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United Nations Girls'
Education Initiative

Summary of the Dakar Declaration on Accelerating Girls' Education and Gender Equality

The Dakar Declaration on Accelerating Girls' Education and Gender Equality was adopted by participants in the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) global conference, 'Engendering Empowerment: Education and Equality' (E4). A brief summary is below.

Considerable progress has been made in expanding girls' education: 22 million more girls enrolled in primary schools from 1999 to 2007, and gender gaps in primary school enrolments have narrowed in many countries.

However, poor quality of education, extreme poverty, structural inequality and violence against girls continue to jeopardize the achievement of the education and gender-related Education for All and Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Urgent action in support of girls' rights to education, gender equality and empowerment opportunities is needed. Therefore, interventions for girls' education must be multi-sectoral, and education policies, strategies, plans and budgets must be gender-responsive.

We, the E4 conference participants, envision a world in which a special initiative for girls' education is no longer needed – a world in which all girls and boys are empowered through quality education to realize their full potential.

Dakar, Senegal, 20 May 2010

for more information go to: www.ungei.org