

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

AND

EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

CONCERNING COOPERATION IN 2012-2020

**EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL** (hereinafter referred to as ‘EI’), represented by its General Secretary, Fred van Leeuwen,

and the

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS** (hereinafter referred to as ‘UNESCO’), represented by its Assistant Director-General of Education, Dr Qian Tang,

**considering** the objectives of UNESCO and EI set forth in their respective constitutions, and in particular their shared objectives to develop education throughout the world and to promote peace, understanding and respect for human rights through education,

**noting** the importance of strengthening cooperation and partnership between intergovernmental organizations such as UNESCO and organizations representing constituencies of civil society,

**recognizing** the key role of social dialogue between teachers and governments on education and professional issues,

**noting in particular** the key role undertaken in education and in their societies by teachers and other educational personnel,

**recalling** the record of fruitful cooperation and effective partnership between EI and UNESCO, and

**recalling further** the previous memorandum of understanding signed between them in March 1994 and March 1999, the admission of EI to associate status in February 2012 and the provision of the Directives concerning UNESCO’s partnership with non-governmental organizations relating to the conclusion of a framework agreement,

**noting** that EI is a non-governmental organization in formal associate relations with UNESCO, is an important source of expertise, and is representatives of teachers and other education personnel throughout the world,

**convinced** that strengthened joint work between UNESCO and education unions will yield important benefits for peoples in all countries,

## **AGREE TO COOPERATE DURING 2012-2017 IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

### **1. Advocacy and communication at global, regional and national level**

UNESCO and EI will cooperate in promoting the right to education and education for all, in particular regarding quality and the role of teachers through advocacy, notably within the EFA mechanisms and the Education First initiative, and the dissemination of research results and other relevant knowledge products. Efforts will be made for further involving, through their unions, teaching practitioners more directly in debates at global, regional and local

levels. In addition to joint efforts to contribute to achieving Education for All goals, UNESCO and EI will also explore and collaborate to frame and implement the post 2015 education and development agenda.

UNESCO and EI will work together to communicate on the issues addressed in this memorandum, including the preparation of jointly produced communiqués, publications, posters, videos, television and radio programs, as well as web communication, social media and interactive media tools. In this respect, UNESCO and EI will also further work together to promote the observance in all countries of World Teachers' Day on 5 October each year.

## **2. Normative work:**

UNESCO and EI will continue to cooperate within the framework of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (1966) and the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel (1997). In particular, both organizations will disseminate information about the Recommendations and cooperate in pursuing their full implementation in all countries.

EI will provide information on progress in implementing these recommendations, to the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART). EI will also bring information about specific cases to UNESCO's attention.

Both organizations will work on ways to lift the visibility of this important work and ensure the recommendations are referenced in key documents of initiatives like Education First or the Global Partnership for Education.

Cooperation will also be established in view of defining, at international, regional and national level, teaching standards and competency frameworks for teachers.

## **3. Policy dialogue**

There will be an ongoing dialogue between UNESCO and EI. Both organisations will work together to promote policy dialogue at global, regional and national levels and encourage partnerships in education reform through the involvement of national education unions in policy development.

## **4. Research**

UNESCO and EI will undertake joint research and studies on key issues related to teaching and learning, and share the results of such research, including the consequences of the international economic and financial crisis and development aid policies.

## **5. Cooperation at field level**

UNESCO and EI will actively pursue their cooperation at field level, through contacts between education unions and UNESCO field offices. Efforts will be made to ensure EI's affiliates participation in education sector group and/or local education group.

## **6. Education for democracy, human rights and global citizenship**

UNESCO and EI will cooperate in defending human rights, in building a culture of peace, guaranteeing safe and secure schools for students and teachers and in combating through education the phenomena of racism, xenophobia and intolerance in all its aspects. UNESCO and EI will work together to overcome specific cases of the denial of the rights to education arising out of such phenomena. EI will also work with UNESCO in promoting education for democracy, human rights and global citizenship.

## **7. Gender**

UNESCO and EI will continue to cooperate on programs aimed at achieving gender equality, and in particular on the extension of educational opportunities for women and girls. Moreover, UNESCO and EI will ensure that attention is paid to gender issues in all cooperative programs and activities.

## **8. Specific Areas of Cooperation**

The above-mentioned areas of cooperation will be materialized through specific initiatives and programmes as well as through relationships within the framework of established structures or initiatives including:

- i. Core EFA mechanisms, in particular within the EFA Steering Committee
- ii. Education First Steering Committee
- iii. UNESCO Networks, including National Commissions and UNESCO Chairs
- iv. CEART
- v. EI World Congress, UNESCO General Conference and the International Conference of Education (ICE)
- vi. World Teachers' Day
- vii. The Global Partnership for Education, within the Board and the Financial Advisory Committee
- viii. The International Task Force on Teachers for EFA
- ix. The International Summit on the Teaching Profession.

Prior consultation will take place between EI and UNESCO as appropriate to align perspectives and strategies to ensure a common position, to the extent possible.

#### **9. Application to all levels of education**

In keeping with the central importance of life-long learning, the activities indicated in each of the areas of cooperation listed above will be pursued at all levels of education: early childhood, primary, secondary, vocational, technical, adult and higher education. EI will be invited to participate as appropriate in the relevant UNESCO activities and committees and maintain multiple contacts with UNESCO, including its concerned Institutes, notably IBE, IIEP, UIL and UIS .

#### **10. General framework for cooperation**

The present Memorandum constitutes a general framework for cooperation. More specific programs and activities, including agreements for funding, shall be formulated separately. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Memorandum shall be ensured by regular contacts and consultations between the two organizations, including two joint review and planning meetings per year.

#### **11. Entry into force**

The present Memorandum shall enter into force upon its signature and shall remain in force for eight years. It can be terminated by either party, subject to the provision of sixty days' notice in writing to the other party.

Upon termination of the present Memorandum of Understanding, the general framework for cooperation between the parties will be renegotiated as provided for in the NGO Directives.

Done in two original copies, in English.

Paris, 22 November 2012

For the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

For Education International

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Irina Bokova  
Director-General

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Fred van Leeuwen  
General Secretary