

## **Education International's President Susan Hopgood, ISTP 2014**

I want to thank again our hosts for ensuring that the Summit has been so successful.

In the short amount of time I've got, and I certainly don't want to keep you from the reception, I want to look forward to the next Summit building on the valuable lessons we've learnt here.

First, collaboration has to be built into the education system. At a collective level that means that developments and reforms have to factor in the involvement of teacher unions. We are leaders of our profession who have been democratically chosen to represent our members. The idea of teachers on the one hand and unions and unions on the other is a false dichotomy and needs to end.

At school level that means the culture has to accommodate the concept of collaborative rather than managerial autonomy. And it also means that decentralisation has to be a thoroughly pragmatic strategy. It's about what works at what level.

Next it needs to apply to the emerging issues that we may be discussing at future Summits- the role of community schools and within that early years provision, the development of innovation and then developing the tools and supports to enable a collaborative culture.

We've talked about teacher learning. We know what enhances teachers' knowledge and self-confidence- equity of entitlement to professional development.

From many examples across the world we know also unions are the best providers of teacher learning and I'd suggest that this is a very fruitful area for union/ government collaboration.

One thing is for sure. Teacher learning can't be a matter of choice for schools about whether or not to provide it. You can't say all students can learn, but only some teachers.

I also want to make one probably obvious point. Yes resources are tight and yes they have to be targeted to where it makes a difference but the idea of 'more for less' is not enabling. There is no substitute for proper government investment in qualified teachers. Much more enabling is a commitment from governments to doing their best to fund the core service of education.

I want to congratulate the government/ union delegations here for backing the idea of a continuing dialogue on the future of the teaching profession. You are the leaders. I don't think other Ministers who were unable to come know really how much valuable learning they've missed.

Finally I welcome the fact that this year's Summit has taken place at the same time as our Unite for Quality Education campaign. It's a wonderful synergy that I hope can continue.