**Model letter to Governments/Ministry of Education/Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Date

Dear ………………………..

As the voice of teachers and education workers, our union is actively following the negotiations on a new global development agenda post-2015. We are contacting you because we recognise the enormous influence our government has on this process.

While the proposed education goal has a number of positive elements, such as “completion of free, equitable quality primary and secondary education” (target 4.1), there are still important gaps.

**Firstly**, we are particularly concerned that the critical role of teachers has been overlooked. Yet we know that *equitable quality education* cannot be achieved without sufficient numbers of professionally trained, qualified, well-supported and motivated teachers. The global shortage of teachers, exceeding 5 million in primary education only, and worsened by the unattractiveness of the profession, requires urgent action.

**Secondly**, we propose adding a reference to *at least nine years of compulsory education* in target 4.1, in accordance with the recommendation from UNESCO.

**Thirdly**, we recommend using the term *early childhood education and care*, which recognizes that the right to education starts at birth, and add a reference to one year of free pre-primary education, as proposed in the Muscat Agreement.

In view of the above, we call urgently for the attached amendments to be made to the current proposal.

**Finally**, we want to underline that the education goal must be supported by a robust financing target. This will be our key demand when the international community meets at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July.

We are readily available to discuss these suggested amendments; please contact XXX.

This process is a priority for us, and we are keen to do all that we can to support our country’s involvement and contributions to the decisions that will be made for a new global sustainable development framework that will affect us all.

Yours sincerely,