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3 March 2023

Dear Liesbet,

I want to thank you for the work on the Education Commission that you've done over these last few years in promoting the ideas that emerged from the report on Financing Global Education Opportunity to which your contribution was invaluable. I want to thank Justin Van Fleet, who was the founding Executive Director of the Education Commission, who subsequently moved to become President of Theirworld and Executive Director of the Global Business Coalition for Education, after which Liesbet Steer took over the leadership of the work. We are extremely grateful to Liesbet who has over a number of years supervised a number of major reports and the pathbreaking work to create the international Finance Facility for Education. As you will know from her own email to you, Liesbet has now been recruited to become President and CEO of the Education Development Center (EDC), Boston, and we not only want to wish her well in her new work but thank her and all past and present members of staff, advisors and researchers for their diligence, the breadth of their insights and their unwavering commitment to the cause of global education.

In a few months we will reach the mid-point of the timetable to deliver by 2030 the Education Sustainable Development Goal 4 with a huge agenda left to be achieved if every child is to be at school and enjoy quality education. Over these last few years we have pressed hard for the implementation of a number of reforms that flowed from the findings of our review and more generally we have continued to make the case for both the domestic mobilization of resources for education and for more international support - both bilateral and multilateral - for the achievement of the education SDG 4. The work done by the Commission and its staff led to the creation under the auspices of the United Nations of the Global Education Forum which has been prominent in bringing multilateral and bilateral donors together to discuss how we can pool, share and maximize resources for global education.

One early success was the creation of 'Education Cannot Wait' which was agreed at the World Humanitarian Summit, and which is now a



successful UN organization working with UNICEF and which has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of Yasmine Sherif. You will be pleased to know that it recently held its replenishment conference and with the support of 18 contributing donors, both private and public including three new country donors, raised \$826 million for the continuation of its work.

The International Finance Facility for Education - another substantive recommendation of the Commission - has now been created as an entity in Switzerland and we already have a number of actual and potential donors offering either guarantees or grants or both. I want to thank Liesbet and her team for their perseverance during the lockdown in proceeding with its inauguration. The next stage is the appointment of a Chief Executive and its staff and making sure that we can work closely with existing global educational organisations including the Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait and the development banks.

The High-Tech High-Touch project which aims to maximize the benefits to education of advances in artificial intelligence, while valuing and developing the unique role of teachers, has been inspired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education for Korea, Dr Ju-Ho Lee, who was a member of the Commission and its recommendations are now being implemented in a number of countries including his own.

Liesbet has reported to you on the other projects, like the Commission's report on the teaching workforce, the in-country projects and our work on school meals carried forward by committed research teams that will now conclude their work which is to be taken up in the next few weeks by EDC under Liesbet's leadership. EDC has agreed to manage the completion of these important projects and the follow-through. Liesbet has asked me to tell you that she is likely to be in touch to ask those of you who feel able to do so to give her advice related to the work of her Centre.

I will personally keep you in touch with the results of the remaining work that focuses on the setting up of IFFEd, which is being completed under the continuing auspices of the Rockefeller Philanthropy and with the support of a number of Foundations and Governments for which we are very grateful.



As the Education Commission ends its work, I want to thank you for everything that you have contributed and for the inspiration you have given us through your advice, expertise and skills in advocacy that has given global education a higher priority. Each of you as commissioners has made a unique contribution for which I am personally very grateful. I hope at some stage soon that I will be able to thank you in person. Advocacy for the cause of global education has become an even more important task since Covid caused so much disruption to education. In the last few years, the opportunities available to millions of children who need our support have become more restricted because of pressure on both education budgets in low and middle income economies and education aid itself. So I hope we can continue to work together in the momentous and challenging work of delivering our shared goal of quality education for all.

Thank you again for your work and for everything you have achieved, and my best wishes in everything you do in the future.

Rt Hon Gordon Brown
UN Special Envoy for Global Education
Chair, Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity
(Education Commission)