



# REGIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN SUPPORT OF THE 2011 ECOSOC ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
12-13 MAY 2011  
CO-ORGANIZED BY UNESCO-CEPAL-DAES-UNICEF

## CONCEPT NOTE

### I. Background

The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) is a key function of the Economic and Social Council established by Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit. It was mandated as an instrument to track progress and step up efforts towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by the 2015 target date<sup>1</sup>.

The positive impact of education on poverty reduction and overall human development is well documented. This central role of education for achieving all MDGs is clearly reaffirmed in the 2010 MDG Summit outcome document. Higher levels of education outcomes are both a condition for, as well as a result of, progress in MDGs 1 (poverty reduction and elimination of hunger), 3 (gender equality), 4, 5, and 6 (health). While it is recognized that economic rates of return to individuals' and society's investments in education are highest at the primary level, MDG 2 is an important catalyst for reaching other development goals

precisely because it provides access to post-primary levels of education and training that impact significantly on other dimensions of development. In accelerating progress towards the MDGs, it is thus essential to increase the impact of education in achieving a wider range of development goals by continuing to pursue the broader Dakar Education for All Framework for Action adopted in 2000.

The theme of the 2011 ECOSOC AMR is "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education". The Review will be held in Geneva during the ECOSOC High-Level Segment in July 2011. DESA is working closely with UNESCO, ECLAC and UNICEF in planning the AMR.

Over the last four years, the ECOSOC AMR has assumed an important role to assess and review progress (or lack thereof) in the implementation of these goals. The AMR process features three main elements: national voluntary presentations, country-led regional reviews and a global review, based on a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General. These elements are complemented by an innovation fair; and,

prior to the session, by a global preparatory meeting and e-forums on the theme of the AMR<sup>2</sup>.

The first AMR was held in July 2007 in Geneva and focused on poverty and hunger (MDG1). The following AMR sessions focused on, respectively, goals related to sustainable development (MDG7) in 2008; health (MDG 4, 5, 6) in 2009 and gender equality and the empowerment of women (MDG3) in June/July 2010.

All AMR sessions are preceded by multi-stakeholder regional consultations. In 2007, the Government of Brazil, with the support of ECLAC and DESA, hosted a regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean on the "Key challenges of financing poverty and hunger eradication in Latin America" (Brasilia, 17-18 May). In 2008, Bahrain hosted a regional meeting for Western Asia on "Sustainable Urbanization" (Manama, 1-2 June). In 2009, there were five regional ministerial meetings hosted respectively by: Sri Lanka for South Asia on "Financing Strategies for Health Care" (Colombo, 16-18 March); China for the Asia Pacific on "Promoting Health Literacy" (Beijing, 29-30 April); Qatar for Western Asia on "Addressing

<sup>1</sup> A/RES/60/1, Para. 155 (c).

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amr.shtml>

Non-communicable Diseases and Injuries: Major Challenges to Sustainable Development in the 21st Century” (Doha, 10-11 May); Jamaica for Latin America and the Caribbean on “HIV and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” (Montego Bay, 5-6 June) jointly organized by ECLAC, UN-AIDS, PAHO and DESA; and Ghana for Africa on “e-Health” (Accra, 10-11 June). In 2010, Senegal hosted a regional meeting for West Africa on “Women and Health” (Dakar, 12-13 January)<sup>3</sup>.

Current AMR preparatory activities include the following elements:

#### a. Regional Preparatory Meetings in preparation of the 2011 AMR

In addition to Latin America and the Caribbean, preparatory regional meetings, which capture specific regional issues in education and ensure multi-stakeholder involvement, are planned for Asia and the Pacific (Jomtien, Thailand, 24 March 2011); Africa (Lome, Togo, 12 April 2011); and Western Asia (held in Doha, Qatar, 9 December 2010). Summary reports of the regional meetings will be presented by Host Governments at the July 2011 AMR session.

#### b. National Presentations:

The following 13 countries have volunteered to make National Presentations in the 2011 ECOSOC AMR: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus (Republic of), Germany, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar (State of), Samoa, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivian Republic of).

## II. OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED VALUE-ADDED OF THE REGIONAL MEETING

### Objectives

The objectives of the meeting include:

- Examine progress in achieving the education agenda in the region and related challenges, especially those that could best be addressed through regional cooperation
- Examine in greater depth specific aspects of education issues with focus particularly relevant to the countries in the region
- Exchange lessons learned

### Value-added of the meeting

The value added of the regional meeting includes:

- Provide an opportunity to discuss national and regional education issues with a variety of actors including government officials, civil society, private sector, international institutions, NGOs, etc.
- Promote stakeholder engagement - governments, civil society, UN system institutions and private sector - early on in the AMR process
- Support the preparations of the AMR July session and enrich the global review. The outcome of the regional review will feed into the 2011 AMR.
- Promote the launch of new partnership initiatives at the AMR July 2011 session, in Geneva.

### Expected results

The expected results include:

- Stakeholder engagement - governments, civil society, UN system institutions and private sector - early on in the AMR process

- Enriched national education policy agenda through the exchange of international lessons learned
- Participation of new actors and new partnerships in the implementation of the education agenda.

## III. UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 2011

- Location: Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 12/13 May (confirmed)
- Approximately 110 participants, including Ministers from 41 countries of the region.
- The host government has agreed to cover costs for transportation to/from airport, one dinner and the conference facilities.
- The organizing partners will have to cover airfares, lodging, other costs for logistics, and translation (French, English, Spanish).
- The MoE of Argentina has agreed to make a presentation at the regional meeting as well as in Geneva.
- The background note will be finalized by UNESCO and ECLAC.
- Proposed themes for the meeting: educational agenda of the region; education quality and its dimensions; teaching in LAC; ICTs in education; equity and public policies for education and the social sector.

<sup>3</sup> The reports of the consultations are available at: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/amr/index.shtml>.