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Republic of Iraq/Council of Ministers
PMAC ETS National Convenor

Transforming Education Summit
Iraq's National Statement of Commitment

Introduction

Iraq's Vision 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the national development plans clearly focus on the education sector, along with other sectors such as economic, social, spatial and environmental ones. This is done by defining achievable and measurable goals for this vital sector in line with the national strategic directions and the international SDGs. The Government has drafted the Iraq National Education Strategy 2022 – 2031 (INES) with the objective of “transformation in education through enhanced national efforts to achieve SDG 4 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals related to education.” The INES addresses the cross-cutting factors, including population growth and gender, rural/urban communities, children and youth affected by conflict and insecurity, as well as poverty.

To prepare for Iraq's participation in the TES, the Prime Minister designated the Prime Minister's Advisory Commission (PMAC) as the National Convenor. The PMAC convened a series of internal consultations among the line Ministries, Higher Education Institutions and Teacher colleges, and youth and civil society organization. Iraq's preparations also benefited from discussions at the regional Ministries of Education meeting convened in Qatar, as well as participation in the Pre-Transforming Education Summit organized by UNESCO in Paris from 28 – 30 July 2022.

The final National Consultation Meeting was organized on 8th August 2022. Participants included Iraqi partners, development partners in Iraq represented by the European Union as the Co-Chair of the Education Sector Coordination Group, ILO, WFP, UNICEF and UNESCO.

Based on the INES 2022 – 2031 and the outcomes of the National Consultation meeting, the Government of Iraq hereby commits to the implementation of following tracks of action to transform education and learning in Iraq from now until 2030:

First: Comprehensive Schools and a Safe and Healthy Platform:

1. Review, revise and adopt policies and programs to eliminate all access disparities and barriers for all learners in terms of gender, disability, displacement and location, and poverty. This included provision of textbooks and gradual increase of the provision of school feeding to all public primary schools by 2030.
2. Enhancing knowledge, skills a public awareness of the risks of the climate change and reducing its impacts by means of education, and improving the basic infrastructure of the educational institutions to ensure their safety and appropriateness for confronting the climate changes.
3. Construction of new schools to meet the enrolment rates in the general public education, and providing a suitable learning environment for learners with special needs.

Second: Education and Skills for Life, Employment and Sustainable Development:

1. Implement flexible and responsive TVET that provides equal opportunities for Iraq's youth, both male and female with knowledge, skills and attitudes required for meaningful employment and to participate in the sustainable development of Iraq.
2. Ensure informal and flexible learning tracks of accelerated learning opportunities for adolescents and adults through increased numbers of literacy and adult education centers as well as open and distance learning programs.

Third: Teachers, Education and the Teaching Profession:

1. Adopting university degree (BA) as a minimum qualification for teaching profession.
2. Adopting standards and mechanisms for recruitment and deployment of qualified teachers and implementation of supervision, monitoring and mentoring to improve their performance.
3. Adopting effective Continuous Teacher Professional Development programs for Pre and In-Service Training, linking career growth/ promotion to participation in the annual professional development trainings and evaluation.

Fourth: Learning and Digital Transformation:

Iraq (MoE and MoHESR) will adopt a futuristic vision and action plan to transform education and learning for both General Education (K-12) and Higher Education by building on the investments in ICTs and digital learning during COVID-19. Both Ministries will continue to invest in creation of interactive content and materials, and educational platforms and a digital portal, digital interactive books, and the administration of the educational processes. To accomplish this, Iraq will:

1. General Education (Ministry of Education)

The Iraqi MoE adopts a futuristic vision in the process of transforming education to create interactive materials, and educational platforms and a digital portal, and the transition towards digitalizing textbooks, and the administration of the educational process, by means of the followings:

- Cooperating with international organizations for the purpose of supporting the transformation of education in the technical fields, training technical staff and rehabilitating infrastructure.
- Reconsidering some laws and instructions which are contrary to digital education.
- Establishing global partnerships with educational systems and international institutions that have solid experiences in the field of distance education and exchange of expertise in the fields of TV production, and broadcasting and satellite transmission technologies.

2. Higher Education

The Ministry of Higher Education adopts a futuristic vision to improve the system of higher education and transition towards the fifth-generation universities, and the full digital transformation. For this purpose, the Ministry seeks to implement a roadmap for the digital transformation in the academic and administrative institutions by means of the following steps and stages:

Step 1: Designing the system of digital maturity which includes the governance and leadership, staff and culture, capacities and abilities, innovation and creativity, technologies and technical issues, in addition to the appropriate infrastructures.

Step 2: Developing a comprehensive strategy of digital transformation, and reconsidering some of the legislations and instructions which are contrary to digital education.

Step 3: Drafting some short-term, mid-term and long-term plans for achieving a digital educational environment within the accredited international standards.

Step 4: Evaluating, following-up, and assessing the experience based on the best practices of the countries which implemented the complete digital transformation in the educational environment.

Fifth: Education Financing:

As elaborated in the INES 2022 – 2031, Iraq recognizes the importance of domestic financing of education and commits to meet the international benchmarks for the financing of education. Based on the current projections of annual growth, it is expected that by 2030:

- Share of education in the public budget will be 16% (current 10%).
- General public spending on education will be 19 trillion Iraqi dinars, equivalent to 4.5% GDP (12 trillion IQD in 2019).
- Share of government investment allocations for education will be 10% (7% in 2019).

A special item “Development and Rehabilitation of Education Transformation Projects” in the State’s Investment Budget to