



# unesco

Global Education  
Monitoring Report

## GLOBAL EDUCATION MONITORING REPORT

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADVISORY BOARD

*Updated March 2017*

#### **Introduction**

The Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM Report) (formerly known as the Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR)) is an editorially independent, authoritative, and evidence-based annual report that monitors progress towards the global education goal and targets adopted by the international community in Incheon, Republic of Korea during the World Education Forum in May 2015. The annual GEM Report identifies effective education policies, and analyses a major theme. The Report is developed by an independent team and published annually by UNESCO. It is widely recognised as an indispensable advocacy and technical tool for promoting global education progress and evidence-based policy making.

With a renewed mandate adopted in 2015, and drawing on accumulated expertise, a new series of internationally focused education monitoring reports will be established starting in 2016. These reports will analyze global education trends and advocate for effective education policies and practice in the next decade and beyond.

#### **Background**

The Dakar Framework for Action called for a Monitoring Report to inform the deliberations of the Education for All (EFA) High Level Group. Following the creation of the EFA Global Monitoring Report (GMR), the High Level Group (October 2001) requested UNESCO to "convene key partners to discuss how the Report can best be prepared, managed and resourced". The Dakar Follow-Up Unit convened the first meeting of the Editorial Board on 29-30 January 2002. The report of this meeting was issued in February 2002.

In 2006 an independent evaluation of the GMR made a number of recommendations relating to the Editorial Board. *Inter alia* the evaluation proposed a strengthening of representation from developing countries (recommendation 6), along with new written guidelines for Board membership (recommendation 7). During the 2008 meeting of the Editorial Board, members suggested (i) decreasing the representation of donors and UNESCO staff, (ii) increasing the participation of representatives from developing countries, including governments, and (iii) increasing the representation

of experts in the particular thematic area covered by the annual GMR. The meeting also proposed that the Editorial Board be reconstituted as an Advisory Board to better reflect its function.

This note sets out terms of reference for the Global Education Monitoring Report Advisory Board for the 2016-2030 period.

### **Overall purpose**

The Advisory Board for the GEM Report will play a consultative role. It will provide oversight, guidance and suggestions in the following areas:

- The vision, purpose and objectives of Global Education Monitoring Reports and their consistency with SDG 4 and the Education 2030 Framework for Action.
- The evolving national, regional and international context for implementation of the Education 2030 Framework for Action
- Future GEM Report themes, priorities and approaches
- The long-term development of the GEM Report
- The identification of emerging problems, priorities and concerns in the international environment with a bearing on the SDG 4 agenda
- The quality and timeliness of SDG 4 statistics and data
- Sources of expertise, knowledge, information and mobilising funding
- Communications and outreach for the Report, including advocacy, publications and partnerships.

Members of the Advisory Board are further called upon to contribute to advocacy, outreach and distribution of the GEM Report among their own constituencies.

### **Meetings and composition of the Advisory Board**

The Board will be convened by UNESCO. It will meet once a year with the timing of the meeting managed to ensure alignment with the editorial cycle of the Report.

The composition of the Board will be decided by UNESCO's Director-General in consultation with the Assistant-Director General for Education and the Director of the GEM Report.

The Board will have an eminent Chairperson nominated by UNESCO's Director-General in consultation with the Assistant Director-General for Education. The Chairperson will serve for two to three years.

The Director of the GEM Report Team will serve as Secretary to the Advisory Board. The GEM Report Team will provide the secretariat for the Board.

UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education and the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics will serve as *ex officio* members of the Board.

In addition to the *ex officio* members a maximum of 33 members will be invited by the Director-General to participate in the work of the Advisory Board. Membership will cover the following broad constituencies: UNESCO, multilateral partner agencies, donors, civil society organizations (CSOs), and independent experts.

**UNESCO (4 members):** The International Bureau of Education (IBE), the International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP) and UNESCO's Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) will be represented by their respective Directors and act

as permanent members. The Director of UNESCO's Division for Education 2030 Support and Coordination (ED/ESC) will also participate.

Multilateral SDG 4 partner agencies (**5 members**): Representation will be invited from relevant UN agencies, the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education.

Donors (**5-6 members**): GEM Report current donors (bilateral and foundations) will be invited to participate as members of the Advisory Board.

UNESCO Electoral Group representatives (**5 members**): Five UNESCO electoral groups (excluding Group 1) will nominate an independent education expert to represent their respective regions for a period of 2 years.

Developing country representatives (**3-4 members**): Representatives from regional institutions and networks, such as the African Union, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), the Commonwealth Secretariat, will be invited to nominate a representative.

Civil society organizations (**4-5 members**): The Advisory Board will include representatives of CSOs to ensure balanced regional and thematic representation.

Independent experts (**up to 4 members**): On the advice of the Director of the GEM Report, the Director-General will invite up to four independent experts to serve as an Advisory Board member for one year. The experts will be selected for their competence in specific areas of relevance to the GEM Report, including research, statistics and communications/outreach.

With the exception of the permanent members and independent experts, membership of the Advisory Board will be for two years. At the discretion of the Director-General, membership may be extended for more than one term. Advisory Board members may nominate an alternate representative if they are unable to attend.

Funding for attendance at the Advisory Board meeting will be the responsibility of Board members and their respective organizations. For individual members who cannot meet their costs, provisions will be made through the GEM Report budget.

### **UNESCO Electoral Group (regional) representatives**

In addition to helping contribute to the overall goals of the Advisory Board, the regional representatives shall also provide oversight, guidance and suggestions in the following areas, to:

- provide a regional perspective to the topics and issues under discussion;
- suggest regional-based organizations, governments and leading figures who could provide input to the Report's thematic development;
- assist the GEM Report team in developing stronger ties with regional bodies and initiatives, and in identifying regional and national best practices;
- help disseminate each Report in regional and national education associations and suggest organisations interested in the Report's topics.



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### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

The GEM Report Advisory Board will have an eminent Chairperson nominated by UNESCO's Director-General in consultation with the Assistant Director-General for Education. The Chairperson will serve a two to three year mandate.

Within the framework of the General Terms of Reference of the GEM Report Advisory Board, the Chairperson will:

1. Act as Chair during the annual meetings of the GEM Report Advisory Board. As part of this she or he will:
  - a. Provide advice and feedback to the Director pertaining to the programme and content of each meeting;
  - b. Provide feedback, as needed, on documents to be presented to the Board as prepared by the secretariat of the Board prior to the meeting;
  - c. Chair the discussions and presentations during the plenary meetings of the Advisory Board (noting that this does not include the annual Donor Meeting held in conjunction with the Board meeting);
  - d. Where the Board must come to an agreement or recommendation, help steer the discussions so that a clear consensus and recommendation is reached and communicated to the Director of the GEM Report Team.
2. Provide support for the GEM Report team in the international arena, notably representing the Report during its annual launch and/or at other dissemination activities.
3. Advocate for the Report among stakeholders and other international education development actors. If necessary, support the GEM Report team in any fundraising efforts.