Key outcomes/recommendations and follow-up

1. Participants gave their inputs and comments to drafts of the End-of-Decade Notes on EFA Progress (EDN) for each EFA goal. The drafts will then be revised by the respective writers. The potential for an overall summary was discussed.

   **Follow-up:** Further country input to End-of-Decade Notes, particularly on good practices, to be submitted by 12 August 2011; The EDNs will be finalized by the end of the year. Published versions will be shared with countries.

2. Several countries expressed interest to join the UNESCO Institute for Statistics-UNICEF global initiative on out-of-school children (OOSC). The creation of a Regional Task Force on out-of-school children was recommended but the structure, membership and specific tasks still needs to be decided. Linking the proposed task force with SEAMEO and ASEAN was also discussed.

   **Follow-up:** The recommendation to establish a regional Task Force on OOSC will be taken up at the 11 August 2011 meeting of the Regional Thematic Working Group (TWG) on EFA. EFA partners, including UNESCO and UNICEF will take this up with their respective headquarters and with relevant country/field offices. NGOs will take this up with members of their coalitions. It is vital that country level structures be established to address OOSC – these structures will need to be multi-sectoral as issues go well beyond the education sector.

3. **Strengthening of national EFA coordination mechanisms and linkages to regional and global mechanisms in the run-up to 2015.** Information on national EFA coordination structures will be collected and shared among the countries, and UNESCO Paris. Some countries repeatedly requested that this information be shared so that they could learn from the practice in other countries.

   **Follow-up:** Countries are requested to send to UNESCO Bangkok updates on the structure of each country’s EFA coordination mechanism by end of August this year. This will include information on: Does your country have a designated EFA focal point or EFA Coordinator, EFA Team or EFA Unit? Who is the designated national EFA coordinator/focal person, if any? Is there an existing structure at which EFA issues are taken up (e.g. Education Sector Working Group in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Nepal, etc.). UNESCO Bangkok will continue to inform countries in the region on the reform and new structures related to global EFA coordination.

4. **Countries supported the undertaking of a 2015 comprehensive review on EFA progress at the national and regional levels.** It was proposed and agreed that the data from 2000 be used as a baseline. Participants also requested the revision of current statistical guidelines and that countries will be informed as soon as possible of any new indicators for EFA monitoring. The importance of country-ownership of the review process was emphasized. Considerable lead time is required for undertaking the various steps of the assessment that include: capacity building, collecting data/undertaking surveys, analysis, report writing and consultations with stakeholders. As such, countries need to start preparatory work as soon as possible and, when needed, seek support from EFA partners, especially those at the country level. Countries are requested to build on the capacities they have built through the EFA Mid-Decade Assessment (MDA) experience.

   **Follow-up:** UNESCO Bangkok will prepare a concept note on the 2015 review and share with UNESCO Headquarters and EFA partners. Processes, mechanisms and timelines for a 2015 review should be finalized by 2012. Other EFA partners, particularly UNICEF are also encouraged to discuss this with their respective headquarters.
5. **Holding of national sum-up conferences (EFA Summit) in 2015 with high-level and multi-stakeholder participation** was also recommended. Preparation of **shadow reports** by non-State stakeholders was also proposed.

6. **Consultation processes, mechanisms and thematic focus for a post 2015-education agenda were also discussed** on the basis of questionnaires circulated to countries at the beginning of the meeting. Country and regional-level inputs are needed to contribute to the setting of a global education agenda beyond 2015. The new/emerging realities in countries and the region will need to be identified and taken into account.

   **Follow-up:** Countries are invited to inform the UNESCO regional office as soon as possible (preferably by end of August this year) about the following:
   1. The process they will use at the country level to involve national think tanks and stakeholders, etc. to contribute to this consultation;
   2. In response to requests at the meeting from some countries, the regional office will collect and share information about processes being used in different countries to obtain input to feed into the discussion on the post-2015 education agenda.

7. **Countries remarked on the difficulty of responding to different education surveys and asked for greater coordination between agencies to avoid duplication, overlaps, and confusion.**

   **Follow-up:** Inform national EFA coordinators by copying them in communications related to new international and regional education surveys. Improve efforts towards better coordination among international agencies through the TWG on EFA, among others.

8. **Participants highlighted the need to engage sub-regional entities** and get their cooperation and collaboration in speeding up progress to achieve EFA goals. A specific recommendation to set-up an EFA desk as part of SAARC was also raised.

   **Follow-up:** Concerned TWG partners and countries need to work collectively to engage or further involve sub-regional entities such as SAARC in South Asia and relevant entities in Central Asia and the Pacific. In addition to countries, UNESCO and UNICEF will take measures to help engage these entities in EFA.

9. The regional office will keep countries informed about the outcomes of the **4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness** to be held from 29 Nov. to 1 Dec. 2011 in Busan, Korea. A session devoted to discussion on the role of education in development is expected to be held as part of the forum.