

Education civil society organisations contribute strongly in GPE Board meeting and lead-up processes

5-7 December 2017, Paris, France



CSOs have been contributing to GPE committees and processes to ensure civil society perspectives are included.

Civil society education organisations from global, regional, and national levels collaborated to contribute strongly to the Board meeting of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and its lead-up processes. Prior to the Board Meeting, civil society organisations (CSOs) held its own meeting from 3-4 December to prepare for its interventions at the GPE Board meeting. A further earlier meeting of GPE Developing Country Partners (DCPs) constituency of government officials was held from 29 November-1 December, also in Paris, involving CSO representatives.

For some months prior to the meetings in Paris, CSOs have been contributing to important GPE committees and processes to ensure civil society perspectives are included. The GPE Strategy and Impact Committee (SIC) has been undertaking the process of conceptualising and developing modes of operation of two important GPE funding mechanisms relevant to CSOs, namely the Advocacy and Social Accountability (ASA) fund and the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) fund. The current Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF) programme, which importantly funds 19 national education coalitions in the Asia Pacific region and over 60 coalitions globally, will be incorporated into the ASA mechanism. The exact details of this incorporation are still being discussed and will be finalised mid-2018.

Civil society is represented on the GPE board through three constituencies – (1) CSO1 for ‘northern’ CSOs (2) CSO2 for ‘southern’ CSOs, and (3) CSO3 for teacher organisations. The representatives for each of these constituencies worked hard to ensure the broader global CSO networks were involved in key GPE programme developments in the lead up months, and in ensuring a strong civil society perspective in GPE Board decisions. GCE, ASPBAE, and its regional counterparts CLADE (Latin America), ANCEFA (Africa), and ACEA (Arab region) have all been actively participating in this process, along with CSOs from Europe and also Education International.

Developing Country Partners (DCP) pre-Board meeting

29 November-1 December 2017, Paris, France

The Developing Country Partners (DCP) constituency pre-Board meeting consisted of government officials from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. The CSO2 delegation attended the meeting as observers but was invited to intervene in the DCP’s discussions around agenda tackled by various working committees in GPE such as by the Strategy and Impact Committee, Finance and Risk Committee, Grants and Performance Committee, and Governance and Ethics Committee.



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Significant interventions were made by civil society around measuring domestic financing commitments, inclusion of teaching as one of the key themes to be funded under the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) funding mechanism, reflecting civil society input to and coherence of the Advocacy and

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Social Accountability (ASA) funding mechanism, and alignment of GPE grants to national education systems.

Civil society organisations pre-Board meeting

3-4 December 2017, Paris, France

The CSO pre-Board meeting was organised by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and consisted of representatives from each of CSO1, CSO2, and CSO3 constituencies, including the GPE Board members from these constituencies, one of whom was Zehra Arshad, Coordinator of PCE Pakistan (an ASPBAE member). ASPBAE's Bernie Lovegrove and Helen Dabu also participated as Asia Pacific regional focal points. Some representatives from the DCP constituency participated in certain sessions of the CSO meeting as a way of fostering reciprocal engagement.

CSO representatives agreed on a final [joint CSO position paper](#), which was actively used by the CSO Board representatives to inform their interventions at the Board meeting.

GPE Board meeting

At the GPE Board, interventions by the CSO Board members were strong and well informed. CSOs also held side caucus meetings to re-group and exchange on how the discussions were unfolding. Side meetings were organised with some Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Secretariat staff to discuss particular issues and gain clarity and common ground before Board decisions were taken.

Regarding the Advocacy and Social Accountability (ASA) funding mechanism, CSOs stressed the importance of ensuring smooth transition/continuity between the Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF) and its successor under the ASA, as well as ensuring transparency and clarity of processes, such as the establishment of a technical advisory group and its relation to GPE governance, especially on decision making and approval process.

Regarding the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) funding mechanism, 4 themes will commence in 2018, namely Learning Assessments, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Gender Equality, and Data Systems. Through strong CSO interventions, the Board approved the additional themes of Teaching and Learning, and Equity and Inclusion to be funded in 2019. The GPE Strategy and Impact Committee (SIC) will oversee the detailed design of the KIX mechanism and learning platform, which it was agreed will foster learning exchange among all GPE partners.

Another issue discussed concerned the GPE Results Framework Indicator 10 on domestic financing. CSOs called for GPE to align its methodology with that of UIS (to include debt servicing as part of total public expenditure). In light of CSO interventions, including an earlier [letter signed by Education International \(EI\), academics and other institutions](#), the Board decided that the SIC should review the methodology used and returned for discussion at the June 2018 Board meeting.

All in all, while many issues discussed are still ongoing, the GPE Board meeting and surrounding meetings were another positive example of effective coordinated collaboration by education CSOs to

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contribute strongly in the GPE Board meeting and processes. Further details regarding issues discussed at the GPE Board meeting can be made available by GCE and ASPBAE.

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