



EI Africa Statement on Education Financing

We, education sector unions from Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Zambia, being members of Education International, the voice of more than 32.5 million teachers and education support personnel around the world, meeting in Accra, Ghana, on 21 and 22 June 2023 in a forum on education financing,

1. Conscious that Education International aims to achieve the right to quality education for all people through publicly-funded and publicly-regulated systems of education;
2. Recalling the various EI World Congress resolutions calling for public financing of education; notably the resolution on [Commercialisation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#), adopted in 2019; the resolution on [Expanding and Sustaining the Global Response to Commercialisation and Privatisation of Education](#), adopted at the 8th World Congress in 2019 that encouraged EI member organisations to hold States accountable for guaranteeing the right to quality public education and securing relevant funding; the 2015 resolution on [trade union action to counteract neoliberal policies](#) on education, which expressed education unions' concern about the increasing role played by some international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank which keep on influencing the policies implemented in the education sector by national governments; and the 2004 resolution on [Education - Public Service or Commodity?](#) that affirmed that education should be free of charge and funded on the basis of the concept of fiscal solidarity;
3. Further recalling EI and its member organisations' involvement with the Tax and Education (TaxEd) Alliance with the aim of pushing back on austerity measures, challenging education budget cuts, and pushing for fair and progressive taxation, while working to create quality, inclusive public education systems supportive of the teaching profession;
4. Reaffirming that education is a fundamental human right and a public good entrenched in the 1948 [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#);
5. Considering that privatisation and commercialisation of and in education are on the rise, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic;
6. Noting that, on current trends, global and regional education targets will be widely missed due to inconsistent and insufficient education funding because countries have failed to adhere to the minimum international and regional benchmarks of 6%

of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and/or 20% of public expenditure allocated to education;

7. Further noting that across Africa, education financing is in crisis, and therefore, there is insufficient investment in teachers and education support personnel, school infrastructure, teaching and learning resources;
8. Having assessed and noted the insufficient commitments made by African Governments to finance education and their education financing practices;
9. Reaffirming that Education International (EI) and its member organisations remain committed and united in defense of inclusive quality public education for all and educators' rights;

We therefore:

10. Reaffirm our resolve and commitment to lobby African governments to ensure quality public education for all by increasing domestic financing of education, including through fair and progressive taxation;
11. Call on international financial institutions, in particular the IMF and World Bank, to desist from imposing austerity measures and harmful loan conditionalities on African governments;
12. Urge the United Nations, international and regional financial institutions and development partners to grant debt forgiveness to African countries; and,
13. Urge African governments to meet or exceed the internationally agreed education financing benchmarks of at least 6% of GDP and/or at least 20% of the national budget, to invest in school infrastructure, teachers and education support personnel, regulate and curtail the activities of for-profit private providers of education.