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25 February 2019

Ms. Alice Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education Secretariat
1850 K Street NW, Suite 625
Washington, DC 20006
USA

**Support to Timor-Leste's application for GPE Multiplier Education
Sector Plan Implementation Grant**

Dear Ms. Albright,

This letter is to support Timor-Leste's expression of interest to avail of the Multiplier Education Sector Plan Implementation Grant (ESPIG) with formal application to be done following the development of the Education Sector Plan. The fund resources would be greatly beneficial for Timor-Leste, which still needs massive investments to expand and improve access to quality pre-school, basic and secondary education.

In late August 2018, the Timor-Leste GPE Secretariat country lead informed the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), UNICEF as Coordinating Agency, and World Bank as Grant Agent of Timor-Leste's eligibility for the Multiplier ESPIG. UNICEF shared this information to Development Partners during a meeting of the Local Education Group at the end of 2018.

We note that information on Timor-Leste's eligibility for the Multiplier ESPIG for a maximum of US\$5 million was instrumental in the Government's decision to avail of an IDA Credit of \$15 million for the education sector.

Following confirmation from the Ministry and the World Bank of the government request to avail of the IDA credit for the education sector as additional funding for the sector, UNICEF convened a meeting of Education Development Partners on 19 February 2019, where a detailed presentation about the Multiplier ESPIG was made. During this meeting, the Ministry of Education and World Bank shared information about the US\$15 million IDA credit for education noting that this allows the country to avail of up to US\$5 million in additional GPE funding through the Multiplier ESPIG.

The Bank explained that the IDA credit expires in July 2019 hence application for the IDA should be done before then, even when the Education Sector Plan is not yet ready. Education Development Partners welcomed the news and expressed support for Timor-Leste's application for the Multiplier ESPIG with the understanding that priorities to be supported by the GPE grants and the IDA credit are aligned to Timor-Leste's achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 4.

As Coordinating Agency, UNICEF is committed to support Timor-Leste develop a credible Education Sector Plan and its implementation. We look forward to work with Development Partners in supporting Timor-Leste's subsequent application of the ESPIG of US\$4.1 million along with the US\$5 million Multiplier ESPIG to provide quality education for all Timorese children and young people.

Yours Sincerely,



Scott Whoolery,
OIC. Representative, UNICEF Timor-Leste

Cc:

1. H.E. Dulce de Jesus Soares, Minister of Education
2. H.E. João Zacarias Freitas Soares, Vice Minister of Education
3. Mr. Antoninho Pires, Director General, Policy, Planning and Partnership
4. Mr. Alfredo de Araujo, National Director, Partnership and Cooperation Services