



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织



SULTANATE OF OMAN  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



## Global Education for All Meeting

12-14 May 2014

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

**Concept Note**

## 1. Introduction

The 2014 GEM will be the last global meeting of all EFA partners before the World Education Forum 2015 in Korea, which will mark the target date of the Dakar goals. It is therefore an event at which, in light of the latest data and analysis concerning EFA progress, key decisions will be taken with regard to a) actions during the last part of the road towards 2015, b) preparations for the World Education Forum 2015 and c) the post-2015 education agenda. In addition, the GEM is a space where participants will share knowledge and experience in an open and interactive manner; review commitments taken at the 2012 GEM, which took place at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris from 21 to 23 November; debate and compare policies and approaches; and agree on strategies and joint action for addressing education challenges in the year(s) to come. The GEM has replaced since 2012 the annual meetings of the former Working Group and High-Level Group on EFA in the global EFA coordination architecture.

## 2. Objectives of the Meeting

The purpose of the 2014 GEM is to provide a global platform for dialogue, coordination and collaboration on education development goals. Its objectives are to:

- i) critically **review progress towards the six EFA goals** based on the 2013/2014 EFA Global Monitoring Report (GMR), regional reports and other documents, including initial findings from the National EFA 2015 Reviews; identify bottlenecks holding back progress as well as ongoing initiatives, notably acceleration and 'big push' actions, in order to overcome them; and discuss remaining steps in the EFA process up to 2015, in particular with regard to the finalization of the National EFA 2015 Reviews and the debate of their outcomes at national and regional levels in preparation for the World Education Forum 2015; and
- ii) discuss the **post-2015 education agenda** and the outline and elements of the Framework for Action to be adopted at the World Education Forum 2015; as well as the position, shape and scope of the education agenda in the post-2015 global development agenda.

## 3. Expected Outcomes

- i) Ministerial/leaders' statement – 1-2 pages (to be prepared to the extent possible in advance of the GEM)
- ii) Agreed position on a goal, priorities and targets for education beyond 2015
- iii) Detailed roadmap and work plan up to the World Education Forum 2015, spelling out the process for further developing the future education agenda and Framework for Action
- iv) Agreement on a communication and advocacy strategy aiming to ensure that education is centrally integrated in the post-2015 development agenda
- v) Strengthened knowledge base on EFA.

#### 4. Format

The three-day GEM will consist of:

- a) a Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting for Ministers, Vice-Ministers and heads of other EFA constituencies;
- b) a Senior Officials' Meeting; and
- c) a 'Forum' of Parallel Sessions, organized by participating governments and partners, around 3 key themes. The proposed themes are "Increasing Equity and Inclusion – What works?"; "Quality of Education – Teaching and Learning Practices"; and "Skills for Life and Work – Empowering Young People and Adults". Participants wishing to organize a parallel session will be invited to submit proposals to UNESCO.

All sessions, including those of the Ministerial/Leaders' Meeting, will start with very brief presentations to introduce the open plenary debates, which will be guided by moderators in a dynamic and lively manner.

The Working Languages for the Plenary Sessions are English, French, Spanish and Arabic. For the parallel Forum sessions, interpretation will be arranged in as many languages as possible.

#### 5. Provisional Programme

	<b>Day 1 Mon 12 May</b>	<b>Day 2 Tue 13 May</b>	<b>Day 3 Wed 14 May</b>
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Registrations</b>  Senior Officials' Meeting 1. Introduction/updates 2. Presentation of GMR and regional reports, Discussion of findings	Senior Officials' Meeting 3. Education beyond 2015 4. Roadmap and next steps	<b>Ministerial/ Leaders' Meeting</b>  <b>Session 2</b> National EFA Reviews and Big Push <b>Session 3</b> Education beyond 2015
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Forum</b>  Parallel sessions organized by partners on key themes (3 series of 4 parallel sessions of 75 minutes each)	<b>Ministerial/ Leaders' Meeting</b>  <b>Opening Ceremony</b>  <b>Session 1</b> Review of progress	<b>Ministerial/ Leaders' Meeting</b>  <b>Session 3 (cont'd)</b> Education beyond 2015  <b>Session 4</b> Adoption of Statement  <b>Session 5 (Full Plenary)</b> Conclusions/next steps Closing remarks

#### 6. Participants

The meeting will be attended by some 300 participants, representing regions/ Member States (as selected through UNESCO Regional Electoral Groups – approximately 50 delegations led by Ministers of Education), the EFA convening agencies, the Global Partnership for Education, multilateral and bilateral agencies, United Nations and regional organizations, the teaching profession, civil society organizations, EFA Flagships, the private sector, research institutes and foundations.

## **7. Exhibition**

A generous space is available for an exhibition, and all participants wishing to reserve a stand to present initiatives or documents and publications should indicate their needs to UNESCO and send their materials and documents to the Omani National Commission for UNESCO.

## **8. Background documents**

- 2013/14 EFA Global Monitoring Report: Learning and Teaching for Development
- Regional reports prepared by UNESCO
- 2012 GEM Statement
- Preliminary Outcomes of National EFA 2015 Reviews
- Thematic Documents by EFA partners
- UNESCO Position Paper on Education Post-2015
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## **9. Working documents**

- Concept note
- Provisional programme
- Practical Information Note
- EFA Steering Committee document on Education post-2015
- Draft 2014 GEM Statement
- List of meeting participants
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## Global Education for All Meeting Member States' representatives 2014-2015

### Regional Group I (Western European and North American States)

Belgium	Germany	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Canada	Greece	United States of America
Finland	Norway	
France	Switzerland	

### Regional Group II (Eastern European States)

Latvia	Russian Federation
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### Regional Group III (Latin American and the Caribbean States)

Bolivia	Mexico	Uruguay
Cuba	Paraguay	Venezuela
Grenada	Peru	

### Regional Group IV (Asia and the Pacific States)

China	Malaysia	Republic of Korea
India	Pakistan	Thailand
Japan	Philippines	

### Regional Group V(a), (African States)

Comoros	Lesotho	Uganda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Nigeria	Zambia
Equatorial Guinea	Senegal	

### Regional Group V(b), (Arab States)

Sudan	Morocco	Tunisia
Egypt	Lebanon	United Arab Emirates
Libya	Iraq	