

UNESCO, EFA and the Post 2015 Education Agenda

As the leading inter-governmental organization specializing in education UNESCO is ideally placed to coordinate international efforts to achieve Education for All (EFA) in the run up to 2015 and beyond. With its unique mandate to build peace and sustainability UNESCO has a special responsibility to help shape the global development agenda and nowhere is this role more vital than in ensuring the right to quality education. The Global Campaign for Education (GCE¹) is calling on UNESCO Member States to reaffirm the Organisation's commitment to promoting EFA in the run up to 2015 and beyond, and to promote an expanded vision of the post-2015 education agenda.

Since 2000, the MDGs and EFA goals have acted as catalysts for increasing access to quality education globally, with UNESCO playing a critical role in coordinating these global achievements. Significant progress has been made as documented in annual EFA Global Monitoring Reports, however, many challenges remain that require renewed commitment and action. This 37th UNESCO General Conference provides the last opportunity for a full meeting of UNESCO Member States to shape the Organization's critical leadership in this area before the 2015 deadline, and to stress the need for a global commitment to equitable, quality education and lifelong learning for all.

GCE welcomes UNESCO's position on the post-2015 education agenda as outlined in the document '*Education Beyond 2015*'². GCE urges UNESCO to endorse both a broad rights-based, overarching education goal within the post-2015 development agenda and the continuation of an aligned, revitalised Education For All (EFA) framework, fully integrated with this goal. It will be important to map out the way that the fuller set of EFA goals align with the education goal within the development agenda and how they contribute to other sustainable development goals and wider human rights.

As this 37th General Conference debates and endorses the Organisation's new strategic and operational plans for the coming years GCE urges UNESCO to clearly state the Organisation's commitment to:

- Provide leadership and coordination of EFA and the post-2015 global education agenda, in collaboration with governments, UN partners and civil society.
- Call for an expanded vision of the post-2015 education agenda, linking an overarching development goal for education with a renewed commitment to Education for All through an integrated approach where the post 2015 development agenda and a separate post 2015 education agenda are aligned and mutually reinforcing.

¹ The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) brings together civil society organisations, NGOs, teacher unions, child rights activists, parents' associations, young people and community organisations, who work together in coalition in nearly 100 countries. GCE promotes education as a basic human right, and supports the duty of states to guarantee free, compulsory, high quality public education for all.

² 37 C/56

- Harmonise the monitoring and reporting frameworks of the education goal in the wider development agenda and the revitalised EFA agenda, reinforcing the important role and contribution of the EFA Global Monitoring Report.
- Achieve peace and sustainable development through supporting a rights-based approach to education.
- Maintain an inclusive multilateral process in defining and delivering on a renewed education agenda, ensuring continued systemic engagement of civil society.
- Ensure that the 2015 Global Education Conference in the Republic of Korea adopts a revitalized and strengthened Education for All post 2015 agenda that stands on the principle that education is a fundamental human right.

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