



EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ON THE EBOLA CRISIS

The Executive Board of Education International, meeting in Brussels, from 21 -23 October:-

Notes with concern, that:

- a) according to latest data provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO) at least 4,500 people have died as a result of contracting the Ebola Fever in this latest outbreak; more than 8,900 have been infected, and, every week, at least a thousand more become infected, the vast majority of whom live in West African countries;
- b) according to the WHO the numbers of infected people will double by the end of 2014;
- c) that the infection has now spread to other regions of the world and become a real threat to health workers, volunteers and the global population, in general;
- d) in the most affected countries there are very few public services available , travelling from one region to another is difficult or prohibited, local and community markets and other public gatherings have been banned and schools have been closed for fear of spreading the disease;
- e) many students and teachers and members of education communities are among the victims of this epidemic;
- f) thousands of orphans have been created as their parents succumb to Ebola, leaving their children shunned by their communities who fear that the children have been infected;
- g) many Education International member organisations in the most affected countries have been organising aid and educational campaigns, in some cases in cooperation and coordination with Public Authorities and Aid NGO's, in order to provide food and medical assistance to their members and to their students, and also provide them with educational and pedagogical tools to advise on the prevention of the spread of the epidemic;

Considering that

many Educational International member organisations from the affected areas have sought assistance and that member organisations from other regions have requested information and guidance on the best way to develop strategies to help in the prevention of the spread of the epidemic;

The Education International Executive Board

Decides that EI:

- (i) should prioritize the requests for assistance made by the member organisations from the most badly affected countries and set up a solidarity fund to provide them with some financial assistance;
- (ii) should help those organisations to develop plans to prevent the spread of the disease which would be implemented at the school and community level and to develop appropriate health and hygiene programmes to be implemented in the schools in the aftermath of the epidemic, to try



to ensure that it will not reoccur;

Calls upon all EI affiliates

and, especially, those in the industrialised countries, to support Education International and its member organisations' in their efforts to develop Ebola prevention projects and to seek support at governmental and nongovernmental level for these project;

Demands that:

- (i) governments, intergovernmental organisations and the international community generally, take urgent action to stop the spread of the virus, and
- (ii) provide practical and financial assistance to those countries which have been most badly affected, in order that their public services and, in particular, education services, can resume operations as soon as possible.