UNGEI and IATT on Education Recommendations

At a joint meeting between the UN Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) and the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education on December 8, 2009, a review of the 2010 Global Monitoring Report found that issues relating to gender are well addressed. Discussions resulted in the following recommendations:

- Reaching the marginalized and the hard to reach will require innovative mitigating and adaptation strategies. We agree that “business as usual” won’t work. Additional finances are necessary but insufficient.

- Governments, supported by financial institutions and other development partners, need to establish social protection mechanisms to safeguard human development and address marginalization, especially for girls. This is particularly important in times of economic and financial crises.

- Governments and donors must at least maintain current financial commitments to education, and ensure that budgets are gender-responsive and address marginalization.

- Additional capacity-building and technical assistance may be required. We recommend that the HLG encourage countries to adopt and use the inter-agency equity and inclusion tool in their EFA planning process.

- We agree that poverty and gender inequality are two dominant and cross-cutting factors that compound marginalization and exclusion. We recommend that the interaction between these factors figure prominently in future reports.

- We are concerned that HIV and AIDS have not been adequately addressed in this year’s Global Monitoring Report. The AIDS epidemic is a development crisis that is impacting heavily on educational access and outcomes in many settings. We recommend that the importance of this issue be considered in future reports.