



International Conference

## SCHOOL FEE ABOLITION: PLANNING FOR QUALITY AND FOR FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Convened by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA),  
UNICEF and the World Bank

**Bamako, Mali**  
**19 – 22 June 2007**

### PROGRAM

The 4-day Conference will be constituted of two parts. The first two days will be technical and the second two will be political and policy-oriented. Ministers and other high level officials will only join the Policy Meeting. This distinction reflects the general emphases of the two parts to the Conference – it is understood that the policy discussions will take technical considerations into account, and that the technical considerations will be tempered by political and policy realities.

**The Technical Meeting (19 – 20 June)** will be the focus of the three first objectives of the Conference:

1. To exchange in more depth and acquire better understanding of the opportunities and mechanisms for planning adequate and better quality as well as financial sustainability in school fee abolition processes.
2. To engage around the SFAI Operational Guidance Paper (OGP), review its propositions and consolidate the work around it.
3. To define more concretely country proposals for the way forward.

The Meeting is going to be organized around two main sessions (planning for adequate and better quality and planning for financial sustainability). The two sessions will include 10 highly interactive group work discussions as well as reporting back to plenary, around different sub-topics related to quality and financing. At the end of the two sessions, country delegations will develop their proposals for the way forward together with experts and resource persons and present these at the Policy Meeting.

**The Policy Meeting (21 – 22 June)** will be the focus of the two last objectives of the Conference:

4. To develop consistent approaches and policies among development partners in support of school fee abolition, adapted to country-specific realities.
5. To strengthen the policy dialogue on the financial barriers to education access and enhance partnerships and compacts that ensure an environment for success.

The Policy Meeting is going to be attended by the Ministers of Education and Finance/Planning. It is mainly organized around three parts: a plenary where the Technical Meeting is going to present its results and country delegations will present their proposals; 5 interactive group work discussions around support to countries; and a plenary on country commitments and synchronized support to countries. The closing will address the way forward in countries as well as at the international level.

## Technical Meeting: Tuesday 19 June

08:30 – 09:00 **REGISTRATION**

09:00 – 10:00 **Official Opening**

**Chair:** Mamadou Noye (ADEA)

- Introduction and objectives/outputs of the Conference (10 minutes) – Mamadou Ndoye (ADEA)
- Welcome Address (10 minutes) – Isselmou Ould Boukhary (UNICEF/Mali), Atu Seck (World Bank/Mali)
- Brief statement on behalf of partners (5 minutes each) – Alassane Diawara (Mali lead donor), Jean-François Vavasseur (Mali education lead donor), Abdul-Aziz Wane (Mali IMF Representative), Maiga Kadiatou Baby ((COSC-EPT)
- Identification of the 23 country delegations (5 minutes)
- Welcome address by Mali high level official

**Rapporteur:** Nabendra Dahal (UNICEF/Bangladesh)

10:00 – 11:00 **1. The State-of-the-Art on School Fee Abolition (Plenary)**

**Chair:** Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta (UNESCO)

- Development of the School Fee Abolition Initiative/SFAI (15 minutes) – Dina Craissati (UNICEF/New York)
- Overview and experiences, issues and challenges on school fee abolition (20 minutes) – Bob Prouty (FTI Secretariat)
- General discussion

**Rapporteur:** Romain Babagbeto (UNICEF/Benin)

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:30 **2. Addressing the Challenges of Quality and Financing (Plenary)**

**Chair:** Aleta Williams (USAID)

- The challenges of quality and financing of school fee abolition (20 minutes) – Birger Fredriksen (World Bank Consultant)
- The SFAI Operational Guidance Paper (20 minutes) – George Godia (MOE/Kenya)
- Methodology of the Conference (10 minutes) – Dina Craissati (UNICEF/New York)
- Note on logistics

**Rapporteur:** Pantelee Kapichi (UNICEF/Tanzania)

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch at the International Conference Center**

14:00 – 16:00 **3. Planning for Adequate and Better Quality (Group Work)**

- Participants will break up into 5 groups.
- See guide on group sessions.
- One group will stay in the main Conference Room; the other 4 will be assigned to rooms with interpretation.
- **NOTE:** Session no. (ix) has been advanced to day one and session no. (iii) to day two because of availability issues.

**(i) Teacher politics**

*(FANTA DAMBA Plenary Room)*

**Presenter:** Bob Prouty (FTI Secretariat)  
**Facilitators:** Elie Jouen (Education International), Adote-Bah Adotevi (ADEA WGTP), Susan Opper (World Bank/DRC)  
**Country Respondents:** Guinea, Yemen

**(ii) Classroom construction and rehabilitation**

*(Wa Kamissoko Breakout Room 1)*

**Presenter:** Rene Dierkx (UNICEF/South Sudan)  
**Facilitators:** Augustine Agu (UNICEF/Ethiopia), Emily Echessa (Save the Children)  
**Country Respondents:** Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Liberia

**(ix) Public/private provision of education and cost-sharing**

*(Wa Kamissoko Breakout Room 2)*

**Presenter:** Igor Kitaev (UNESCO/IIEP), Martin Itoua (FAPE)  
**Facilitators:** Mark Bray (UNESCO/IIEP), Nabendra Dahal (UNICEF/Bangladesh)  
**Country Respondents:** Bangladesh, Haiti

**(iv) Empowering schools through capitation grants and Essential Learning Packages (ELP)**

*(Fode Kouyate Breakout Room)*

**Presenters:** Birger Fredriksen (World Bank Consultant), Staneala Beckley (UNICEF/WCARO)  
**Facilitators:** Jim Ackers (UNICEF/Tanzania), Cherif Diarra (ADEA WGEF), Aminata Maiga (UNICEF/Kenya)  
**Country Respondents:** Ghana, Benin, PNG

**(v) Strengthening school management as a key component of quality**

*(Toumani Kone Breakout Room)*

**Presenter:** Beifith Kouak Tiyab (CONFEMEN)  
**Facilitators:** Claudine Bourel (World Bank Institute), Pawan Kucita (UNICEF/Zambia)  
**Country Respondents:** Burkina Faso, Mozambique

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 18:00 **4. Planning for Adequate and Better Quality (Plenary)**

**Chair:** Mamadou Ndoeye (ADEA)

- Reporting back to Plenary by the 5 groups → the facilitators of each group will make a 10 minute presentation each (50 minutes)
- Discussion → the Chair will steer the discussion toward a synthesis and consensus on recommendations, capacity-building needs/research gaps and key messages → this synthesis will be presented by Charles Otoo (MOE/Ghana) to the Ministers at the Policy Meeting
- Organizational note for day two (5 minutes)

**Rapporteur:** Lieke van de Wiel (UNICEF/Yemen)

**19:30 RECEPTION HOSTED BY ADEA, UNICEF, WORLD BANK  
“Salam Hotel”**

**Technical Meeting: Wednesday 20 June**

08:30 – 10:30 **5. Planning for Financial Sustainability (Group Work)**

- Participants will break up into 5 groups.

- See guide on group sessions.
- One group will stay in the main Conference Room; the other 4 will be assigned to rooms with interpretation.

**(vi) Investments between salary and non-salary inputs**

*(FANTA DAMBA Plenary Room)*

**Presenters:** Lily Hailu (UNDP/UNESCO), Aboubacrine Alpha (UNESCO Consultant), Rachel Moussie (Action Aid)

**Facilitators:** Birger Fredriksen (World Bank Consultant), Abdul-Aziz Wane (Mali IMF Representative), Janice Dolan (Save the Children)

**Country Respondents:** Mali, Zambia

**(vii) Social assistance accompanying school fee abolition**

*(Wa Kamissoko Breakout Room 1)*

**Presenter:** Sheshi Kaniki (EPRI)

**Facilitators:** Ita Sheehy (UNICEF/Sri Lanka), David Gartner (Global AIDS Alliance)

**Country Respondents:** Lesotho, Malawi, Togo

**(viii) Is free secondary education affordable?**

*(Wa Kamissoko Breakout Room 2)*

**Presenter:** Keith Lewin (CREATE)

**Facilitators:** Mohamed Cherif Diarra (ADEA WGEF), Peter Devries (UNICEF/Ghana)

**Country Respondents:** Kenya, Tanzania

**(iii) Procurement and distribution of textbooks and school material**

*(Fode Kouyate Breakout Room)*

**Presenter:** Anthony Read (IE Partners), Denis Lacasse (Consultant)

**Facilitators:** Setotaw Yimam (UNICEF/Ethiopia)

**Country Respondents:** Ethiopia, Burundi

**(x) PRSPs and allocations to social services**

*(Toumani Kone Breakout Room)*

**Presenter:** Boubou Camara (UNDP)

**Facilitators:** Ian Hopwood (UNICEF/Senegal), Abdelmajid Tibouti (UNICEF/New York)

**Country Respondents:** Senegal, DRC

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **6. Planning for Financial Sustainability (Plenary)**

**Chair:** Keith Lewin (CREATE)

- Reporting back to Plenary by the 5 groups → the facilitators of each group will make a 10 minute presentation each (50 minutes)
- Discussion → the Chair will steer the discussion toward a synthesis and consensus on recommendations, capacity-building needs/research gaps and key messages → this synthesis will be presented by Aminata Fall (MinFin/Senegal) to the Ministers at the Policy Meeting

**Rapporteur:** Monique Roch (UNICEF/Togo)

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch at the International Conference Center**

14:30 – 16:00 **7. Way Forward in Countries (Work by Country Delegations)**

- Participants will break up into **23 country delegation groups**. International participants can join the country delegations.

- This work will take place in the different available spaces in the Conference Centre.
- Based on the deliberations of the first one and a half days, the 23 country delegations will develop **2/3-pages country proposals** for the way forward at the country level on policies and implementation strategies that ensure adequate and better quality and sustained financing in school fee abolition processes within national education plans.
- **The country delegations will share these proposals with their Ministers in preparation for the Policy Meeting.**
- The Proposals will include: status and challenges with regards to cost barriers to education; steps undertaken; needed reforms; capacity-building needs; research gaps.

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 18:00 **8. Way Forward in Regions (Work by Regions)**

- Country delegations will work in **three regional groups** as follows:
  - **West and Central Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo – Haiti will join this group
  - **East and Southern Africa:** Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia – Yemen will join this group
  - **Asia:** Bangladesh, PNG, Sri Lanka
- International participants can join the country delegations.
- The WCAR group will stay in the main Conference Room; the other 2 will be assigned to rooms with interpretation.
- Each regional group will (a) consolidate and synthesize the country proposals and (b) develop a regional proposal for activities that address regional specific issues, whether in the form of capacity- and knowledge-building, action research or other.
- **Each group will delegate a presenter on (a) and (b) for sessions 3., 4. and 5. of the Policy Meeting.**

**19:30 RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE MALI MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
“National Museum”**

**Policy Meeting: Thursday 21 June**

09:00 – 10:00 **Official Opening**

**Chair:** Mamadou Noye (ADEA)

- Summary of the first two days and introduction to the Policy Meeting (15 minutes) – Mamadou Noye (ADEA)
- Statements by UNICEF and the World Bank (15 minutes) – Ian Hopwood (UNICEF/Senegal), Susan Opper (World Bank/DRC)
- Key Note Address by Mali high level official

**Rapporteur:** Mgbekwere Ezirim (UNICEF/Sierra Leone)

**PRESS CONFERENCE**

10:00 – 11:30 **1. Addressing the Challenges of Quality in School Fee Abolition**

**Chair:** Hon. Marimantia Diarra (MinPlan/Mali)

- School fee abolition and education quality: Recommendations and key messages for sustaining quality and leveraging long-term and sustainable reforms in quality (15 minutes) – Charles Otoo (MOE/Ghana)
- Responses by Ministers (10 minutes each):

- Hon. Evelyn Sossouhounto Kaneho (MOE/Benin)
- Hon. Saidi Kibeya (MOE/Burundi)
- Hon. Mamphono Khaketla (MOE/Lesotho)
- Hon. Muhammad M.H. Bhuiyan (MOE/Bangladesh)
- Hon. Joseph D.Z. Korto (MOE/Liberia)

- Discussions

**Rapporteur:** Mitsue Uemura (UNICEF/PNG)

**11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break**

**12:00 – 13:30 2. Addressing the Challenges of Financing in School Fee Abolition**

**Chair:** Hon. Abou Bakar Traore (MinFin/Mali)

- Replacing the fees and financing the surge: Recommendations and key messages for sustaining financing within education budgets, within national budgets and through donor predictable support (15 minutes) – Aminata Fall (MinFin/Senegal)
- Responses by Ministers (10 minutes each):
  - Hon. George Saitoti (MOE/Kenya)
  - Hon. Pascal Irénée Koupaki (MinFin/Benin)
  - Hon. Omba Sakatolo (MOE/DRC)
  - Hon. Geoffrey Lungwangwa (MOE/Zambia)
  - Hon. Komi Sélom Klassou (MOE/Togo)
- Discussions

**Rapporteur:** Noel Ihebuzor (UNICEF/DRC)

**13:30 – 15:00 Lunch at the International Conference Center**

**15:00 – 16:30 3. Country and Regional Proposals on the Way Forward: WCAR**

**Chair:** Hon. Omba Sakatolo (MOE/DRC)

- Presentation of the consolidated country and regional proposal of WCAR (25 minutes)
- Remarks by the Ministers and Vice-Ministers on commitments for the way forward

**Rapporteur:** Mamadou Bagayoko (UNICEF/Burkina Faso)

**16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break**

**17:00 – 18:00 4. Country and Regional Proposals on the Way Forward (Asia)**

**Chair:** Hon. Murugan Sachithanadan (MOE/Sri Lanka)

- Presentation of the consolidated country and regional proposals of Asia (15 minutes)
- Remarks by the Ministers and Vice-Ministers on commitments for the way forward

**Rapporteur:** Ita Sheehy (UNICEF/Sri Lanka)

**7:00 LAUNCH OF THE ADEA AFRICA EDUCATION JOURNALISM AWARD  
FOLLOWED BY DINNER HOSTED BY MALI MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
“Modibo Keita Memorial”**

**Policy Meeting: Friday 22 June**

**09:00 – 10:30 5. Country and Regional Proposals on the Way Forward (ESAR)**

**Chair:** Hon. Maria Antónia Xavier Dias (MOE/Mozambique)

- Presentation of the country and regional proposals of ESAR (25 minutes)
- Remarks by the Ministers and Vice-Ministers on commitments for the way forward

**Rapporteur:** Catherine Chirwa (UNICEF/Malawi)

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 11:30 **6. Planning for Country Support (Introduction in Plenary)**

**Chair:** Mamadou Ndoye (ADEA)

- The results of the “Keeping Our Promises in Education” High Level Event in Brussels early May, the “Financing for Development” Meeting in Ghana endmay and the 2007 G8 Summit in Germany in June (10 minutes) – Vincent Douillet (AFD Mali)
- Questions by participants

**Rapporteur:** Aminata Maiga (UNICEF/Kenya)

11:30 – 13:00 **7. Planning for Country Support (Group Work)**

- Participants will break up into 5 groups.
- One group will stay in the main Conference Room; the other 4 will be assigned to rooms with interpretation.
- Each group will identify a rapporteur for the written report and a presenter for the oral reporting back to plenary.

- **Donor support and the role of the FTI**

*(FANTA DAMBA Plenary Room)*

This group will discuss the added value of the FTI in school fee abolition processes and the integration of school fee abolition strategies within FTI processes of support to countries in planning, implementation, capacity-building, monitoring, and resource mobilization.

**Chair:** Hon. Abdulaziz S. Bin Habtoor (MOE/Yemen)

**Presenters:** Bob Prouty (FTI Secretariat), Luc Gacougnolle (FTI Secretariat)

- **Communication for development**

*(Wa Kamissoko Breakout Room 1)*

This group will explore the ways to work with countries to create a better understanding of the cost barriers to education, to further consensus among development partners on the strategies to adopt, and to work with communities, parents' associations, teachers and civil society in support of education.

**Chair:** Hon. Amadou Diemdiouda Dicko (MOE/Burkina Faso)

**Presenter:** Narcisse de Medeiros (UNICEF/Togo), Lawalley Cole (ADEA COMED)

- **Capacity-building, monitoring and research**

*(Wa Kamissoko Breakout Room 2)*

This group will outline the main areas where capacities will need to be built and research undertaken and presenters will make some propositions on how support to countries could be organized on the way forward in these areas.

**Chair:** Hon. Martin S. Banya (MOE/Sierra Leone)

**Presenters:** Mark Bray (UNESCO/IIEP), Claudine Bourel (World Bank Institute), Kathryn Toure (ROCARE), Keith Lewin (CREATE), Aleta Williams (USAID)

- **Costing tools MDG assessments**

*(Fode Kouyate Breakout Room)*

This group will introduce the Education Policy and Strategy Simulation Model (EPSSim) designed by UNESCO in collaboration with UNDP, to assist countries in planning for EFA and preparing MDG-based national education strategies, and how it can be used for the planning of school fee abolition.

**Chair:** Hon. Nasser Saleh Al-Harbi (MinFin/Yemen)

**Presenters:** Lily Hailu (UNDP/UNESCO), Paula Mendonca (ActionAid/Mozambique)

- **The role of civil society**

*(Toumani Kone Breakout Room)*

This group will discuss the role of civil society in supporting school fee abolition processes at country and international levels.

**Chair:** Hon. James E. Roberts (MinPlan/Liberia)

**Presenters:** Janice Dolan (Save the Children), Ahmed M.R. Chowdhury (BRAC/Bangladesh), Philippe Ngwala (EDC-PAGE/DRC)

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch at the International Conference Center**

14:00 – 16:00 **8. Planning for Country Support (Plenary)**

**Chair:** Hon. Joseph Kallon (MinFin/Sierra Leone)

- Reporting back to Plenary by the 5 groups with discussion after each report (20 minutes each)
- The way forward with SFAI (10 minutes) – Mamadou Ndoeye (ADEA)
- Responses from the Ministers (10 minutes)

**Rapporteur:** Stella Kaabwe (UNICEF/Liberia)

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 17:30 **Closing**

**Chair:** Hon. George Saitoti (MOE/Kenya)

- Appreciations: Joseph Logha (MOE/PNG), Hon. Pascal Irénée Koupaki (MinFin/Benin), Brajesh Banth (ADB), Mark Bray (UNESCO/IIEP), Maaïke van Vliet (Netherlands/Yemen), David Gartner (Global AIDS Alliance), Noël Houssou (Ouémé-Plateau Region Students' Parents Association/Benin)
- Appreciations: Cherif Diarra (ADEA), Ian Hopwood (UNICEF/Senegal), Susan Opper (World Bank)
- Formal closing by Mali high level official

**Rapporteur:** Cesar Pazos (UNICEF/Haiti)

**PRESS CONFERENCE**