



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

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The Assistant Director-General for Education

Ref: ED/EFA/12

Dear Colleagues,

We are approaching Global EFA Week, our major annual EFA advocacy event, which this year will take place from 24 to 30 April next. As in previous years, I would like to encourage your collaboration to build on our successful experience in 2005 of mobilizing 5 million people who asked world leaders to "Educate to End Poverty".

This year's EFA Week will focus on **teachers** with the slogan "**Every Child Needs A Teacher**". As you know, the theme of teacher is also the current strategic focus of UNESCO, represented by the Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA) which is one of its three Core Initiatives. During the week, the following key messages will be addressed: 1) achieving EFA depends on having enough teachers (40 pupils per teacher), 2) teachers need to be professionally trained, adequately paid and well-motivated to achieve the EFA goals, and 3) in order to achieve this, there must be sufficient financing for the expansion of education systems. UNESCO, once again, is teaming up with the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), a coalition of over 600 NGOs, to spread these messages across the world to mobilize interest, commitment and actions of politicians and leaders. More information is available on GCE's website: <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/action/action.html>.

The main events which might be planned in each country are as follows:

- Before and during EFA Week 2006, a dossier called "**The Case for Teachers**" will be created by teachers and learners. This dossier will compile evidence on the contribution of teachers to delivering EFA. The dossiers will be used mainly in three ways: 1) to be handed over during "Officials Back to School" Day, 2) to be presented during the "Big Hearing" and 3) to be collected and delivered to a Head of State, Minister or other high-level officials.
- On a nationally agreed "**Official Back to School**" Day during the EFA Week, politicians, parliamentarians or district-level representatives or dignitaries are invited to visit a school, non-formal education centre, or adult literacy centre. The dossiers will be presented and discussed with those visitors.

Directors of UNESCO Field Offices

- A national event called the “**Big Hearing**” will be organized at a central national landmark to provide opportunities for public debate on the issues raised by “The Case for Teachers”. The dossiers will be presented to eminent people, including the President or Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Finance and donors as well as celebrities, teacher union leaders or journalists and others. When the dossiers with the name of the authors are given to an eminent person, she/he will be requested to pledge to improve the situation and write back to the authors to report what has been done to keep their commitments.

UNESCO Headquarters, in collaboration with partners, is planning to do the following:

- The Director-General will write to the Heads of the EFA partner agencies to enlist their co-operation at the country level.
- I have written to Education Ministers (copying National Commissions, Permanent Delegations and the Global Campaign for Education) inviting them to facilitate the planned events and to inform their Heads of State/Prime Ministers. I have also requested them to spread the news that as many politicians as possible are invited to visit a school during EFA Week. A copy of this letter is attached.
- The new UIS report on teachers will be launched during EFA Week 2006. We are planning to organize a launch event, most likely at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
- The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (7,500 schools in 170 countries) (ASP Network) is being invited to participate in EFA Week. Appropriate documentation is being prepared for despatch to national ASP co-ordinators. The ASP schools will inform UNESCO Headquarters directly of the events they intend to take part in and we in turn will inform the Global Campaign.
- We also intend to inform all the major donors about the campaign to solicit their support and participation. They may wish to finance some events.
- We are preparing a special EFA Week website, which will be linked with partners’ websites, to publicize the campaign and provide UNESCO documents related to teachers. You will find it on www.unesco.org/education/efa.
- We are planning to address the 40th Anniversary of ILO/UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Teachers.
- Efforts will be made to ensure adequate media coverage. The possibility of financing a field trip for one or more journalists to cover the events such as the “Official Back to School” Day organized by one of the Associated Schools is being explored.

In light of the above-mentioned, I strongly encourage you to participate in the EFA Week in your country or region in collaboration with partners. A list of actions that may be considered by your office is attached for this purpose. I would like you to know that, apart from the listed suggestions, you are of course free and indeed encouraged to conduct during EFA Week whatever awareness-raising activities on teachers that you consider appropriate.

Please be kind enough to share this information with all your staff. I wish you a very successful EFA Week.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Smith

cc: Directors UNESCO Institutes
Global Campaign for Education

*Attachments: 1) List of actions that may be taken by the UNESCO Field Offices
2) Copy of letter to Education Ministers*

Global EFA Week
List of suggested actions that may be taken by the UNESCO Field Offices

- To facilitate the compiling of the dossier called “**The Case for Teachers**”, the “**Official Back to School**” Day and the **Big Hearing** by providing information to teachers, learners, NGOs and individuals interested and to participate in as many of the events as you see fit. Many of you will be well placed to advise NGOs, teachers and others on how to proceed. In doing so, please identify, where necessary, teachers working in difficult circumstances to shed particular light on them.
- To participate personally in the “**Official Back to School**” Day and the **Big Hearing** by, for instance, being present with the Head of State or Prime Minister or the Minister of Education or Finance when these events take place
- To plan a special event for the regional or national launch of the UIS Report on teachers during the EFA Week 2006. We will prepare a kit for the launch, including such materials as a copy of the report, press release and regional fact sheet, to be sent to you prior to the EFA Week. If you can organize a media event for the Report launch, please inform Sue Williams of the Bureau of Public Information (E-mail: s.williams@unesco.org) and Amy Otchet of UIS (E-mail: a.otchet@uis.unesco.org)
- We have informed the Associated Schools’ National Coordinators that, should it prove necessary, they may approach your office for coordinating their works. If you have any questions about the ASP network, please contact Jean O’Sullivan from the Division for the Promotion of Quality Education (E-mail: j.osullivan@unesco.org)
- To mobilize the UNESCO Clubs in your countries. Many of them are very active and may be glad to help you.
- In addition, to mobilize institutes for teacher training located in your country or region. The role they play is crucial in approaching this year’s theme.
- For matters related to UNESCO’s cooperation with NGOs in Education, Sabine Detzel of ED/EFA (E-mail: s.detzel@unesco.org) is ready to coordinate with you as a focal point at Headquarters.
- If you have any information that you think could be posted on the EFA website, in particular, teacher-related materials or documents and reports on EFA Week events in your country or region, please share it with Patrica Toigo of the Executive office (E-mail: p.toigo@unesco.org).
- As has been the case in previous years, it is also a good opportunity to plan an event for the launch of the *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 on Literacy for Life* in those countries which have not yet done so. The Report in French will be available for Global EFA Week 2006 in addition to a Power Point Presentation and regional overviews. The Report Team can also provide some financial support for launches and policy seminars. Please get in touch with Cynthia Guttman of the Global Monitoring Report Team on this matter (E-mail: C.Guttman@unesco.org)

- Please address or celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the joint ILO/UNESCO Recommendations on the Status of Teachers during the EFA Week 2006. You may wish to consult with Mariana Patru of the Division of Higher Education (E-mail: m.patru@unesco.org) on this matter.
- Efforts should be made to ensure adequate media coverage of these activities.
- Some offices have already budgeted for EFA Week. We can provide modest amounts to needy offices on presentation of a proposal on a first-come-first-served basis. For this, please contact Mari Yasunaga of the Division of the International Co-ordination and Monitoring for EFA (E-mail: m.yasunaga@unesco.org; Tel: 33 1 45 68 11 40; Fax: 33 1 45 68 56 26).