**K-19 Task Force**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**February 27, 2025, 09:30**

**Online via Microsoft Teams**

**Agenda**

Reports from Workgroups

Strategic Steps for moving forward

**Attending** (alphabetical order)

Abdurrahman Wahab, TIU

AbdulSalam Medeni, Advisor to the President

Dr. Galawezh Obaid Osman, MP, Education Committee

Dr. Honar Issa, Secretary-General. KAAE

Dr. Mohammed Hussein Ahmed, Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research

Dr. Randall Rhodes, AUK

Sarkhell Sirwan Nawroly, SPU

Shelan Khalil, Ministry of Education

Sherine Hassan, AIS

Dr. Soran Saeed, Kurdistan Technical Institute

Syako Sulaiman, IREX

Dr. Zana Ibrahim, UKH

Unable to attend:

Behar Ali, Emma Organization for Human Development

Bashdar Sarbaz Mawlud, Ministry of Education

Joanne Ball, Cambridge International School

Kirstin Crawford, UKH

Dr. Naznaz Muhamad, former Education Committee, Kurdistan Parliament

Vida Hanna, CUE

**Meeting called to order at 9:35**

**TVET**

Since there has not been a report on the progress of the TVET workgroup, the TVET discussion was first. Since the TF had already seen the PPT, conversation immediately progressed to a discussion of the necessary steps to move forward on this important national initiative. The top priority is to engage the three ministries: Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs. The purpose is to facilitate collaboration to ensure greater success. Currently, each ministry has moved forward on distinct paths; cooperation will remove redundancies and optimize results. The MoHESR has focused on the establishment of new technical institutes, the founding of Polytechnics, and working with NGOs.

Question was raised as to the role of the TF. Should a committee be formed to visit the ministries? Should the TF form a committee to lead on this national initiative (along with the help of UNESCO)? A comprehensive board/committee could ensure collaboration and cooperation among the ministries. Since the role of the TF is consultative, it was determined that it can assist in communicating to the ministries the urgency of moving forward, the needs of the labor market, and priority of vocational training.

Dr. Mohammed offered to take the lead in calling a meeting between the three ministries and the TF to discuss steps on moving forward. UNESCO could also be involved. The ministries will inform of initiatives taken. A gaps analysis will be conducted. Steps moving forward will be identified in respect to framework and an implementation plan. Since this is pivotal to workforce development, several high stakes entities/ministries will need to be involved later, including the Industry Advisory Board and Ministry of Planning. Vocational training should be prioritized, and market needs be defined to ensure that Kurdistan closes the employment skills gap.

Question was raised as to whether further research on international models needs to be undertaken or whether the UNESCO model will be the one followed. Since UNESCO’s model has been accepted by Iraq and has been customized to meet regional needs, it will serve as the starting point for conversations.

**Action Item: Dr. Mohammed to arrange a collaborative meeting of the MoHESR, MoE, MoLSA, and TF to discuss the current state of TVET. This will be scheduled in the next 10 days; Nawroz and Eid are quickly approaching.**

**K-12 Curricular Framework**

There was a quick update on the progress of the workgroup regarding the revisions of the documents on curricular frameworks and KAAE accreditation standards. Meetings were held with representatives of the MoE and the Minister of Education to finalize the documents. There was preliminary discussion on the role of the TF in advancing the agenda. At the meeting with the Minister of MoE, the TF offered to conduct focus groups or provide workshops explaining the framework and international best practices.

Dr. Honar mentioned that KAAE will have the documents reviewed externally; then, next steps will be determined.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:25**