



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación  
Bildungsinternationale

## TO ALL EI MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Brussels, 22 November 2012

### Head Office

5, Bd du Roi Albert II  
1210 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel +32 2 224 06 11  
Fax +32 2 224 06 06  
headoffice@ei-ie.org  
<http://www.ei-ie.org>

### President

Susan Hopgood

### General Secretary

Fred van Leeuwen

## URGENT ACTION APPEAL – Internet Freedom

Dear Colleagues,

An internet controlled by government and big business has severe implications for teachers, students, education support staff, our member unions and the rights of individuals around the world.

The World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), taking place from December 3-14 in Dubai, will consider a treaty that proposes a raft of changes to how the internet currently works. It will make way for vastly increased restrictions of citizens to communicate freely online.

The proposals, put forward by telecommunications corporations in concert with countries including China, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, will place serious restrictions on freedom of association and freedom of speech to our members.

It is critical that we, as unionists, play an active role in placing pressure on governments that will vote on the proposal at the upcoming meeting.

We have only a few days to stop these draconian proposals, so I call on you to urge your governments to reject these proposals outright and support a new process which is open and inclusive.

Education International joins the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) which is coordinating the largest global campaign ever seen on internet freedom, **Stop the Net Grab**, which will involve national member organizations securing commitments from state leaders. Also a global petition is being launched through **Change.org** that will be translated into several languages. The petition can be found at [www.change.org/netgrab](http://www.change.org/netgrab)

For the campaign to be successful in blocking this attempt to clampdown on our rights, we request your assistance in the following areas:

- Mobilising members;
- Lobbying government officials;
- Generating media coverage;
- Inviting members by email to join the campaign; and
- Encouraging people and organisations in your networks to sign the petition and spread the word quickly.

We have prepared a campaign pack that will help you in the campaign to preserve internet freedom. Inside you will find:

1. A draft media release that you can tailor and send to local media outlets in your country ;
2. A Frequently Asked Questions document which explains what the proposal means and who is behind it; and
3. Email text



The internet as we know it, including its great potential for an organising and outreach tool, faces a great threat.

Unless we act to prevent the imposition of these restrictions on the internet, these changes will threaten our capacity to communicate with members and to advocate for change.

Help us Stop the Net Grab.

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen,  
General Secretary