

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER
OF PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION
OF BENIN,

Mr. Eric Kouagou N'DA

AT

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION (GPE)
REPLENISHMENT CONFERENCE

(BRUSSELS, JUNE 25 – 26, 2014)

Your Excellency, Madam Board Chair of the Global
Partnership for Education Board,
Honorable guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Benin, through our presence today and on behalf of our Head of State, Doctor BONI YAYI, would like to warmly greet and congratulate the Global Partnership for Education Secretariat for its daily struggle to make the education sector the main foundation of sustainable development in our countries.

My Government has made important decisions to promote education system development, including a 10-year Education Sector Development Plan (PDDSE) for the 2006-2015 period with the following measures: i) free pre-primary and primary education; ii) waiving of school fees for girls in junior secondary education and public university non-bursary students; iii) teacher recruitment and training, and living and working conditions improvement; iv) school and university infrastructure building; v) progressive increase in school meal programs, and free school textbooks for primary school students.

These commendable efforts, enabled with Financial Technical Partners' support through funding mechanisms, including the Fast Track Initiative, now GPE, have contributed to access improvement, primary education student retention, and gender disparity reduction, as shown by the following indicators:

- Increase of the Net Enrolment Rate from 77% in 2006 to 98% in 2013;
- Increase of the Completion Rate from 64% in 2006 to 77% in 2013;
- The Gender Parity Index is currently 0.96, from 0.80 in 2006.

Despite the significant progress, challenges remain, namely regarding i) geographic, socio-professional and gender disparities; ii) education quality; and iii) system piloting.

Your Excellency, Madam Board Chair of the GPE,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are committed to pursuing our progress to achieve quality education for all children, girls and boys alike. To this end, on behalf of the Government of Benin and its President, before the GPE members and this august gathering, I pledge to:

- 1- Maintain at 27% the share of education in the State budget between 2014 and 2018, and at 50% the share of public education expenditure dedicated to primary education;
- 2- Produce reliable basic education data in local governments and at the central level, to be transmitted annually to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics no later than July 31st;
- 3- Set up a national student achievement assessment scheme and produce biennial evaluation reports;

4- Take into account the equity strategy, and budget the related relevant actions in the next Education Sector Plan.

Your Excellency, Madam Board Chair of the GPE,
Ladies and gentlemen,

These sessions are taking place at a time when Benin is preparing its second education forum, focused on doing away with past deficiencies and promoting education for the country's development. Therefore, I would like to seize this opportunity to renew my country's call to the International Community to durably support our education system development efforts in giving the GPE sufficient resources to achieve our objectives.

Long live international cooperation!

Long live the Global partnership for Education!

I thank you for your
attention.

PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION
MINISTER

