

Greetings, ECDtf members and friends,

This Message # 15 alerts you to recent activities and developments of interest, upcoming events, and new resources. We welcome your comments and contributions as we move forward.

ECDtf was well represented at the December 6 World Bank launch of “Stepping-Up ECD”, as detailed below under updates. An upcoming gathering in Washington, DC, early March, at the Global Education Diplomacy Institute is in the planning stages.

Best wishes to each of you for a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2015!

***Featured Resources:***

We welcome two outstanding and impressive ECD reports, the first US-focused [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/early\\_childhood\\_report1.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/early_childhood_report1.pdf) and the second global, <http://live.worldbank.org/early-childhood-development> . We applaud the progress captured and conveyed, but lament the continued invisibility and marginalization of disability matters. Please send your comments advocating better integration of ECD and ECI as we build excellent and inclusive systems for young children and their families. Much work to be done in 2015!

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**Topics (detailed below):**

- 1. ECDtf and GPCwd updates**
  - 2. ACEI call for post-2015 activism**
  - 3. Call for Proposals -- USAID Family Care First (deadline extended to January 12)**
  - 4. Call for Papers -- 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Disabilities – Diversity and Unity in Action**
  - 5. Upcoming meetings**
    - a. March 5-8 ACEI Institute for Global Education Diplomacy Washington, DC
    - b. April 2015 Council for Exceptional Children San Diego, CA USA
    - c. April 13 Ohio State Multiple Perspectives Conference
    - d. May 6-8 NNDR, Bergen, Norway
    - e. June 30-July3 Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Multiculturalism, children’s rights & global citizenship, Haifa, Israel
    - f. July 6-9 Beit Issie Shapiro International Conference on Disabilities, Tel Aviv, Israel
    - g. August 2015 DISES International Roundtable Jerusalem & Bethlehem
    - h. June 8-10/16 ISEI, Children’s Rights & Early Intervention, Stockholm, Sweden
  - 6. New resources**
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## 1. ECDtf & GPcwd updates

- a. A small group of ECDtf members convened just after the formal launch of the important new Stepping-Up Early Childhood Report on December 16 at the World Bank in Washington, DC. We began with praise and appreciation for our colleague Maureen Samms-Vaughan whose presentation at the launch was superb, and who was the only panelist to speak up on behalf of children with disabilities. We welcomed Michael Rosanoff and Lucia Murillo from Autism Speaks for a frank and enlightening conversation on shared interests in our agendas. Paula Beckman, Evey Cherow, Emily Vargas-Baron, Don Wertlieb, and Deb Ziegler debriefed on the new report and next steps for ECDtf.
- b. ECDtf has been invited to participate in the March 5-8 ACEI Institute for Global Education Diplomacy in Washington DC. <http://acei.org/programs-events/institute.html> with a presentation ***“Enacting and enabling global education diplomacy: Launching the Early Childhood Development Task (ECDtf) Force for the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GPcwd)”*** In addition, we are planning a working session for ECDtf members attending the Institute or interested in joining virtually. If you are interested in participating in either the presentation or the work session, please contact [donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu](mailto:donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu) .
- c. **HELP WANTED!** Volunteer needed to serve as editor or co-editor of this ECDtf Newsletter. About 6-10 hours/month. Compile, edit and disseminate monthly communiqué to ECDtf members and friends. Could convene a task team to assist in process and implement more sophisticated communication system. Interested colleagues please contact [donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu](mailto:donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu)
- d. Greetings from the GPcwd Secretariat.

At this joyful time of year, we are grateful for our cooperation with you. We wish you abundance, happiness, and peace in a new year filled with hope.

As the end of 2014 approaches, we would like to express appreciation to those who contributed to making development more inclusive: to those of you who worked this year in **emergency situations** in Iraq, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Libya, Yemen and in many other places of challenge and hardship ensuring children with disabilities are not left behind; to partners who worked on inclusive communications and ensuring public health campaigns, specifically around burning issues like Ebola and Polio reaching every person, including people and children with disabilities; to individuals who stepped forward as a leader of a NPcwd / national partnership on children with disabilities or ensured commitment to and through the GPcwd taskforces.

Thanks to everyone who actively advocated for the **Inclusive Post-2015**. It resulted in mentioning disabilities in five critical goals in the Open Working Group Proposal on the Sustainable Development Goals) Education (4.5; 4a); Decent work/Employment (8.5) Inequalities (10.2) Sustainable Cities (11.2, 11b) Means of implementation/data (17.18).

Our next phase of activities will focus on influencing the development of disability inclusive indicators and we hope that the GPc wd joint working document on Post-2015 (*available upon request*) will become a good advocacy tool in this process.

We would also like to highlight the work of the **GPc wd Youth Council** that grew from 13 people in 2013 to 44 people in 2014. In June twenty young people with and without disabilities representing all five regions of the world, came together to the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD to explore the intersection of inclusion, stigma, discrimination and innovative approaches to coping with these issues in the context of the post-2015 agenda. Highlights of the week included: participation and input by the youth to the formal conference sessions; training on inclusive post-2015 development conducted by the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC); and bilateral meetings with respective Permanent Missions to the UN to advocate for an inclusive post-2015 agenda. Youth members also took part in an on-line global discussion hosted by ‘UNICEF Activate Talk’ on youth with disabilities and innovation, and a reception on inclusive sports for development with the theme “Scoring a Goal for All Children” in conjunction with FIFA’s 2014 World Cup. The reception was co-sponsored by the US Fund and Special Olympics and attended by more than one hundred participants including youth members; government representatives from Permanent Missions; partners from civil society and Disabled Persons Organizations; as well as other UN agencies (*full report is available upon request*).

**Moving forward in 2015, we have a lot of plans ahead, including the development and implementation of small-scale projects of the GPc wd Task Forces, advocacy for inclusive indicators for SDGs, engagement of youth with an without disabilities in lobbying with national governments and focus on the fundraising and sustainability for the GPc wd.**

Good health and happiness to you and your loved ones for this festive season.

Warm wishes, **GPc wd Secretariat** Phone: +1 212 824 6554 Email: [aburlyaevanorman@unicef.org](mailto:aburlyaevanorman@unicef.org) [secretariat@gpcwd.org](mailto:secretariat@gpcwd.org) [www.gpcwd.org](http://www.gpcwd.org)

## 2. ACEI Calls for post-2015 activism

As we approach 2015 and the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), several initiatives are underway to formulate a new set of goals and targets for sustainable development. This process is called the "Post-2015" discussion, which will lead to the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Read more about the post-2015 process as it relates to childhood and education [here](#).

In July, the [Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#) (OWG), a UN-appointed task force, released a proposal for the post-2015 development agenda, including education. Contributing to the post-2015 process, the international education community also proposed a set of specific education and learning targets in the [Muscat Agreement](#) in May 2014. The education targets proposed by the OWG and those in the Muscat Agreement were closely aligned.

The international community, by way of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) composed of members from the [Education for All Monitoring Report](#), the OECD, UNESCO, UNICEF, and the World Bank, is working to develop indicators to monitor the education targets laid out in the Muscat Agreement and the OWG report. The TAG has proposed an initial set of indicators, and has released a call for consultation to the public. The proposed indicators are available in [this document](#).

Comments on the TAG proposal must be submitted using the feedback form (Excel or Word) and sent via email to [uis.publications@unesco.org](mailto:uis.publications@unesco.org) with 'Education Indicators Post-2015' as a subject heading. The consultation will run from 17 November 2014 to 30 January 2015. Read more about this process and access the feedback forms [here](#)

## 3. Call for Proposals - USAID Family Care First: Deadline Extended to Jan 12

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched Family Care First to uncover innovative solutions and establish meaningful partnerships to significantly reduce the number of children living outside of family care in Cambodia. Currently, tens of thousands of children are living without appropriate, protective and permanent family care. We are seeking your ideas for achieving results through Expressions of Interest. **The deadline for Expressions of Interest is now January 12, 2015.**

- More information can be found at [www.familycarefirst.org](http://www.familycarefirst.org).
- Read the [Family Care First FAQs](#) [PDF, 212KB].
- View USAID's [Accelerator guidelines and Addendum #4 submission details](#).

#### 4. Call for Papers -- International Conference on Disabilities

July 6-9, 2015, Beit Issie Shapiro will hold its **6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Disabilities – Diversity and Unity in Action**, Israel's only international conference on the topic of disabilities. This conference will mark Beit Issie Shapiro's 35th anniversary working towards social change through collaborations with colleagues, people with disabilities, and parents, who are striving to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities.

The previous conference highlighted projects and research focusing on inclusion and self-representation of people with disabilities. The participatory action research model in the spirit of "no longer research about us without us" was one of the major themes we included in the scientific program.

The upcoming conference will take place at a time when we are witnessing a positive shift into the language of human rights, strengthened by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which enhances the concept of equal opportunities for all. The conference will enable us to discuss and share different models of implementation and enterprises for turning these declarations into possible actions.

At our 2015 conference, we intend to offer an opportunity to present research projects from various disciplines that will enable participants to study the issues through wide multi-dimensional viewpoints. Proposal abstracts due by January 31 at <http://eng-conf.beitissie.org.il/abstract-submission/>

#### 5. Upcoming meetings

- a. **March 5-8 ACEI Institute for Global Education Diplomacy** Washington, DC  
<http://www.acei.org/programs-events/institute.html>
- b. **April 2015 Council for Exceptional Children** San Diego  
[http://www.cec.sped.org/cec2015/Register?sc\\_lang=en](http://www.cec.sped.org/cec2015/Register?sc_lang=en)
- c. **April 13 Ohio State Multiple Perspectives Conference**  
<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm> Lennard J. Davis will present "The Stories We Tell: The Americans with Disabilities Act After 25 Years" as the 2015 Ken Campbell Lecture on Disability Policy at the Ohio State University's Multiple Perspectives Conference <<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm>> on April 13th. Based on his forthcoming book, *Enabling Acts* Davis' topic honors both the 25th Anniversary of the ADA and Campbell's life's work as an advocate including over twenty years guiding the City of Columbus' disability policies and practice Davis <<http://lennarddavis.com/>> is a Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a Professor of Disability and Human

Development and a Professor of Medical Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

- d. **May 6-8 Nordic Network on Disability Research** Bergen, Norway  
<http://www.cvent.com/events/nndr-13th-research-conference/event-summary-874cd3c94ce04d119a5ad0dcf9122124.aspx> NNDR conferences brings together researchers, policy makers, activists and practitioners to share scholarship and ideas, and provides a forum for Nordic and international collaboration in disability studies. The conference welcomes a wide range of contributions applying social, cultural, historical and philosophical perspectives to the study of disability. Its next conference will be held in the historic Norwegian town of Bergen, May 6 . -8. 2015. The NNDR 13<sup>th</sup> Research Conference aims at giving new insights into frontline topics, questions and approaches within contemporary Disability Research and will in our plenary session raise the following questions: What characterizes disability studies as a field? What impact does technology and innovation have on the field? How has the concept of gender been dwelt upon? What are transnational issues in the disability field? What are seen as disabling conditions or practices?
  - e. **June 30-July3 Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Multiculturalism, children’s rights & global citizenship**, Gordon College, Haifa, Israel Dr. Rhonda Sofer –Conference chair Dr. Roxana Reichman – Conference co-chair. Information: [doit\\_conf@gordon.ac.il](mailto:doit_conf@gordon.ac.il)
  - f. **July 6-9 International Conference on Disabilities**, Tel Aviv Israel <http://eng-conf.beitissie.org.il/welcome-letter-2/>
  - g. **August 2015 DISES International Roundtable** Jerusalem & Bethlehem. Details soon at <https://www.facebook.com/DISES.CEC>
  - h. **June 8-10/16 ISEI, Children’s Rights & Early Intervention**, Stockholm, Sweden  
<http://depts.washington.edu/isei/2016conf.html>
- 6. New resources** (these have come to our attention since our last communiqué; please feel free to contribute and share other resources with a “reply-all” to this ECDtf Message, pending our establishment of our ECDtf Collaboration and Resource Sharing Platform. Please consider elaborating upon or critiquing one of these resources as a contribution to our new feature, TASK FORCE TALK)
- a. [http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Documentation/Special-Search/TA-2014-Assessment.pdf](http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Documentation/Special-Search/TA-2014-Assessment.pdf)
  - b. <http://toyboxtools.hasbro.com>

- c. <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/education-plus-development/posts/2014/11/17-global-momentum-measuring-early-outcomes-quality-raikes-anderson-atinc>
- d. [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/early\\_childhood\\_report1.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/early_childhood_report1.pdf)
- e. <http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/4/files/2014/10/Rights-Annual-Report-2014.pdf>
- f. <http://www.socialinnovationcenter.org/?p=769>
- g. <http://live.worldbank.org/early-childhood-development>
- h. <http://www.cssp.org/policy/evidence/AN-EVIDENCE-FRAMEWORK-TO-IMPROVE-RESULTS.pdf>
- i. <http://www.ecmhatters.org/ForProfessionals/Pages/MedicalHome.aspx#toolkit>
- j. <http://sowc2015.unicef.org/>
- k. [http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email\\_web\\_version.cfm?recipient\\_id=1570706051&message\\_id=8082483&user\\_id=ACEI&group\\_id=490511&jobid=23886631](http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=1570706051&message_id=8082483&user_id=ACEI&group_id=490511&jobid=23886631)
- l. [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/700&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/700&Lang=E)