

Insert your organisation(s) logo(s) here. If you have many organisations signing on, this may be best listed at the end of the letter.

**TEMPLATE LOBBY LETTER:** *This template is intended to be used and adapted at country-level. Any areas highlighted in yellow indicate an area to be filled in with national level information. If it works better for your context to delete the GCE logo, please feel free to do this.*

**Re: The Global Partnership for Education Replenishment 2020 Conference.**

On 2nd February 2018, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) will hold an historic replenishment financing conference in Senegal, co‐hosted with the government of France. The replenishment process aims to secure US$2 billion a year of new additional external resources, from partner countries and donors, by 2020, for their global fund.

This ‘360 degree’ GPE Financing Conference will expect all partners to commit a pledge towards implementing [GPE 2020](http://www.globalpartnership.org/about-us/strategy), the partnership’s strategic plan. Donors will be requested to support by replenishing the GPE’s global fund, which targets support to financing gaps in developing country education plans. Developing Country Partners (DCPs), for their part, will be required to make concrete timebound commitments to maintaining or increasing financing.

In advance of the financing conference, the Global Campaign for Education, an international movement of civil society organisations, whose members include international and regional organisations, as well as national coalitions in 95 countries, is calling on all partners to make ambitious pledges. We call on Developing Country Partner governments to demonstrate inspirational leadership in advance of the GPE Financing Conference by making timebound and ambitious pledges, committing to take action in the following ways:

* In line with the Education 2030 Framework for Action and the GPE benchmark,[[1]](#footnote-1) countries should pledge to maintain their budget share allocated to education at, or above, 20%. Countries that fall short, should pledge to include ambitious steps towards increasing their share of the national budget spent on education.
* Demonstrate how pledges will be financed. This could include a commitment to expanding tax bases in progressive ways, to at least 20% tax to GDP ratio,[[2]](#footnote-2) (for example by ending harmful tax incentives, challenging avoidance, raising new earmarked taxes) and allocating a fair share of those funds to education.
* Frame pledges in terms of how increased resources might help achieve the GPE 2020 strategic priorities of improving equity, inclusion and quality in education.
* Ensure commitments are credible with clear baseline data, clearly expressed targets and a commitment to track and report on them over time in a fully transparent way.

At a national level [xxxx name organisations/coalition] call on [xxx insert lobby target/name of country name] to demonstrate [this space should be used to outline your own CSO demand]

By taking leadership and making ambitious pledges, Developing Country Partner governments are in a strong position to call on donors to build on their efforts.

Currently, bilateral aid to education directed towards the world’s lowest income countries, with the largest gaps in basic education, is in decline.[[3]](#footnote-3) The GPE model directly challenges this, with resources targeting support to education sector plans in countries and areas with the most need.[[4]](#footnote-4) The current GPE replenishment round must generate significant new financial commitments, in order to achieve the financing breakthrough required to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) and the commitment to quality, equitable, inclusive education for all by 2030. This is why we call on all Developing Country Partners to make pledges early – in advance of the GPE replenishment date of 2nd February – to leverage greater commitments from donors, and ensure they pay their fair share.

For more on our call for a successful GPE Financing Conference, see the attached briefing note: *Funding the Future: An action plan for funding the Global Partnership for Education*.

**Next steps: making a financing pledge in [xxxx country]**

By now, your Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance will have both received a letter and a ‘pledging template’ from the Global Partnership for Education’s International Secretariat, to be completed ahead of the financing conference on February 2nd 2018, and announced during it.

Your help is crucial to making the GPE replenishment campaign a success. We would welcome a meeting with you to discuss ways of working together in ensuring this success, and how the work of the Global Campaign for Education can also support a successful GPE replenishment.

As a global civil society network, the Global Campaign for Education works with members across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Europe, and North America. As part of our commitment to the Global Partnership, we stand globally united to create a successful GPE Financing Conference in Dakar on February 2nd 2018.

Education is the critical enabler for achieving the entire 2030 sustainable development agenda, towards a world of dignity, justice, prosperity, and peace. As such, a successful GPE replenishment is vital to bring new hope that the next generation of girls and boys to ensure they are equipped with the skills necessary to contribute to economic and social prosperity of [xxx – insert country name].

Yours sincerely

[insert signature and designation here]

1. The allocation of 20% of national budgets towards education, is an internationally recognised benchmark of the resources required for achieving quality education; it is also accepted that, in some countries with the furthest to go in delivering quality basic education for all, investments may need to be larger. This is endorsed in the UN-backed action plan for achieving SDG 4 - the Education 2030 Framework for Action. The GPE uses this as their benchmark, with a Funding Model which incentivises DCPs to reach this target providing increased resources to DCPs that commit to steadily increasing education allocations to 20% of their national budget [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This is a UN-accepted minimum required to deliver basic public services. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The amount of aid allocated to education has been falling for six years in a row, shows a new policy paper, *Aid to Education is Stagnating and Not Going to Countries Most in Need*, published by UNESCO’s Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The framework better targets GPE funds to countries and communities where the needs are the greatest. Allocations are based on primary and secondary school completion rates and economic status (gross domestic product per capita), with an additional weighting for countries affected by fragility and conflict. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)