I am Mennatallah from Egypt. I am 21 years old and I went to Ain Shams University. I’m doing my MA right now and I teach English. I’m from the Independent Teachers’ Union of Egypt and I’m here with a delegation from Education International. Education International represents 400 teachers’ organisations in 172 countries. The other young teachers that are here with me come from Honduras, Jamaica, Pakistan, the Netherlands and the USA.

My union fights for the right to education, especially for girls, for the rights of teachers and for ending corruption in the education system. My mother taught me to fight corruption no matter what.

Before the revolution in Egypt, we had no right to speak. I joined the Independent Teachers’ Union after the revolution. I am here to speak up for my country.

We need to create laws that make going to school an obligation for all children. We also need government funding for schools. It is the governments’ responsibility to provide quality education for all children: they made that promise to us almost 15 years ago.

Very often, the problem is not a shortage of money; it is the way the money is spent. We need to make sure that teachers receive proper training, so that they can provide the quality education that children deserve.

At home, my father did encourage me to go to school, but my mother said that I must go, so that I will be independent and not have to depend on my brothers.

I want the same for every girl in Egypt and in every country.

Malala, you said that you want to have an education, even if you have to sit on the floor to get it. This is the spirit I want girls in Egypt to develop.

We are all Malala! So let us fight together for the right of every child to be educated.

Thank-you.