AIDE MEMOIRE, ESGC 16TH OF SEPTEMBER 2009

1) The aim of the Education Sector Governance Committee to share and to discuss information on strategic matters in the education sector with the high level decision makers in the different Ministries and development partners will be evaluated. The outcomes of the evaluation at the end of the ESGC will be utilized as well.

2) All invitees, five Ministries and the two development partners were present. However, only two out of five Ministries were represented by Permanent Secretaries and Under Secretaries. The MEHRD will reflect on how it could encourage the different PS’s to participate in the meeting.

3) The MEHRD should learn from the outcomes of the PER-report, July 2009 and put the recommendations into action.

4) The MEHRD and MDPAC will discuss and agree upon how to improve the co-ordination and collaboration during the national budget process.

5) Following the outcomes of the NEAP-review (July 2009) and SWAp-review (August 2009), the MEHRD should put more focus on the improvement of the quality of teaching and learning during the implementation of the NEAP, 2010-2012. The MEHRD will therefore prioritise activities which would make a positive impact on the students’ learning.

6) The reviews of the Inspectorate and Teacher Service Handbook (in particular the section on teacher establishment for secondary education) and teacher absenteeism therefore are important matters to prioritise as well.

7) Within the framework of the planned education sector and structure review, the relationships between and the different roles of the National Ministry of Education, the Provincial Government and the Education Authorities in the provinces must be clarified.

8) All Ministries should strongly collaborate on how to fill the skills gaps in the country and jointly decide which courses must be prioritized for scholarships. The MDPAC must initiate this process, call the Ministries and enable them to indicate their specific training needs.

9) All participants expressed the importance of the establishment of the National Human Resources Development and Training Council. (NHRDTC), which will assist with the prioritization of courses which help to cover the skills gaps in the country. The MDPAC has taken the responsibility for development of the NHRDTC, but could not mention much progress since the last ESGC-meeting. The MDPAC is therefore requested to establish the NHRDTC in 2010.

10) The Ministry of Public Service is requested to re-vitalise a public servants’ appraisal system and to quicker react on disciplinary cases within the Ministries.

11) The Ministry of Public Service is also requested to develop a strategy to assist all public servants with good and affordable housing.
12) The Ministry of Land expresses its interest to learn from the Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) in the education sector and wonders to what extent SIG could encourage the implementation of more sector programmes with strong inter Ministerial co-operation.

13) The MEHRD is looking for the co-operation with the Ministry of Land to identify suitable land for construction of a new Ministry building. Ideally this would be a joint solution for more Ministries which also need office-space.

MEHRD, 7th of October 2009