

CONFINTEA Advisory Group: Record of the first meeting **UIL, 22 – 23 March 2010**

The **CONFINTEA Advisory Group** has been created as a mechanism to guide and support UNESCO in the CONFINTEA VI follow-up process. It includes representatives of governments (members of the CONFINTEA VI Bureau and hosts of regional preparatory conferences), international key stakeholder organizations (UN and cooperation agencies, civil society organization, learner association), UNESCO Governing Bodies and UNESCO (HQ units, Regional Offices and institutes). See Annex 2 for details. Involvement in the CONFINTEA Advisory Group is to be long-term, with regular meetings to take stock of and give new impetus to the CONFINTEA VI follow-up process.

On 22 – 23 March 2010, the Advisory Group convened for the first time at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) to discuss and produce a CONFINTEA VI follow-up strategy which helps to **translate the commitments and recommendations of the Belém Framework for Action into concrete steps and activities**.

To initiate the process, the Advisory Group briefly reviewed the main outcomes of CONFINTEA VI, and shared information on **first steps undertaken by countries or organizations** in the three months subsequent to the Conference, among them:

- Translating the *Belém Framework for Action* into the national language;
- Presenting the *Belém Framework for Action* to national/local parliament;
- Translating the *Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE)*;
- Preparing publications on the history of all CONFINTEA conferences and analyzing their impact on national policy;
- Organizing regional and/or national seminars in order to disseminate CONFINTEA VI to national and local stakeholders or to initiate national or trans-national follow-up projects (e.g. to analyze policies, develop statistics in adult education, explore funding possibilities for adult education);
- Presenting the “Learner’s Charter” to national and local stakeholders;
- Setting up a national committee in charge of the national follow-up;
- Initiating the development of a national CONFINTEA VI follow-up strategy.

The Advisory Group’s discussions on the CONFINTEA VI follow-up strategy were guided by the **necessity to operationalize** the commitments of the *Belém Framework for Action*, in particular at country level. Integrating adult literacy and adult learning with the Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agendas, particularly in view of the forthcoming High-Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, was reiterated as critical and urgent.

Using a draft strategy document and a matrix prepared by UIL on the basis of the *Belém Framework for Action*, the Advisory Group generated a set of guiding principles, concrete proposals for national and trans-national action and a common road map for the CONFINTEA VI follow-up process. Together with the UNESCO’s coordination and active support, these elements are part of the **CONFINTEA VI follow-up strategy** as attached in Annex 1.