



Regional Research Network Webinar

"Evidence Matters: The Role of Research in Advocacy and Social Dialogue"

Statement

We, representatives of Education International (EI) member organisations in Africa, participating virtually in the first Africa Regional Research Network this day, Thursday, 5th May 2022, have adopted this declaration on the need for EI member organisations to promote research as a tool to support education unions' advocacy, social and policy dialogue, and campaigns.

Considering:

1. That the main purpose of research is to gather evidence in order to inform action, as well as contribute to the development of knowledge on issues of concern;
2. The mandate from the EI World Congress held in Jomtien, Thailand in 2001, to form a research network within EI to support the development and implementation of the organisation's research strategy;
3. The need for education unions to be constantly updated on developments in education and labour trends, thus equipping them with the latest information allowing them to contribute to the achievement of inclusive quality education for all and educators' rights through social and policy dialogue;
4. That the use of research evidence, including quantitative and qualitative data, is critical to the development of sound education policies, the protection and promotion of trade union rights;
5. That it is crucial for education unions to have effective coordination and exchange around national and regional research activities on issues of mutual concern;

Reaffirming:

6. EI's commitment to support member organisations to participate in the formulation and implementation of educational policies at national and international levels;
7. The need for EI member organisations in Africa to develop research capacity in order to engage in evidence-based advocacy, campaigns, social and policy dialogue;

Convinced that:

8. Effective implementation of evidence-informed interventions contributes to the achievement of [SDG4](#) and the [CESA \(2016 – 2025\)](#) objectives;
9. Establishing a Regional Research Network will help EI member organisations in the region exchange information and experiences on research initiatives and contribute to the strengthening of the unions and region's research capacity;

We, therefore, declare:

10. Our collective commitment to the EI Africa Research Network launched today, and to contribute to the development and sustenance of its activities for the mutual benefit of our trade union movement;

We encourage:

11. EI member organisations in Africa to enhance their capacity in collecting and using research evidence to support policy and social dialogue, advocacy, and campaigns;
12. EI member organisations in the Region to establish a research desk, unit or department and allocate adequate resources for its operations; and,

We request EI:

13. To build the capacity of member organisations in Africa to engage in research and to use evidence to support advocacy and campaigns, policy and social dialogue, including collective bargaining.