Key Outcomes and Follow-Up Actions

Participants of the 13th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators deliberated on the following topics:

1. Accelerating progress towards meeting EFA goals
2. Preparation for and undertaking the national EFA review by 2015
3. Articulating the role of education in the post-2015 development agenda

1. Participants reiterated their commitment to the last Big Push – a call made by participants of the Global Education for All Meeting (GEM) in November 2012 in Paris, France. Participants agreed to carry the message of Big Push to their respective countries and will endeavour to accelerate progress in EFA. The need to strengthen the documentation, analysis and sharing of effective country examples of EFA acceleration was emphasized.

Follow-up actions:
- In collaboration with the regional TWG on EFA, UNESCO will lead the development of a knowledge base on promising acceleration practices with a view to influence and support policy reform and implementation across countries.
- Participants agreed to regularly share their inputs along thematic areas defined by UNESCO or any other areas that are linked to speeding up EFA progress.

2. Participants agreed on the need to review the EFA progress towards 2015 at the country level, which will inform the national policy directions beyond 2015 and the Regional EFA Report to be produced by end-2014. They also recognized the need to set up appropriate arrangements to undertake the review. The meeting introduced the key concepts, processes and strategies in conducting EFA reviews at the country level. Participants requested UNESCO to develop and share practical guidelines for the review. The need for ensuring country ownership of the review process was recognized.

Follow-up actions:
- UNESCO will make EFA review guidelines available to countries and support where relevant the conduct of the national review in collaboration with UNICEF and other development partners.
- EFA coordinators will take relevant action to advocate for the need to undertake national EFA reviews and prepare national reports on the EFA 2015 review.
- EFA Coordinators will identify data needs for informing the assessment where UNESCO can provide support.
3. Participants noted the uneven progress towards EFA across the region and recognized that most EFA goals are unlikely to be fully met by the target date. It was realized that the scope and scale of the global education goals in the post-2015 development agenda must be conceptualized within the context of unfinished EFA work and recent changes taking place in societies and economies as well as emerging regional and global challenges. The outcomes of the two regional high-level meetings on the future of education and learning (May and November 2012) and other research findings testify the need to rethink and reorient education in our respective countries. Learning has become the prominent emphasis for which all learning modes - formal, non-formal or informal – are equally critical.

Follow-up actions:
- UNESCO, UNICEF and other international and regional organizations will continue facilitating regional forums on the future of education and the role of education in the future development agenda.
- Countries will strengthen research on future education and learning and integrate the evidence into their education policy and practice. UNESCO will support regional cooperation in this undertaking.

4. Participants recognized the usefulness of the published versions of the End-of-Decade Notes on EFA Progress for each EFA goal and the Regional Report to the 2012 Global EFA Meeting (GEM). Participants found these reports to be informative and useful in their reflection on education policy reform in their countries. They not only show the status of EFA in the region but also document good practices specific to each goal.

Follow-up actions:
- UNESCO and UNICEF will make these reports widely available to countries.
- EFA Coordinators will share these reports with relevant agencies and stakeholders and encourage their use in policy debate and planning.

5. Participants acknowledged the importance of 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 requested that this information be shared so that they could learn from the practice in other countries.

Follow-up actions:
- Working through the Regional EFA TWG mechanism, UNESCO Bangkok will develop a checklist with a view to gathering and sharing information related to EFA coordination mechanisms, including other such mechanisms (Education Sector Working Group, UNTG- Education, Local Education Group, etc.) created at the national level.
- A database on national EFA coordination mechanisms will be developed and shared with relevant bodies. UNESCO Bangkok will continue to inform countries in the region on the reform and new structures related to global EFA coordination.