

New Global Alliance for Literacy pledges partnership and innovation to boost progress

8-9 September 2016, Paris, France



The Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning (GAL) was born from the concern expressed at the UN General Assembly (2013) that the world's literacy agenda remained unfinished

The world has become a more literate place with rates going up from 56% in 1956 to 85% in 2015, but there still exist 758 million adults who cannot read or write a simple sentence and 250 million children of school-going age who are not acquiring basic literacy and foundational skills.

The Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning (GAL), launched by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova as part of [International Literacy Day](#), was born from deep concern expressed at the UN General Assembly in 2013 at the fact that the world's literacy agenda remained unfinished.

The initiative, coordinated by the [UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning](#) (UIL) in Hamburg, is composed of a group of committed partners, including countries, regional entities, donors, the private sector, civil society organisations, foundations, associations, experts, and others. It is facilitated and advised by a Core Group, led by UNESCO, and comprising eighteen members elected by UNESCO's six electoral groups. The Core Group elects and nominates members of the Executive Management Bureau, who will coordinate GAL's efforts to support progress in Member States.

A GAL Core Group Meeting, held from 8-9 September 2016, elected its Executive Management Bureau. Kandia Kamissoko Camara, Minister of Education, Côte d'Ivoire, will represent Member States in her role as Co-Chair. She will work together with the other Co-Chair, Arne Carlsen, Director of UIL, who will represent UNESCO.

The newly-elected Executive Management Bureau has three Vice-Chairs – (1) Gugulethu Ndebele, Chief Executive Officer of Save the Children South Africa; (2) Maria Helena Guimarães de Castro, Brazilian Deputy Minister of Education; and (3) Maria Khan, Secretary-General, ASPBAE. Maria represents the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), while Guimarães de Castro and Maria will report GAL's activities to the SDG 4 – Education 2030 Steering Committee, of which Guimarães de Castro is a member and Maria Vice-Chair.



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In addition, Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy for Development, is an Honorary Member of the GAL Executive Management Bureau, while Dr. Dan Wagner, the UNESCO Chair in Learning and Literacy, has been confirmed as Special Advisor to GAL.

This write-up includes excerpts from write-ups appearing on the [UNESCO website](#) and [UIL website](#).

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