



Remarks by Bilal Aurang Zeb Durrani, Country Representative, UNICEF

First Meeting of the Accção Conjunta da Educação em Timor-Leste (ACETL)

Date: 28 February 2023

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- Your Excellency Minister of Education, Dr Armindo Maia
 - Your Excellency Ambassador of Portugal, representatives from development partner organizations, UN agencies, civil society partners, DGs and National Directors of the Ministry of Education, President of INFORDEPE, Municipal Education Directors, Media, Ladies and gentlemen

Bom Dia!

1. As Co-Chair of the ACETL, I am delighted to be a part of this first meeting of ACETL in 2023. I thank you all for your participation and look forward to your active contribution to the discussions.

2. I am pleased to note that the Director Generals and the National Directors were actively engaged in discussions in finalizing the agenda for today's meeting and thank the DGs and Directors for their commitment.
3. In the last meeting of the ACETL in March 2022, we agreed on three key action points:
 - a. To have regular ACETL meetings at strategic Level with His Excellency the Minister at least twice a year
 - b. To revive the technical working groups and have more frequent thematic discussions led by respective DGs
 - c. To undertake a Joint Sector, Review as recommended by the GPE for a quick stock-take of the sector vis a vis the Education Sector Plan
4. I am aware that not much progress has been made on these actions. I hope in today's meeting we can agree on a way forward for the three action points from our last meeting. I am also happy to note that today's agenda includes agreement on Technical Working Groups which was one of the action points.
5. As agreed in the last meeting, we think that it is important to proceed with the Joint Sector Review as soon as possible with focus on factors affecting the quality of education so that we as partners can agree on ways of supporting the ministry of education to improve the quality of education.
6. I would also like to recall that in 2022, in preparation for the Transforming Education Summit, several consultations were held at municipal and national level with a range of stakeholders. The discussions and suggestions from these consultations can and must be used as part of the join sector review.
7. It would be useful to develop a monitoring framework to help us all to track progress against the commitments made in the national statement submitted to the Transforming Education Summit in September last year, including increasing access to education for children who are out of school, and for use of digital assets to expand access to learning for all children.
8. We congratulate the government on its commitment at the TES for increasing funding toward the proportion of state budget on education and developing a strategy for addressing learning loss/recovery from COVID-19's impact, including on literacy and numeracy.
9. Also on the agenda is a discussion on the selection of a new co-chair for the ACETL. UNICEF is pleased to have been supporting this role for the past decade, since 2013, when the ACETL was first established. We are happy to continue in this role or support any partner taking on this role.



10. At this juncture I would like to recall that the ACETL is an important platform where education sector policy dialogue takes place under the leadership of the Ministry of Education, to provide effective, coordinated support to the government to achieve the education sector outcomes.
11. We should use this forum to strategize and jointly work on accelerating progress in access to quality education, beginning from pre-primary education.
12. The 'coordinating agency' of the ACETL plays a vital role by acting as a communication link between government and other members of the local education group and also between the group and Secretariat of the Global Partnership for Education.
13. Later in the agenda, the GPE Secretariat will also update us on the process for accessing the new grants for which Timor-Leste is eligible under GPE's new funding modality.
14. I realize that the agenda is very packed for this meeting. I wish you all productive discussions during the sessions ahead and look forward to hearing the outcomes and recommendations later on.
15. We congratulate and thank the government for increasing funding for pre-primary education in the recent budget allocations, and the partners for their commitments.
16. I thank Your Excellency Minister Dr Armindo Maia for your continued leadership in taking the education agenda forward and for seeing the value of the ACETL platform in Timor-Leste.

17. Thank you and obrigado barak.



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Below is the Tetun translation

- Sua Exelensia Ministru Edukasaun, Dr. Armindo Maia
- Sua Exelensia Embaxador Portugal, representante husi organizasaun parseiru dezvoltamentu, Agência ONU sira, sociedade sivil, Diretor Jeral no Diretor Nasional husi Ministeriu Edukasaun, Presidente INFORDEPE, Diretor Edukasaun Munisipal sira, Media no maluk sira hotu.

Bom Dia!

1. Hanesan koprezidente ba Asaun Konjunta da Educação em Timor-Leste, hau kontente tebes hodi hola parte iha iha ACETL nia primeiru enkontru iha 2023. Hau agradese bai ta boot sira hotu nia partisipasaun no kontribuisaun ativa bai ha diskusaun sira.
2. Hau iha prazer hodi observa katak señor/a diretor jeral no diretor nacional sira mak envolve ativamente iha diskusaun sira ba finalizasaun agenda enkontru ohin lora no agradese diretor jeral no diretor nacional sira-nia kompromisu.

3. Iha enkontru ikus ACETL nia iha Marsu 2022, ami konkorda ona kona-ba pontu asaun xave tolu:
 - a. Atu iha enkontru ACETL regular sira iha nivel estratejikuho Sua Exelensia Ministru pelumenus tinan ida dala-rua
 - b. Hamoris fali grupu servisu tekniku sira no halo diskusaun tematiku beibeik lidera husi respetiva direktor jeral sira
 - c. Realiza revizaun sesaun konjunta konforme rekomenda ona husi GPE ba inventarizasaun rapidu setor ne'e vis a vis Planu Setor Edukasaun
4. Hau konsiente katak ladun iha progresu ne'ebé mak ita halo ona kona-ba asoins hirak ne'e. Hau iha esperansa ba enkontru ohin loron ita bele to'o ba iha akordu ida kona-ba dalan ba oin ba asaun tolu sira ne'e iha ita-nia enkontru ikus. Hau mós kontente hodi haree agenda ohin loron ne'e inklui akordu ida kona-ba Grupu Servisu Tékniku mak hanesa pontu ida husi asaun sira ne'e.
5. Hanesan hau konkorda ona iha enkontru ikus nian, ami hanoin katak importante atu halao avansa ba Revizaun Setor Konjunta ho lalais ho foku ba fator sira mak afeta ba kualidade edukasaun atua mi no mós parseiru sir abele konkorda kona-ba apoiu ba ministerium edukasaun hodi mellora kualidade edukasaun.
6. Hau hakarak mós atu hanoin hikas tinan rihun rua, rua-nulu resin-rua, iha preparasaun ba Transformin Education Summit, konsultasaun balu halao oha iha munisipiu no nivel nasional ho parte enteresante balu. Diskusaun no sijestaun sira husi konsultasaun sir abele no tenke uza hanesan parte husi setor revizaun konjunta.
7. Ne'e nesesariu dezenvolve estrutura monitorizasaun ida hodi ajuda ita hotu akompañia progresu relasiona ho kompromisu sira mak halo ona iha deklarasaun nasional apresenta husi Transformin Education Summit iha Setembru tinan kotuk, inkluidu aumentu asesu ba edukasaun atu labarik sira mak la eskola no uza dejital ativu sira hodi habelar asesu aprendizajen ba labarik sira hotu.
8. Ami kongratula governu ba nia kompromisu iha TES ba aumenta finansiamentu ba proporsaun orsamenu estadu ba edukasaun no dezolve ona estratejia ida hodi lidera aprendizajen ne'ebe lakon no recupera fali husi pandemia COVID-19, inkluidu kona-ba literasia no numeramentu.
9. Nune'e mós iha agenda ne'e mak diskusaun ida kona-ba selesaun koprezidente foun ba ACETL. UNICEF iha prazer hodi kuintina apoia papel ne'e iha dekada liu ba, hahú tinan riun rua sanulu resin-tolu, wainhira foin estabelese ACETL. Ami kontente atu kontinua iha funsaun ne'e, ka suporta saida deit kualker parseiru hola hikas fali funsaun ne'e.
10. Iha konjutura ne'e hau hakarak hanoin hikas fali katak ACETL ne'e Plataforma ida importante wainhira dialogu setor edukasaun halao ho lideransa husi Ministeriu Edukasaun,

hodi oferese efikaz no kordenadu ba governu hodi alkansa rezultadu sira husi setor edukasaun.

11. Ita tenke aprovida forum ne'e hodi trasa estratejia no servisu hamutuk atu aselera progresu no asesu ba edukasaun ho kualidade, hahu husi edukasaun pre-primaria.
12. ACETL nia ajensia kordenadora dezempeña papel importante hodi halo asaun hanesan liña komunikasaun entre governu ho membru sira seluk hosi grupu edukasaun lokal no mós entre grupu no Sekretariadu Global ba Parseria Edukasaun.
13. Ikus mai iha ajenda ne'e, Sekretariadu GPE sei atualiza ita kona-ba prosesu ba asesibilidade bolsa foun sira ba Timor-Leste ne'ebe ilijivel ba modalidade foun ba finansiamentu husi GPE.
14. Hau kompriende katak ajenda ne'e apertadu los ba enkontru ohin loron ne'e. Hau dezeja bai mi diskusaun ida produtivu durante sesuan sira mai ne'e no hau hakarak atu rona rezultadu sira no rekomendasaun sira ikus mai.
15. Ami kongratula no agradese ba governu ba aumentu finansiamentu ba edukasaun pre-primaria iha dotasaun orsamentu resente, no ba parseiru sira-nia kompromisu.
16. Hau agradese ba sua Exelensia Ministru Edukasaun, S.E. Dr. Armino Maia bai ta bot nia lideransa hodi halao ba oin ajenda edukasaun no haree valor ACETL nia Plataforma iha Timor-Leste.
17. Thank you and obrigado barak.