

Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)

**ACC Statement on the
United Nations 10-year Programme
on Girls' Education**

Approved by ACC in Spring 2000

Administrative Committee on Coordination Statement on the United Nations 10-year Programme on Girls' Education

1. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) notes the progress made in basic education over the decade and, at the same time, registers that there is a need for the United Nations system to redouble its efforts so that this basic human right can be met. In registering this concern the ACC emphasized the role of basic education as a key component of poverty reduction and of human and economic development.
2. ACC gives its full support to the recent proposal of the 10-year programme on girls' education, which has been initiated by the Senior Management Group and developed by 11 members of the United Nations Development Group, in full collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank and has been designed for system-wide participation. The Girls' Education Initiative embodies a sub-set of the shared objectives of the United Nations system. A major strength of this initiative is its placement within, and, as a support to, the ongoing Education for All movement that was launched at the first World Conference on Education for All, held in Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990. ACC gives its support in recognition of the broad range of social and economic benefits that accrue from girls' education, noting that the initiative is designed to reinforce the emphasis at recent international conferences (including Beijing, Copenhagen, Cairo, Rome, Vienna, the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Children) and in other forums on the fact that without girls' education the goal of gender equality will never be reached and progress in national and economic development will be restricted.
3. ACC acknowledges the importance of the key principles upon which this initiative rests. It is a collaborative effort, which the United Nations system is uniquely placed to lead and guide. The approach to education that serves as its technical foundation is consistent with the Jomtien expanded vision and its evolution over the decade since 1990. The firm grounding of most of the activities under this initiative at the country level, working through existing United Nations coordinating mechanisms, and coordinating existing country-level resources into a coherent approach, is consistent with ongoing United Nations reform processes. In fact, the substance of girls' education is excellent content for these processes. Furthermore, the upcoming World Education Forum in Dakar, provides an excellent opportunity for the entire United Nations system to re-commit to education and a critical entry point for the institutions to be engaged in this initiative.
4. The time is right for an initiative of this magnitude. It cannot succeed in a vacuum. ACC notes the involvement of a wide range of United Nations entities and will put into effect actions that facilitate system-wide participation. Furthermore, girls' education is not only a means for contributing to poverty eradication, but is also a result, in part, of poverty, which forces families to make difficult decisions, frequently to the disadvantage of the girl child. In this regard, ACC acknowledges the importance of external environment in general and of resource allocation (defined broadly) in particular to achieving girls' education, and urges all entities, and in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, to ensure careful gender analysis of options before implementing programmatic reforms, especially fiscal ones.
5. ACC will take the required steps to support this initiative through common advocacy and support, including through providing clear guidance to the resident coordinator system and ensuring feedback through the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions on a regular basis.