

High-Level Steering Group Teleconference - Minutes
Friday 11 September 2020, 10.00-11.30 AM

See full list of participants

1- Chair's Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, the Rt Hon. Gordon Brown:

- Welcomed all participants and particularly new members attending for the first time. He noted that Education Cannot Wait, since its inception in 2016, has reached 3.5 million children and youth with inclusive, equitable quality education in many of the world's worst humanitarian crises.
- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis forcing the closure of 90% of schools worldwide, the already existing global education crisis has been exacerbated. In this regard, the Chair thanked all donors for their generous support and called on HLSG members to continue advocating for additional resources for Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises to deliver on ECW's targets.
- Further acknowledged ECW's efforts in investing in a total of 33 countries and contexts, with a record amount of USD 60million rapidly allocated for vulnerable children and youth, now doubly impacted by COVID-19, and called on HLSG members to help ECW support its immediate funding need of \$300 million to multi-year investments.

The Chair handed over to UNESCO Assistant Director-General Stefania Giannini to deliver a statement on behalf of the UN Deputy-Secretary General.

2- Statement on behalf of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General

- **Assistant Secretary-General for UNESCO, Ms. Stefania Giannini**, delivered a statement on behalf of the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed (Please refer to the full statement attached).

3- Presentation: Annual Results Report 2019, Stronger Together in Crisis

The ECW Director, Ms. Yasmine Sherif:

- Thanked all HLSG members for their continued and growing engagement and acknowledged the ExCom's strong role in these achievements. She noted that the strong results presented within the report had been possible thanks to the dedicated support and work of all partners.
- The Director presented snapshots of ECW country investments (please refer the PowerPoint presentation attached) noting that they have risen from 29 countries in 2019 to 35 countries by September 2020, with a further 10 Multi-Year Resilience Programmes to be launched this year.

- ECW has reached a total of 3.5 million children 48% of which are girls, with a holistic, whole-of-child approach to education - in which interventions address a variety of learning, teaching, organizational, mental health support and safety needs. ECW has furthermore reached 3.9 million children in Yemen alone.
- Further snapshots of results achieved were presented on Primary enrolment for refugees (rising from 53% in 2017 to 75% in 2019 in Uganda and from 62% in 2018 to 67% in 2019 in Ethiopia) and on Improved Learning Outcomes (with 60% of children of children able to read words in Nigeria, rising from 11%; in Afghanistan, 48% of children able to read a story in comparison to 2% previously and 43% now able to do ½ digit divisions, up from 0% previously).
- On Resource Mobilization, by the end of 2020, ECW will have mobilised a total of USD 650 million through its Trust Fund and leveraged USD 120 million in-country.
- On a global level, the Results Report shows growing political commitment and increased funding for education in emergencies and protracted crises (EiEPC) in recent years. Humanitarian funding for education rose from 2.6% in 2015 to 5.1% in 2019 and with thanks to USG Lowcock for his staunch support, OCHA country-based funds rose from 18% in 2018 to 22% in 2019.
- The Director stressed that these positive funding trends were now at risk as the global economy was under stress due to the pandemic, as highlighted in the recently published SG policy brief on Education. As ECW is redoubling its work with partners to respond to the pandemic, support distance learning, bring back to learning out-of-school children and protect the wellbeing of these children doubly impacted by COVID-19, the Director called on donors to urgently support in mobilizing USD 300 million.
- ECW disbursed USD 130 million to 75 grantees in 2019 through the utilization of existing coordination mechanisms across the humanitarian-development nexus which were specifically set up for crisis/protracted crises and refugee situations and the linking up of these mechanisms to local education groups.
- As a very lean fund and cost-effective fund, the funding received was channeled directly to the field and benefits those we served on the ground. Through multilateralism and collective efforts of joint programming, speed combined with quality was made possible. ECW looked forward to jointly meeting upcoming targets through scaled up efforts.

The Chair thanked the Director for her presentation and expertise, expressed appreciation to all partners in the HLSG and ExCom and opened the floor for interventions. The following statements were made:

The Minister of International Development of Norway, H.E. Mr Dag-Inge Ulstein:

- Thanked the Director for her presentation and noted Norway's great satisfaction with the results presented stressing the impressive number of children reached and the impact made. He underlined these achievements as a motive to increase funding for Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises.
- The Minister insisted the pandemic should not deter donors' commitment to eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 and education was a key pathway to this, noting that learning must never stop even during school closures.

- Norway welcomed and fully supported ECW's focus on MHPSS, as a fundamental factor to children's protection and wellbeing, and stressed the focus on children with disabilities to ensure no child is further left behind.

The Director-General, Co-operation and Africa Directorate, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Mr. Ruairí de Búrca:

- Echoed Norway's positive remarks noting Ireland's admiration for ECW's work and commitment to girls and the target of 60%.
- The Director-General noted that there was an unequivocal gender dimension in all conflicts particularly affecting girls' education, especially with the recent pandemic, and highlighted mechanisms articulated in the Annual Results Report 2019 as positive ways forward.
- The Director-General also reflected on the linkages presented through the report on girls' education and climate change, and how climate financing mechanisms could be leveraged to obtain a stronger focus on girls' education in climate emergency contexts with a climate focus.

4- Presentations by Education Ministers

❖ Education in Colombia: ECW's Investment

The Minister of National Education of Colombia, H.E. Mrs. Maria Victoria Angulo González, provided an overview of the impact of the Venezuelan refugee crisis and ECW's investments in Colombia.

- The Minister highlighted that Colombia had noted a steep increase in enrollment of Venezuelan migrants, more than 50% of which have been girls and over 2000 with disabilities. These high numbers have led the government to take innovative actions.
- She also praised the implementation of the ECW First Emergency Response in 2019, which represented a positive step towards building a more inclusive education system and allowing Colombia to strengthen and better coordinate work between the Ministry of Education and International Organisations. The First Emergency Response also provided focus to regions where the situation for migrants was the most critical providing education opportunities such flexible models, teacher training and educational reserves to improve pedagogical practices.
- The ECW facilitated Multi-Year Resilience Programme, in its final stage of design, will enable Colombia to deepen the response to educational needs of the host populations and the migrant community. The Multi-Year Resilience Programme was centered around four key objectives: to increase education access and retention, improve quality education, socio-emotional and mental health wellbeing, and strengthen the education sector.

❖ **Education in Ecuador: ECW's Investment**

The Minister of Education of Ecuador, H.E. Dr. Monserrat Creamer, delivered a presentation on the challenges faced in Ecuador with the combination of the socio-economic and migratory crisis and the recent pandemic.

- As the influx of the Venezuelan population in Ecuador was on the rise, there had also been a 48% increase in migrant students over the past two years prompting the government to implement structural changes to include this population in the educational system.
- The Minister highlighted the achievements reached through ECW's First Emergency Response and its overall contribution to Education in Emergencies in Ecuador such as the provision of toolkits for educational inclusion and harmonization methodologies, pedagogical guides for teachers to promote quality education for students in vulnerable conditions, support to teachers to ensure continuity of educational and psychosocial support to students throughout the pandemic, etc.
- The Minister furthermore stressed the importance of the ongoing development of ECW's Multi-Year Resilience Programme which placed an emphasis on migrant populations and host communities:
- She concluded that, although the whole world was facing a radical new way of learning, all were not on a level playing field to begin with. The existing challenges required innovative responses, partnerships, solidarity and global commitment. The support of the international community is valuable and necessary to ensure continuity of education whilst ensuring no child is left behind.

The Chair thanked the Ministers of Colombia and Ecuador and opened the floor for interventions. The following statements were made:

The CEO of Dubai Cares, Dr. Tariq Al Gurg:

- Highlighted Dubai Cares' contribution to EIE in Colombia, through a 3-year Norwegian Refugee Council program funded by Dubai Cares. The programme has also most recently supported and complemented the national COVID-19 education response as well.
- As the Dubai Cares-NRC program is being phased out, the CEO strongly encouraged other donors to support the national COVID-19 education response in Colombia, aligned with ECW's upcoming Multi-Year Resilience Programme, as it was timely and instrumental to bridging the gap between short-term humanitarian assistance and long-term development needs.

The CEO of Save the Children, Ms. Birgitte Lange:

- Commended the ECW-funded response on the Colombian and Venezuelan border.
- Since 2017, Save the Children, NRC, Plan International and World Vision have led a civil society consortium alongside the Colombian government to deliver essential services to 16,660 affected children through an inclusive education system (migrant,

indigenous and children with disabilities), parents and teachers, which is now supported by ECW.

- The CEO commended the Colombian government's efforts to welcome Venezuelan children in their systems and highlighted the dedicated spirit within the response plan and joint action which had improved the reach and quality of education.

The Secretary-General of NRC, Mr. Jan Egeland:

- Congratulated the Director for her leadership and endorsed the comments of Colombia, Save the Children and Dubai Cares.
- The Secretary-General highlighted the 3 key aspects to be further focused on: (i) Greater emphasis on the protection aspect of education, as safe schools were the best tool for vulnerable children; (ii) Further emphasis on youth groups and (iii) Direct funds straight to frontline responders and agencies delivering education on the ground for greater efficiency and time saving.

5- Plenary discussion: ECW Resource Mobilisation: Delivering Education during COVID-19 and beyond

The Chair announced the agenda item by advising that participants will discuss ECW's response to the pandemic based on the findings from the background paper circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chair invited HLSG members to share recommendations on changes of approaches, policies and how ECW could help recovery, return to school and building back better. The following statements were made:

The Minister for Sustainable Development & the Overseas Territories, and Special Envoy for Girls' Education of the UK, Baroness Liz Sugg:

- Welcomed the impressive results, speed and scope of ECW's response noting that although the UK was proud to be the largest donor to the fund, all partners were highly encouraged to consider the role they could play to ensure ECW is properly funded.
- The Minister highlighted that remote learning had not been an option for many of the vulnerable children pushing them to fall further behind. In this regard, the current crisis could be used an opportunity to reset education systems by making them more inclusive, ensuring children were safe, supported and ready to learn.
- The UK welcomed the 60% target for girls and reiterated that girls' education will remain at the heart of its international efforts to build back better.
- The Minister concluded by inviting HLSG members to continue considering how education responses can adapt to new challenges to help children fulfill their full potentials.

The Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark, H.E. Mr. Rasmus Prehn:

- The Minister noted free quality education for all as a key priority. Denmark aimed at promoting gender transformative education with equal rights and opportunities for girls and boys, encouraging the mobilization of further resources to develop innovative partnerships to this end.

- In this regard, Denmark recently signed a partnership agreement with the LEGO Foundation on education in developing countries and humanitarian settings to promote learning and education globally. The focus was on learning through play and with the key goal to support gender equality and girls' empowerment. Denmark and the LEGO Foundation's partnership will lead to greater impact and benefit ECW's work.

The Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, H.E. Ms. Sigrid Kaag:

- Noted the impressive results attained by ECW and looked forward to seeing this work continued. The Netherlands announced an additional 6 million euros in support of ECW's COVID-19 response as part of the government's second COVID-19 package.
- The Minister valued the intersectoral approach taken by ECW and the emphasis on MHPSS noting that it was fitting to advocate for further mainstreaming of this package and for agencies and implementing partners to carry it forward as a priority.
- She also noted the importance of setting clear targets in this regard to better measure outcomes. The Netherlands welcomed the 60% girls target as the right level of ambition.
- The Minister supported all investments made in support of online education and digital technologies and highlighted the opportunities to engage more with the private sector in this regard with the aim of investing further in the infrastructure required and enhancing online teacher training.

The Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr. David Beasley:

- Applauded ECW's work and welcomed WFP's membership to the HLSG as it has been so instrumental in supporting children. The ED reflected on the impacts of COVID-19 on learning but also on health and nutrition, with 370 million children missing out on meals due to school closures. The ED then highlighted WFP's work on the frontline during the crisis, where it worked with national governments to provide feeding through take home rations to 7 million children unable to return to school.
- The ED noted the higher GDP impact in countries where children had received an education in comparison to those where they had not and highlighted the importance of investing in education in this regard.

The CEO of the LEGO Foundation, Mr. John Goodwin:

- Congratulated ECW for the tremendous progress made and welcomed the work around innovative pedagogical approaches and the focus of holistic outcomes to develop resilience for children affected by crisis.
- The LEGO Foundation expressed concern regarding the pandemic's impact on education and the potential deprioritizing of investments in socio-emotional and creativity development, in favour of reversing to a narrow focus on just literacy and numeracy.
- LEGO also noted the importance of investing in pre-primary aged children and praised ECW's efforts during the pandemic ensuring that 10% of the budget was directed at this age group, therefore encouraging the HLSG to strive for inclusion of early childhood as part of the standard emergency care response.

- The CEO commended the Anticipatory Action Approach as an excellent intervention to secure quality education in times of crisis for the youngest victims and looked forward to working with ECW to welcome more private sector engagement such as recently accomplished with Denmark and USAID.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Mr. Rob Oliphant:

- Thanked the Chair for his passionate leadership and congratulated ECW and partners for the encouraging results reported in the Annual Results Report 2019 and for reaching 3.5 million children since its launch.
- Canada referenced the recent top-up of CAD 5.5 million to support refugee and displaced children through ECW's COVID-19 response. Canada noted it was crucial to prioritise those most at risk of being left behind such as young girls, adolescent girls, children with disabilities, female teachers, and displaced and refugee children.
- As a priority, Canada intended to work with all partners on an upcoming international campaign, to be soon announced by Minister Karina Gould, to ensure that all refugee and displaced children were able to receive an education.

The Deputy Director General and Head of the Humanitarian Aid Department of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Ambassador Manuel Bessler:

- Congratulated ECW for its quick response to the pandemic and for the cross sectoral approach taken and emphasized Switzerland's commitment to EiEPC.
- The Deputy Director General recalled Switzerland's recent financial contribution to ECW of 2.6 million CHF and announced its adoption of a new strategy with education at the forefront of its humanitarian coordination.
- Last year, at the Global Refugee Forum, Switzerland pledged its commitment to establish the global hub for Education in Emergencies in Geneva and in this regard was pleased to see ECW's scaled up presence in Geneva, hosted by the Swiss government, as a co-signatory of this pledge.
- The Deputy Director General concluded by drawing attention to the increased fragmentation in global initiatives to raise funds for education but highlighted the need for joint action within the education community. Switzerland greatly welcomed ECW and GPE's positive collaboration to this end.

The Director for 2030 Agenda; Democracy; Human rights; Gender equality; Education & Commissioner for the 2030 SDGs of Germany, Dr. Ingold Dietrich:

- Congratulated ECW for the results achieved in the Annual Results Report 2019 particularly around the targets for girls and welcomed ECW's timely support in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Germany noted that the pandemic had inevitably affected systems worldwide and that greater focus would now be needed towards long-term responses and towards strengthening the resilience of education systems through Multi-Year Resilience Programmes which were the right tools to mitigate the long-term effects of the crisis.

- In addition to the 16 million euros already pledged to ECW for 2020, the Director announced a further 8 million euros in funding to support MYRPs. This pledge would be formally announced by the Germany's Parliamentary State Secretary at ECW'S UNGA event on 17 September.

The Deputy High Commissioner of UNHCR, Ms. Kelly Clements:

- Noted that UNHCR's "Coming Together for Refugee Education" report published in early September aligned to ECW's priorities especially in regard to secondary education for girls as pledged at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019. Due to the pandemic, the risks of losing the gains made around girls' education are very high.
- UNHCR welcomed ECW's second round of COVID-19 First Emergency Responses which further focused on refugees, displaced populations and host communities in countries such as Ethiopia, Zambia and Kenya. It was however crucial to not forget the forgotten crises and protracted crises in countries like Mauritania where refugees were not included in the national responses.
- The Deputy High Commissioner stressed that donor support was key to combatting these issues and UNHCR looked forward to further working with ECW and the HLSG.

The Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment of USAID, Ms. Julie Cram:

- Thanked the Chair for his leadership and the Director for her deep commitment to achieving such results noting ECW's capacity to adapt and sustain education for children in the face of extreme adversity.
- The Deputy Assistant Administrator highlighted the importance of resilience in crisis and commended ECW on its rapid response and action throughout the pandemic.
- In this regard, USAID was proud to support ECW's COVID-19 response with an additional USD 2.3 million to Burkina Faso and urged the international community to continue prioritizing education in the pandemic response.
- She noted the newly formed partnership between USAID and the LEGO Foundation and encouraged other members to seek out partnerships that leveraged the comparative expertise and resources to reach even more children and youth, to help realize the importance of learning through play as education disruptions continue.

The CEO of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, Ms. Annemiek Hoogenboom:

- Thanked the Chair for his commitment and the Director for her leadership through ECW's expansion to 35 countries.
- The CEO highlighted the plight of refugees in Greece, in particular the Moria camp. With the help of Theirworld and ECW, the Dutch Postcode Lottery had invested in education for refugee children in the Greek Aegean Islands.
- The CEO welcomed France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland's offer to host some of the displaced children, however this would still leave thousands of unaccompanied children left behind.

- She urged members to use the current solidarity and preparedness to point at the urgency of scaling up education for refugee children in Greece. The CEO stressed that refugee education should be an integral part of the EU's policy.

The Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO, Ms. Stefania Giannini:

- Commended ECW under the Director's leadership for producing such high results during an unrepresented crisis of this scale and noted that the funding disbursed was indeed crucial for in-country partners.
- Looking towards longer-term perspectives, the Assistant Director-General stressed that connectivity, as an essential premise to quality education, required further focus and was a priority in the current partnership between UNESCO and Dubai Cares.
- She also highlighted that improving the quality of data in emergencies required more prioritization from partners.
- The Assistant Director-General thanked ECW for its quick response to the crisis in Lebanon, especially due to the severity of the situation on the ground.

6- Presentation: The dynamic relationship between civil society & ECW

The CEO of Save the Children Norway, Ms. Birgitte Lange and the CEO of Plan International UK, Ms. Rose Caldwell who have represented civil society over the last four years within the ECW ExCom and HLSG, delivered a presentation on the dynamic relationship between civil society and ECW. The presentation covered the activities that Save the Children and Plan International has spearheaded as civil society representatives for ECW since 2016 and the role that civil society plays more broadly in implementing ECW funding and reaching the most marginalised, in advocating for resource mobilisation and in strengthening ECW systems. They highlighted the following:

- It was crucial that more funding be allocated to education to meet our commitment to the SDGs and that commitments made at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit were scaled up to provide more funding and decision-making power to national organizations.
- Localisation not only entailed funds received by national organisations, but also in being inclusive in decision making processes via the Education Cluster and through child, parent and teacher engagement.
- The CEOs called on donors to allocate 15% of their ODA to education and to invest in ECW in order for planned investments to go ahead. They also called for decision-making and funding to be moved closer to local communities as the national lockdowns had shown how critical local knowledge, experience and logistics had been to continuing education programming.
- The CEOs urged for all actors to ensure that child, youth and girls' engagement, inclusive education and child protection remain at the heart of all ECW programming.
- Plan International and Save the Children thanked ECW noting the call as their final HLSG meeting, with other organisations to soon be elected to take on the role and look forward to maintaining the strong relationship built with ECW.

The Chair thanked Plan International UK and Save the Children Norway for their dedicated efforts over the past four years congratulating their teams for all the results achieved and invited Norway to make the following remarks:

The Minister of International Development of Norway, H.E. Mr. Dag-Inge Ulstein:

- Highlighted that civil society organisations were irreplaceable partners of development and humanitarian affairs and thanked them for their notable contributions to ECW.
- The Minister encouraged ECW and its partners to assess how crisis affected children and youth could play an active role in the development of ECW programmes.
- He stressed that children and youth were not only the leaders of tomorrow but were equally the most important voices now as they offered unique insights into how education interventions could be made more relevant and sustainable.

7- ECW-GPE Positive Collaboration

The Chair of the Global Partnership for Education, Ms. Julia Gillard, thanked the Chair and the ECW team for delivering outstanding results and delivered the following points on GPE and ECW's positive collaboration:

- The Chair explained that the key challenge and ensuing objective was to ensure that both ECW and GPE were seamlessly working together at country-level and that the roles and responsibilities of both entities were clear for in-country partners.
- To ensure that ECW and GPE were well coordinated and operate closely, both Secretariats remained in contact through regular engagements, information sharing and through contact with country focal points. This collaboration had indeed materialised rapidly as both entities rolled out their respective COVID-19 responses and remained up to date with each other throughout.
- GPE and ECW Secretariats were in the process of finalising a note outlining the complementarity of their work, which will be disseminated to the education community.
- The two entities were also well joined up at the governance and leadership level with both the ECW Director and GPE CEO in regular contact.
- The Chair noted that following the joint pledge made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, ECW, the World Bank and GPE had now finalised an Action Plan highlighting the refugee dimension as a priority.

The ECW Chair thanked the Chair of GPE for the positive overview provided and opened the floor for interventions. The following statements were made:

The Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Charlotte Petri Gornitzka:

- Reiterated the importance of partnerships, collaboration and efficiency with the latest pandemic reinforcing this need.
- The Deputy Executive Director also encouraged all members to seize the opportunities to explore the use of technology and digital innovation to properly reach children and young people with full access to education.

- She welcomed OCHA's Anticipatory Action Approach and noted UNICEF's support in enforcing it further.

The Global Director for Education Practice at the World Bank, Mr. Jaime Saavedra:

- Congratulated the Chair for his leadership and ECW for the rapid response throughout the pandemic.
- He announced the World Bank had recently launched its strategy for fragility, conflict and violence and was in the process of finalising a paper on education to better guide their approach. The Director highlighted concerns on improving learning outcomes with innovative, holistic pedagogical approaches, girls' socio-emotional support, inclusion in the host country systems and fighting the digital divide.
- The World Bank noted the great advantages on the ground with ECW's modus operandi and expressed interest in expanding its partnership by supplementing funds in-country from the World Bank portfolio.
- The Director stressed that the World Bank, GPE and ECW had pledged at the Global Refugee Forum to close the education financing gap and this would require further joint action on the ground.

8- Anticipatory Action Approach – Mitigating and Preventing the impacts on EiEPC & its relevance to ECW

The Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock provided a presentation on OCHA's Anticipatory Action Approach (please refer to the USG's full statement attached).

- The USG explained that the humanitarian mindset over the years had been responsiveness resulting in slow and expensive responses to crises. He noted that most crises could be predicted which was equally applicable to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Education was slowly disappearing through the current crisis. The central problem to this large crisis was the scale of effort in the response with finance ministries constrained but with parts of the system not being mobilised as they had been in past crises.
- It was crucial that HLSG members worked together over coming months and ahead of the annual meetings to spearhead proposals and make the case for a larger part of the resources to be safeguarded and allocated to education.

9- Update: Dubai Expo

The Chair of the HSLG invited the CEO of Dubai Cares, Dr. Tariq Al Gurg, to provide an update on the Dubai Expo. The following statement was made:

- Dubai Cares was working closely with UNICEF and UNESCO on a Global Declaration on Connectivity with the objective to provide a full update during the World Bank Spring Meetings in April.

- The launch will be held during the Dubai Expo. Dubai Cares was also working on the RewirEd Global Summit on Education with the virtual launch scheduled in December and the Summit to take place in 2021.

10- **Renewal of the Chair of HLSG**

The ECW Director, Ms. Yasmine Sherif, noted that no objections had been received on the renewal of the Chair, as per the Operational Manual. She expressed ECW's gratitude to HLSG and to the Chair for this dedicated and passionate leadership.

The Chair invited the ECW Director to make final remarks. **The ECW Director** noted the following:

- ECW had closely collaborated with UNESCO and the Ministry of Education to rapidly respond to the crisis in Lebanon with USD 1.5 million and assist 30 000 students across 40 schools.
- In collaboration with the Dutch Postcode Lottery and Theirworld, ECW has been able to invest USD 4 million to provide aid and education to children in the Greek Aegean Islands. Further assistance was direly needed and to this end Theirworld had developed a USD 20 million proposal.

11- **AOB & Conclusion**

- Due to the time constraints encountered and participants' positive engagement during the meeting, the Chair invited all participants to communicate any points on statements that they wished to convey to the Secretariat after the meeting and assured these would be addressed.
 - The Chair thanked the HLSG for endorsing the Annual Report 2019 and the Renewal of the HLSG Chairmanship. He invited the HLSG to attend ECW's UNGA event, *The Future of Education is Here: For Those Left Furthest Behind*, on September 17th and noted the next HLSG meeting was scheduled for April 2021.
 - The Chair concluded by thanking all participants for their attendance, passion for education and determination to deliver education to children, refugees and displaced people.
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