Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference

Bangkok, Thailand
6-8 August 2014

Information Note on Working Modalities
I. Introduction

1. This information note is intended to assist participants in planning and conducting the work of the Conference and to facilitate the adoption of the outcome document of the Conference.

II. Participation

1. Participation in the Conference is by invitation only. The governments of UNESCO’s Member States and Associate Members in Asia and the Pacific have been invited to the Conference as the main participants.

2. The following categories of participants have also been invited:

2.1. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs);

2.2. Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) operating regionally and sub-regionally;

2.3. Representatives of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system;

2.4. Representatives of multi-lateral development banks and bilateral development partners;

2.5. Specialists invited for their individual capacities.

III. Objectives of the Conference

1. The objectives of the Conference are to:

1.1. Take stock of regional progress in education, in particular EFA, yield lessons learnt for the future, and examine persisting and emerging issues, challenges and priorities for education beyond 2015;

1.2. Develop and agree on regional recommendations on priority targets and action areas for the post-2015 global education and development agendas, including the international framework for action to be adopted at the World Education Forum 2015, in Incheon, Republic of Korea.
IV. Organization of Work

1. The Conference will be divided into two parts – the Regional Dialogue on EFA and Beyond, and the Ministerial Forum on Education Beyond 2015.

2. High-level government officials, including ministers and directors of ministries of education, as well as representatives of intergovernmental, non-governmental, and civil society organizations, and United Nations agencies will attend the Regional Dialogue on EFA and Beyond. They will review EFA progress and discuss challenges, priorities and targets for education post-2015. They will also reflect on implementation strategies to achieve the post-2015 education goal and targets. Outcomes of the discussions will feed into the draft outcome document of the Conference. The work of the Regional Dialogue will be conducted in six (6) plenary sessions and several parallel sub-regional and thematic sessions.

3. At the Ministerial Forum on Education Beyond 2015, Ministers of Education and heads of Member State delegations will exchange their views on key challenges and priorities for education post-2015, and adopt the outcome document of the Conference. The work of the Ministerial Forum will begin with the Opening Ceremony, followed by two (2) plenary sessions and one (1) roundtable. Conference participants other than ministers of education and heads of Member State delegations are welcome to attend the Ministerial Forum as observers.

4. A Drafting Group has been established for the drafting of the outcome document of the Conference.

V. Methods and Procedures of Work

1. Plenary sessions

1.1. Each plenary session will be presided by a Chair. The Chair will ensure the smooth functioning of the session by opening and closing the session, according or withholding the right to speak as appropriate, and directing, moderating and summarizing discussions where necessary.

2. Parallel sessions

2.1. Each sub-regional or thematic session will have a facilitator. The facilitators of parallel sessions will ensure the smooth functioning of the sessions by guiding, moderating and summarizing discussions where necessary.
3. Reports

3.1. The General Rapporteur shall be responsible for drawing up a report on the deliberations of the plenary and parallel sessions of the Regional Dialogue on Education for All and Beyond and present it to the Ministerial Forum. Rapporteurs of sub-regional and thematic parallel sessions shall be appointed by the respective sessions, and transmit the reports of the sessions to the General Rapporteur and the Drafting Group.

4. Outcome of the Conference

4.1. The outcomes of the deliberations of the plenary and parallel sessions shall be embodied in the outcome document of the Conference to be adopted by the Conference at its final plenary session.

4.2. Member State delegations are invited to submit to the Conference Secretariat (ap-education@unesco.org) their proposed amendments or statements for inclusion in the outcome document by 4:30pm of the 7th of August, 2014.

4.3. The Drafting Group shall examine and consider the proposed inputs from delegations, and the reports from sessions, and prepare the final draft of the outcome document for debate and adoption by the Ministerial Forum at its final plenary session.

VI. Working Language

1. English shall be the working language of the Conference.

VII. Secretariat of the Conference

1. The Secretariat of the Conference shall comprise UNESCO officials appointed for that purpose by the Director of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education.

2. The Secretariat shall perform all the work necessary for the smooth functioning of the Conference.

3. The members of the Secretariat may, at any time, make oral or written statements on any question under consideration.