



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

## **Education: A Powerful Tool for Combatting Climate Change**

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As a world federation of unions representing organisations of teachers and other education professionals across the globe, Education International (EI) calls upon the United Nations (UN) and all governments to address the climate change emergency. New measures should be taken to adopt a model of sustainable development that meets the current needs of society without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

At the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP23) to be held in November 2017 in Bonn, Germany, EI endorses the three priorities of the international trade union movement in favour of strengthening international governance on climate.

EI believes in the power of education to achieve sustainable development and to raise global awareness on climate change. The education sector has a crucial role to play in the transition to a low carbon global economy. A new type of economy has massive implications for workers and the education and training that will be needed to prepare young people for life and for work. Research and technological development are vital in the fight against climate change. EI deeply believes that “education is the fuel of the future”. This is why it is imperative to accelerate the implementation of the Doha Programme adopted by the parties during COP18. This ambitious programme focuses on education, training, access to information, participation and awareness-raising among the public, as well as international cooperation on climate issues.

In line with the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), EI reaffirms the critical role of education, and ESD in particular, in helping learners to transform themselves and the society in which they live by developing knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to address contextual present and future challenges. Teachers and educators are crucial in the delivery of quality ESD and climate change education.

## **Education International's recommendations to UNFCCC COP23**

### **Education International recommends that COP23 and governments:**

1. Put education at the centre of national, regional and global efforts to combat climate change. In that regard, in conformity with the Doha Programme adopted at COP18, ensure that education will play a major role in moving forward the implementation of the Paris Agreement by calling on parties to include the issue of climate change in national education policies, plans, programmes and curricula.
2. Adopt measures to strengthen initial teacher education and continuous professional development programmes in order to equip teachers and other education professionals with the competences needed to teach Education for Sustainable Development and climate change education and support students to acquire, knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to protect the planet.
3. Consolidate the Paris Agreement by introducing or restoring references to adequate and predictable financial support for climate change education, training and research with an application across all parties, both developing and developed countries.
4. Make sure that international climate governance enforces the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development in order to provide a robust international framework to curb climate change.