CONCEPT NOTE

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP: NATIONAL EFA 2015 REVIEWS IN ASIA-PACIFIC
20-22 November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

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 review the enablers and impediments towards their EFA targets. To this end, Member States are required to conduct a critical review of EFA progress at the national level, taking into account sub-national disparities. 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 future education agenda at the country level and in the region.

In congruence with the letter dated 5 July 2013, from the UNESCO Assistant Director General for Education to Education Ministers of all Member States regarding the National EFA 2015 Review and the deadline to submit the final national EFA 2015 review report by 30 June 2014 to UNESCO Headquarters, the Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok) will convene a regional technical workshop to further discuss and fine-tune the requirements in terms of the content, methodology of the review and reporting format, the fundamentals of which are suggested in the circulated Guidelines. The workshop will also discuss disaggregated data analysis and indicator reporting for an in-depth understanding of disparity in education.

The technical workshop is planned to take place in Bangkok from 20-22 November 2013 with financial assistance from the Republic of Korea. While the review will be government-led, it should be undertaken in a participatory manner with involvement of NGOs, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders. The development partners are encouraged to cooperate and support in this review process where appropriate. In Asia-Pacific, countries are expected to submit to UNESCO Bangkok their national EFA reports by April 2014, which will be synthesized in the form of a regional EFA review report.

II. REGIONAL PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL EFA 2015 REVIEWS

At the 13th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators: The Big Push, held in February 2013 in Bangkok, National EFA Coordinators and representatives from ministries of education were provided an initial orientation on the National EFA 2015 Reviews and participated in group work and discussions. As a next step, UNESCO Bangkok is organizing a regional technical workshop on the National EFA 2015 Reviews from 20-22 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. Several
countries have already taken arrangements to set up review teams and to start assessing the EFA progress. Key members of the national EFA 2015 review team, NGOs, and relevant development partners will be invited to participate in discussions on the review process and its requirements.

III. Workshop Goal
The overarching goal of the workshop is to enhance country capacity to undertake systematic reviews of national EFA progress with the aim to develop policy options for acceleration of EFA and provide inputs for national and international debates on the post-2015 education agenda.

IV. Objectives
1. Provide an opportunity for country teams to share and learn from each other about processes currently in place and plans made for carrying out the National EFA 2015 Review.
2. Introduce practical 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, and discuss planned indicator reporting and disaggregated trend analysis.
3. Share and seek feedback on the proposed format and content of the national and regional EFA reports.

V. Expected Results
- Country EFA 2015 review processes shared
- Capacity and understanding of quantitative and qualitative assessment of national EFA progress and strategies developed, including disaggregated trend analysis
- Capacity to identify key elements for the post-2015 education agenda developed
- Feedback received and agreement made on draft chapter outlines of the national and regional EFA 2015 review reports
- Draft country work plans for the national review and disaggregated data collection prepared for the annex of the country report.

VI. Participants
Participants of the workshop will be around two designated experts per country, ideally one education policy analyst and one education statistician from ministries of education, who are or will be actively engaged in the national EFA 2015 review.

Due to funding constraints, UNESCO is able to fund participants from a limited number of countries. UNESCO will support the travel and accommodation costs of one participant from countries that have been identified as needing capacity development support for undertaking the national EFA review. Travel and accommodation costs of additional country participants should be secured by the respective country. All other countries are
requested to support their participation. The organizer will provide lunch and coffee breaks to all participants during all three days of the workshop.

Members of the Thematic Working Group on EFA, UNESCO and UNICEF regional and country education officers, and other partner agencies involved in the national EFA reviews are also invited to participate in the workshop at their own cost.

VII. **Preparatory Work by Participants**
Prior to the workshop, participants are requested to prepare a brief information note that provides details on country preparations for the National EFA 2015 Review. Where applicable, the note should provide information on what the countries have carried out so far, as part of the National EFA 2015 Review process including, if applicable, the mobilization of resources, formation of EFA review teams, national consultations or meetings on the review, circulation of the Guidelines at the national level, etc. **Countries are expected to submit the brief information note by 4 October 2013.** UNESCO will provide a checklist to facilitate the preparation of this note.

VIII. **Format**
The workshop will comprise a combination of plenary and group sessions. Presentations, small group discussions, and showcasing of practical examples on how to assess the progress, review the national strategies and link with future education needs of the country will shape the proceedings of the workshop.

The workshop will be conducted in English.

IX. **Date, Workshop Venue and Accommodation**
Date: 20-22 November 2013
Bangkok, Thailand

**Workshop Venue and Accommodation:**
The workshop venue will be at the Holiday Inn Sukhumvit 22. UNESCO will reserve rooms for participants (inclusive of breakfast buffet) at the Holiday Inn Sukhumvit 22:

**Holiday Inn Sukhumvit 22**
1 Sukhumvit 22 Klongton, Klongtoey
Bangkok, 10110 Thailand
Tel: +66 2 683 4888
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X. CONTACT INFORMATION

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