



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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Organisation  
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Organización  
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Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**General Conference**  
34th session, Paris 2007

**Генеральная конференция**  
34-я сессия, Париж 2007 г.

**Conférence générale**  
34<sup>e</sup> session, Paris 2007

**المؤتمر العام**  
الدورة الرابعة والثلاثون، باريس ٢٠٠٧

**Conferencia General**  
34<sup>a</sup> reunión, París 2007

**大会**  
第三十四届会议，巴黎，2007

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34 C/51  
8 October 2007  
Original: English

Item 5.11 of the provisional agenda

## ENHANCING THE TEACHER TRAINING INITIATIVE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: TTISSA'S EFFECTIVENESS

### OUTLINE

**Source:** Rule 12.1 of the Rules of Procedures of the General Conference.

**Background:** This document concerns item 5.11 of the provisional agenda and is proposed by the United States of America.

**Purpose:** An explanatory note and a draft resolution concerning this item is contained in an annex to the present document.

**Decision required:** paragraph 6.

## ANNEX

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

#### Evaluation of the Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA)

1. In 2006, UNESCO launched a ten-year initiative to increase the number of qualified teachers in sub-Saharan Africa. Over half of the 17 countries selected for the first phase of the Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA) are also priority Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) countries, where illiteracy rates are the highest and quality teachers are most needed.
2. TTISSA is a core initiative in the Education Sector at UNESCO and integral to other UNESCO education programmes and initiatives. Addressing teacher shortages in Sub-Saharan African countries is essential to helping these countries improve school enrolment, increase literacy rates, and enhance the overall quality of education in Africa.
3. As we enter the second biennium of the first four-year cycle of TTISSA, it is important to closely examine the progress made in the first 17 countries' participation in TTISSA.
4. As the lead agency for the United Nations Decade for Literacy, it is essential that UNESCO remain vigilant in identifying ways to strengthen the connection between quality teacher training and increasing literacy rates in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in making teacher training a priority in the sub-Saharan African countries that are participating in the LIFE programme. The adoption of a resolution embodying these points would also help UNESCO to achieve the objectives of this agenda item.
5. In addition, the draft resolution to be submitted on this item will seek to enhance UNESCO's efforts to evaluate more effectively TTISSA's success in building capacity in the target countries to recruit, train and retain qualified teachers in the region using existing TTISSA resources towards this end.

#### 6. Proposed Draft Resolution<sup>1</sup>

The General Conference,

1. Having examined document 33 C/5: Approved Programme and Budget for 2006-2007,
2. Building on the strategy set forth in document 33 C/5 on implementing the Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA),
3. Recalling document 171 EX/8: Report by the Director-General on the follow-up to the EFA strategic review and UNESCO's strategy for the 2000-2015 period,
4. Reaffirming that TTISSA is essential to achieving the six Education For All (EFA) goals and noting that TTISSA can also help foster those goals by:
  - assisting countries in analysing their teacher shortages and implementing policies and strategies to increase the number of qualified teachers;

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<sup>1</sup> At the date of publishing of the present document the following Member States had officially expressed support to this draft resolution: Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Uganda.

- supporting each country in phasing in steps to enhance the professional skills and qualifications of large numbers of currently under-qualified teachers;
  - encouraging consultations between governments, teachers, teacher organizations and teacher training universities in the planning and implementation of EFA reforms;
  - sharing and distribute good policies and practices; and
  - coordinating relevant research to help shape EFA policies and disseminate good teacher policies and practices,
5. Recognizing that the progress thus far made toward achieving the expected TTISSA results set forth in document 171 EX/8 for TTISSA needs to be carefully measured and assessed,
  6. Emphasizes the need for an intersectoral approach involving consultation between all the sectors of UNESCO;
  7. Requests the Director-General to work with Member States, the Regional Office for Education in Africa (BREDA) and the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) to strengthen TTISSA by increasing the focus on literacy training, including multilingual training, by strengthening pre-service and in-service training, by utilizing more effectively existing UNESCO Chairs in TTISSA countries, by consolidating and utilizing existing resources effectively and by appropriately reinforcing the existing funding for the programme in document 34 C/5;
  8. Invites Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to support TTISSA implementation;
  9. Requests the Director-General, as part of the two-year monitoring and evaluation of TTISSA, to evaluate the extent to which TTISSA has improved countries' capacities to recruit, train and retain qualified teachers in the 17 countries involved in the current phase with a goal towards meeting expected results for 2009;
  10. Also requests the Director-General to report to the Executive Board at its 180th session on the implementation of this resolution, including the work accomplished by TTISSA.