, within six (6) months following the end of each Trustee fiscal year, an annual single audit report, comprising: (1) a management assertion together with an attestation from the Trustee's external auditors concerning the adequacy of internal control over cash-based financial reporting for all cash-based trust funds as a whole; and (2) a combined financial statement for all cash-based trust funds together with the Trustee's external auditor's opinion thereon.

The Government will also be provided with other standard reports that are prepared by the Secretariat for all Partners including the Portfolio Report which provides an annual report on the status of all GPE funded grants.

Paragraph 5: General Provisions

a. This Framework Arrangement will enter into effect upon signature by the Participants.

b. This Framework Arrangement will remain in effect unless terminated by mutual decision or by one Participant terminating the Framework Arrangement by three months written notice to the other Participant.

c. The Participants may mutually decide to amend this Framework Arrangement through an exchange of letters.

- d. The Participants acknowledge that this Framework Arrangement represents a statement of intent and does not create legally binding obligations.
- e. Any dispute arising between the Participants concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Framework Arrangement will be settled finally between them by negotiation.
- f. The Government acknowledges its understanding that GPE is not a legal entity. Nothing contained in this Framework Arrangement will be construed as a waiver of any privileges and immunities to which the Participants or the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are entitled under international or national laws.
- g. This Framework Arrangement does not constitute a Treaty.

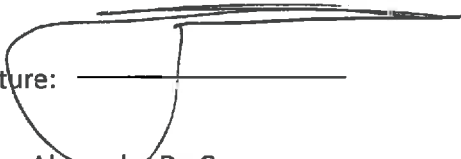
Paragraph 6: Representation and communication

For the implementation of the Framework Arrangement, the Government will be represented by the Minister of Development Cooperation or his/her designate, while the Global Partnership will be represented by the Chief Executive Officer of the GPE Secretariat or his/her designate.

All communication on this Framework Arrangement will be between the above-mentioned persons and/or their representatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the Framework Arrangement in two originals in English.

For the Government of Belgium

Signature: 

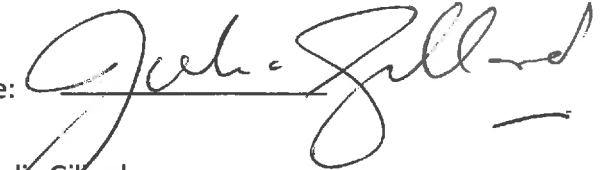
Name: Alexander De Croo

Title: Minister of Development Cooperation

Date: 23 September 2016

Place: New York, United States of America

For the Global Partnership for Education

Signature: 

Name: Julia Gillard

Title: Chair of the Global Partnership for Education

Date: 23 September 2016

Place: New York, United States of America