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Education and employment / Education and the economic crisis:

Draft resolution on the Global Financial Crisis

Proposed by: NASUWT/United Kingdom

Original language: English

THE SIXTH EI WORLD CONGRESS, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa

1. **Declares** its continuing commitment to:
 - (i) building the capacity of teacher trade unions in other countries;
 - (ii) defending the human and trades union rights of teachers around the world;
 - (iii) achieving the Education Millennium Development Goals , including:
 - (a) achieving the goal of universal primary education by 2015; and
 - (b) promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the elimination of gender disparities in access to primary and secondary education by no later than 2015.
2. **Believes**, however, that the economics of austerity being forced through by some governments and by international financial institutions will:
 - (i) exacerbate economic inequality;
 - (ii) inflame social unrest;
 - (iii) hit the poorest hardest;
 - (iv) reverse hard fought for progress on social justice and equality of opportunity;
 - (v) derail international commitments to end child poverty and guarantee education for all; and
 - (vi) damage irrevocably the infrastructure of democratically accountable public services, including education.
3. **Deplores** the failure of the world's richest nations to honour their international commitments to end poverty and provide universal access to education.
4. **Further deplors** the devastating impact of the financial crisis which is forcing many poor countries to close schools, dismiss teachers and suppress pay as education funds dry up or are diverted to feed the population.
5. **Is deeply concerned** by the increased state-sponsored abuse and scapegoating of teachers, other public service workers and trade unionists during the period of the global financial crisis.
6. **Asserts** that ordinary people, workers and trade unions did not cause the global financial crisis and should not be made to pay the price.
7. **Believes** that defeating the assault on teachers and other public sector workers, and reversing the international failure to deliver commitments to end poverty and provide universal and free access to education, can only be achieved through collective action by trade unions and other civil society organisations working together in solidarity across international borders.
8. **Endorses** continuing action by Education International in campaigning against poverty and for:
 - (i) the right of every child to education;



- 56 (ii) the defence of jobs and pensions; and
57 (iii) the future of democratically-controlled education.
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59 9. **Commits** Education International to campaigning for international backing for a Financial
60 Transaction Tax (Tobin Tax) and a Financial Activities Tax to deliver existing anti-poverty
61 commitments and to secure the promise of equal access to education for children.