COUNCIL

REVISION OF THE PROGRAMME ON EDUCATIONAL BUILDING (PEB) AND TRANSFORMATION INTO A CENTRE FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS (CELE)

(Note by the Secretary-General)
1. This document proposes the transformation of the OECD Programme on Educational Building (PEB), which expires 31 December 2008, into an “OECD Centre for Effective Learning Environments”. It is also proposed to replace the present Governing Board by a Board of Participants as a body reporting directly to the Education Policy Committee (EDPC).

2. At its meeting in April 2008, the PEB Governing Board (PEB GB) agreed to recommend the renewal of the Programme, with a changed name and a reformulated mission. The new name would be the “OECD Centre for Effective Learning Environments” (CELE). The mission of CELE would be to assist its members to improve the educational and operational effectiveness of educational infrastructure for all education levels and programmes. Specifically, it would seek to inform and advise countries on how to maximise the benefit of their investment in educational facilities and equipment through effective planning, design, construction, management and evaluation.

3. The EDPC, at its 3rd session in April 2008, supported the transformation with effect as of 1 January 2009, but expressed the view that the new Board of Participants of the CELE should no longer report to the Council, but become a subsidiary body of the Committee itself [EDU/EDPC/M(2008)1].

4. As a result and following the recommendation of the EDPC, the PEB Governing Board reviewed and approved, at its meeting on 10 November 2008, the terms of the draft mandate of the CELE, which was endorsed, in its turn, by the EDPC at its 4th session. This proposal is set out in the draft Resolution set out in the Annex hereto.

5. Subsequent to that EDPC session, Spain indicated to the Secretariat that, as was the case for the PEB Governing Board, the status of Member countries should be differentiated from that of Associate Participants in the Board to avoid problems on governance and financing. After consultations with the Chairs of the PEB Governing Board and the EDPC, who consider this clarification justified, the Secretariat has added the following sentence in the draft Resolution: “Associate Participants may take part in the Board of Participants as observers in accordance with criteria established by the BP.”

6. The PEB GB has one subsidiary body, the Group of National Experts on Education Facilities Evaluation (GNEEF), established in November 2007 and confirmed after notification to the Executive Committee [CE(2008)7]. The mandate of the GNEEF expires on 31 December 2008. The intention is that the mandate be also renewed within the framework of the CELE.

7. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

a) noted document C(2008)204;

b) agreed to transform the Programme on Educational Building into an “OECD Centre for Effective Learning Environments” (CELE), for three years with effect on 1 January 2009, and adopted the draft Resolution set out in the Annex to document C(2008)204.
DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRE FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960, and, in particular, Articles 5 a), 9 and 12 thereof;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Financial Regulations of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Decision of the Council of 12 July 1984 on Management of Activities in the Field of Educational Building [C(84)61(Final)], now referred to as the Programme on Education Building (PEB), as last renewed by Council on 14 December 2006 [C(2006)173 and C/M(2006)20, Item 265];

Having regard to the mandates of other governing bodies in the field of Education, in particular of the Education Policy Committee, and to the Main Principles Guiding the Governance Structure of the OECD Education Bodies [EDU(2006)8/ANN3/REV1];

Having regard to the Proposal to transform the Programme on Educational Building (PEB) into a Centre for Effective Learning Environments (CELE) [C(2008)204];

Considering that members and associate members participating in the Programme on Educational Building have agreed to pursue their co-operation;

DECIDES:

The Programme on Educational Building (PEB) is transformed into the Centre for Effective Learning Environments (hereinafter “the CELE”) with the following mandate:

Mission

The CELE will assist its members to improve the educational and operational effectiveness of educational infrastructure, for all education levels and programmes. Specifically, it seeks to inform and advise countries on how to maximise the benefit of their investment in educational facilities and equipment through effective planning, design, construction, management and evaluation.

Participation

Participation in CELE is open to Member countries and non-Member economies, as recommended by its Board of Participants. In addition, government agencies, sub-national authorities, research agencies, non-government organisations and professional associations with an interest in educational facility issues are eligible to join CELE as Associate Participants.
Budget of CELE

The expenditure of CELE shall be charged against the appropriations authorised for it under a Part II Chapter of the Budget of the Organisation.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 10 of the Financial Regulations of the Organisation, appropriations, for which no commitment has been entered into before the end of the Financial Year for which they were appropriated, and surplus income shall be automatically carried forward to the budget for the ensuing year by decision of the Secretary General.

Board of Participants

In support of the mandate of the Education Policy Committee (EDPC) and as a subsidiary body to that Committee, the Board of Participants (BP) shall be concerned with all matters in the field of competence of CELE.

Associate Participants may take part in the Board of Participants as observers in accordance with criteria established by the BP.

The BP:

• Develops and approves CELE’s draft programme of work, scale of contributions and budget, taking into account the Directorate for Education’s medium-term strategy.

• Prioritises its activities and outputs in consultation with other governing and subsidiary Education bodies.

• Monitors the quality and timeliness of output results, activities and projects.

• Disseminates its policy advice, analysis, research and data to a wide range of stakeholders in Member countries and non-Member economies.

• Evaluates the outcomes of the work.

• Seeks the guidance of relevant governing and subsidiary Education bodies, and the approval of the EDPC, for recommendations with major policy implications and for decisions to launch major new activities with significant financial implications for OECD Members.

Working methods

The BP will seek strategic guidance on policy priorities, the programme of work and budget from the EDPC.

The BP shall report to the EDPC.

Relationship with other bodies

In line with the OECD Horizontal Work Programme, the BP shall maintain close working relationships with other bodies in the Organisation working on issues relevant to its work. The BP shall co-operate with bodies outside the OECD, when necessary.
Duration

This Resolution shall enter into force on 1 January 2009 and shall expire on 31 December 2011.