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**DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION  
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**PISA Strategic Development Group**

**PISA LONGER TERM STRATEGY PAPERS**

**Meeting of the PISA Strategic Development Group**

**23 October 2011  
Herzliya, Israel**

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## PISA LONGER TERM STRATEGY PAPERS

### Introduction

1. In discussing the review of the longer term strategy for PISA at its meeting in Chile in April 2011, the PISA Governing Board at the third stage asked the Secretariat to prepare, as part of the R&D strand and with guidance from the Strategic Development Group a number of expert papers to guide the discussion further. This paper briefly recalls the six papers and notes the progress to date and seeks guidance from the PISA Strategic Development Group on the further commissioning of experts to produce the remaining papers.

2. The six papers requested by the PGB, numbered here for ease of reference are:

- a) An options paper on ways to strengthen the policy relevance and analytical power of PISA.
- b) An expert paper evaluating the benefits and costs of maintaining the distinction between major and minor assessment domains, in terms of the analytic resolution of the PISA performance scales and the robustness of resulting performance estimates, considering that the major/minor distinction was a major obstacle to changes in the frequency of PISA assessments and could potentially detract from the stability of trends.
- c) An expert paper articulating the interrelationships between different design features and their implications on costs, trends and the frequency of successive PISA assessments in order to guide the establishment of options for potential changes to the PISA design.
- d) An expert paper establishing good practice and guidance for linking PISA with national standards, curricula and assessments.
- e) An expert paper establishing options for improving the capacity of PISA to provide relevant feedback to participating schools.
- f) An expert paper assessing the potential benefits of adaptive testing for PISA and its resource and operational implications.

3. To date, only papers relevant to d) and f) have been commissioned:

- d) Gary Phillips' (American Research Institutes) paper entitled "Using PISA to Benchmark Performance Standards" is included on the agenda for the main PGB agenda [EDU/PISA/GB(2011)17].
- f) A paper from Pearson on the benefits and challenges of adaptive testing for PISA is included on the agenda for the main PGB agenda [EDU/PISA/GB(2011)15]. In addition, document EDU/PISA/GB(2011)16, on the main PGB agenda, summarises research that uses PISA data simulations to assess the possible advantages that can be achieved if computerised adaptive testing (CAT) is used in PISA.

4. For the other papers, the Secretariat sought the SDG's proposal for experts that could be commissioned to produce the other papers and some suggestions were received. The Secretariat will present these for the advice of the SDG and for further nominations at the meeting.

5. The SDG is also asked to advise on the sequence in which these papers should be commissioned. For instance, it may be sensible to delay the paper on major/minor domains (item b in the list) until the SDG and PGB is satisfied that the advice needed on adaptive testing is in place, as these issues are clearly related. Also, the paper on interrelationships (item c in the list) should probably be commissioned towards the end, so that it can draw on the contributions and considerations of the other papers. The same could be argued for paper on strengthening the policy relevance of PISA (item a on the list). The SDG is asked to advise on the authorship and sequencing of the longer term strategy expert papers.