



Secretary General's
MDG ADVOCACY GROUP

Open Letter to G-7 on the Global Partnership for Education

To the Leadership of the G-7:

We, the undersigned, are writing to implore the leaders of the world's most advanced economies to renew their commitment to the children of the world and the achievement of Education for All by ensuring a successful replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education.

Less than one month after the G-7 Summit in Brussels, leaders from around the world will gather once again in Brussels for the pledging conference of the Global Partnership for Education, the only multilateral partnership exclusively dedicated to ensuring quality education for all.

Nearly 15 years ago, your countries endorsed the Millennium Development Goals. With 57 million primary school-aged children still out of school and 250 million children lacking basic literacy and numeracy skills, we are off track to reach the second Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education. Compounding this picture is the unacceptable decline in aid to basic education, particularly in the poorest countries and the global community risks breaking our promise to the world's most vulnerable children.

But the Global Partnership for Education's June pledging conference arrives at a pivotal moment giving the donor governments the opportunity to course correct on education. Therefore, we urge the G-7 to lead the global community to reach the Global Partnership's \$3.5 billion replenishment target.

A successful replenishment will support quality education for at least 29 million children, the majority of them in fragile and conflict-affected states. This will not only set the stage for the attainment of quality education for all children in a post-2015 world but will also help the global community realize the remaining Millennium Development Goals. Education is inextricably linked to ending extreme poverty, improving health, gender equality, and economic growth.

Your governments have made substantial contributions to the Global Partnership in the past. Now, we are making a personal appeal for the G-7 countries to lead the world in support of quality education for all by making ambitious commitments to the Global Partnership for Education at this June's pledging conference.

Sincerely,

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Advocacy Group on the Millennium Development Goals

Erna Solberg
Prime Minister of Norway
Co-chair

Mukesh D. Ambani
Chairman and Managing Director,
Reliance Industries

Stine Bosse
Board member of Allianz
Group and Vice Chairman of
ChildFund Alliance

Ray Chambers
United Nations Secretary-
General's Special Envoy
for Malaria

Young-shim Dho
Chairperson of UNWTO
ST-EP Foundation

Philippe Douste-Blazy
United Nations Special Advisor
on innovative financing for
development

Julio Frenk
Dean of the Harvard School of
Public Health, former Minister of
Health of Mexico

Bob Geldof
Singer, songwriter,
political activist

Jeffrey Sachs
United Nations Secretary-
General's Special Adviser
on the MDGs

Marina Silva
Environmentalist and politician

Ted Turner
Chairman of UN Foundation

Hiromasa Yonekura
Chairman of Sumitomo Chemical
and of the Japan Business
Federation / Keidanren

Muhammad Yunus
Nobel Peace Prize Winner,
founder of the Grameen Bank