



International  
Further & Higher Education  
& Research Conference

**Ghana**  
14-16 November 2016

# Draft Conclusions of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Further and Higher Education and Research Conference

Education International's 10<sup>th</sup> Further and Higher Education and Research Conference met in Accra, Ghana 14-16 November 2016. We express our sincere gratitude to our hosts NAGRAT for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

We have discussed and debated key issues affecting the sector and have reviewed the EI work programme since the 9th Conference held in Brussels, Belgium in 2014:

**NOTING** that recent political developments in several regions of the world demand that we redouble our efforts to work together in solidarity to promote quality public education, trade union and human rights, equality, tolerance, and peace;

**ASSERTING** that quality further and higher education depends upon quality terms and conditions of employment, including in particular fairness for fixed-term staff;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the acute challenges facing further and higher education and research unions and the sector in Africa, problems that have been exacerbated by policies of the international financial institutions, including insufficient public financing for institutions and academic research, brain drain, privatisation, large class sizes, and inadequate terms and conditions of employment;

**RECALLING** that education and research is a public good and a human right that should be widely available and accessible to all on an equitable basis:

#### **Recommends to the EI Executive Board:**

- Adoption of the Policy Statement on Open Access in Further and Higher Education and Research.
- Consider including a specific session at the next EI Women's Conference on gender equity in further and higher education and research.
- Agreement to hold the 11<sup>th</sup> International Further and Higher Education and Research in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2018.

#### **Recommends that the EI Secretariat:**

- Focus on strengthening further and higher education and research unions in Africa, and ensure that EI's interventions with UNESCO, ILO, the World Bank, and the IMF stress the social, cultural, environmental, and economic importance of increasing public funding and ensuring access.



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- Coordinate efforts amongst affiliates through the Global Response Campaign to counter the privatisation of further and higher education and research, including:
  - Following up on the research EI has conducted into the impact of privatisation in the TVET sector with targeted advocacy and campaigning;
  - Promoting open access and targeting the business practices of commercial publishers that restrict the open and free exchange of scholarly material.
- Facilitate the sharing of best practices around quality terms and conditions of employment in the further and higher education and research sector, with particular attention to countering precarious employment.
- Advocate for indicators that will effectively monitor progress toward the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals in further and higher education and research.
- Ensure that EI's work on the assessment of teaching in further and higher education reflects a developmental model based on principles that place teaching at the centre of academic and professional practice.

#### **Calls upon EI Affiliates to:**

- Build and strengthen solidarity campaigns and development cooperation initiatives between affiliates.
- Share information on good and bad practice in relation to the assessment of teaching, including student, peer, and institutional assessment.
- Actively promote equity within their leadership and their workplaces by identifying and removing obstacles preventing equity in order to advance the representation and rights of women and members of disadvantaged and minority groups.
- Lobby their governments to adopt indicators to assess national progress toward meeting the SDGs in the sector.



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