I. BACKGROUND

As we approach 2015, there is a need to take stock of how Member States have delivered on their commitments to achieve the Education for All (EFA) goals and to critically identify the enablers and impediments towards their EFA targets which are also linked to the education Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To this end, Member States are currently engaged to conduct a critical review of EFA progress at the national level, taking into account different forms and types of disparities and inequities. Findings of the EFA progress reviews will lead to a better understanding of the bottlenecks in providing quality learning for all and the implications for the post-2015 education agenda at the country level and in the region.

In Asia-Pacific, the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and other partners have been providing support to Member States in the region in carrying out the reviews. In this context, a Regional Technical Workshop on the National EFA 2015 Reviews was organized in November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, which was attended by officials from 31 Member States and representatives from NGOs and development agencies. The workshop provided practical information on methods and processes for carrying out quantitative and qualitative assessment of national EFA progress and strategies and identifying key elements that should be considered in the post-2015 education agenda. The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss and agree on the content, methodology of the review and reporting format.

In view of the technical nature of the review and limited capacity, Member States participating in the technical workshop expressed the need for continued technical support at different stages of the review process.

As acknowledged by participating Member States at the regional technical workshop in November 2013, the review is government-led and is being undertaken in a participatory manner with the involvement of NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. Development partners are encouraged to cooperate and support in this review process where appropriate.

The deadline to submit the final national EFA 2015 review report to UNESCO is June 2014. The national EFA reports will be synthesized in the form of a regional EFA review report, which will
feed into the discussion of the post-2015 education agenda and deliberations of the 2014 Regional Education Conference. As requested by Member States, UNESCO Bangkok supported by UNICEF and key development partners has proposed a process of technical review and feedback to help countries improve their reports. To this end, Member States have been requested to submit the first draft of their national EFA report to UNESCO Bangkok by 15 March 2014 and to submit their revised pre-final draft by May 2014. The two-day regional technical feedback workshop is one important step towards supporting countries to finalize their national EFA reports.

II. REGIONAL PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL EFA 2015 REVIEWS

Following the Regional Technical Workshop on the National EFA 2015 Reviews in Asia-Pacific, 20-22 November 2013 in Bangkok, Member States are conducting the review and preparing the first draft of their national EFA 2015 review reports. To support this process, UNESCO Bangkok established an EFA Help Desk. As a next step, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education and the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and Regional Office for South Asia, are jointly organizing the Regional Technical Feedback Workshop on the National EFA 2015 Reviews on 29-30 April 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. Key members of the national EFA 2015 review teams will be invited to participate in discussions and contribute to the feedback process.

III. WORKSHOP GOAL

The overarching goal of the workshop is to enhance country capacity to improve and finalize the national EFA reports based on feedback and inputs from experts and peers. The aim is to ensure that the national EFA reports document country progress on EFA as accurately as possible using disaggregated data and appropriate indicators, identify enabling and hindering factors and provide inputs for regional and international debates on the post-2015 education agenda. The draft reports will go through a rigorous review procedure with a view to improving them.

IV. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Provide an opportunity for country teams to share and learn from each other on the review processes, data issues, methodologies and any other issue related to the preparation of the national EFA reports;
2. Provide technical feedback on specific components or parts of the draft national EFA 2015 review reports;
3. Agree on the next steps for finalizing and submitting the draft reports.

V. EXPECTED RESULTS

- Guidelines for reviewing the EFA reports developed and used;
- Draft national EFA 2015 review reports shared, reviewed and commented;
- Feedback received and necessary revisions made on the drafts of the national EFA 2015 review reports;
- Next steps for finalizing and submitting the national EFA reports agreed upon.
VI. **Participants**
The feedback workshop will be attended by officials/experts of Ministries of Education (MOEs) who have been actively engaged in the national EFA 2015 review. Since this feedback workshop is the continuation of the earlier event, MOEs will be requested to nominate the same participants who joined the Regional Technical Workshop on the National EFA 2015 Reviews in Asia-Pacific in November 2013. Countries that did not participate in the Regional Technical Workshop in November 2013 are encouraged to nominate officials who are involved in the national EFA 2015 review, the preparation of the national EFA report, and/or EFA assessment.

VII. **Preparatory Work by Participants**
Prior to the workshop, countries will be expected to submit their first drafts of the national EFA 2015 review reports to UNESCO Bangkok. The drafts should be submitted to UNESCO Bangkok by 15 March 2014.

VIII. **Process**
Prior to the workshop, the draft EFA reports will be reviewed by a group of experts led by UNESCO, UNICEF and key partners using the review guidelines and criteria developed by UNESCO. The reviewers have been drawn from UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO FOs in Asia-Pacific, UNICEF EAPRO, UNICEF ROSA, the Thematic Working Group on EFA (TWG on EFA) and CSOs. The expert reviewers will present the key findings of their technical reviews with solutions to specific issues and problems. Countries will have a chance to share their experience in accomplishing the different stages of the review process. The workshop will comprise a number of feedback sessions to discuss specific technical issues and challenges and ways of addressing them.

The workshop will be conducted in English.

IX. **Date, Workshop Venue and Accommodation**
Date: 29-30 April 2014
Bangkok, Thailand

**Workshop Venue and Accommodation:**
Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel
199 Sukhumvit Soi 22, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Tel: + 66 (0) 2261 9000; Fax: +66 (0) 2261 9530-4
Email: reservation@imperialhotels.com
X. **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information, please contact the Regional EFA Coordination Team:

Ms. Malisa Santigul  
E-mail: m.santigul@unesco.org  
UNESCO Bangkok  
Mom Luang Pin Malakul Centenary Building  
920 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10110  
Tel: +66 2 391 0577 Ext. 312  
Fax: +66 2 391 0866

Ms. Intiranee Khanthong  
E-mail: i.kanthong@unesco.org