

## **Sisters and Brothers**

- 1. Firstly I would like to recognise and pay my respects to the First Nations Peoples whose traditional land we are meeting on today.**
- 2. On this World Public Services Day I bring greetings of solidarity from the 30 million teachers and education workers from 402 organisations in 173 countries who are members of Education International.**
- 3. The Global Financial Crisis has exposed the failure of the market ideology and neo-liberalism.**
- 4. This failure having been exposed, now more than ever, it is incumbent on governments to invest in quality public services that are fundamental to the equitable and sustainable development of democratic societies.**
- 5. There is no greater gift that we can give our future generations than quality public education for all recognising that education is THE weapon against poverty and injustice.**
- 6. While governments around the world did not hesitate to bail out the financial institutions and profiteers who caused the global financial crisis, the same governments refuse to provide the necessary investments to achieve education for all.**
- 7. Some 70 million children around the world are still denied a basic education. Furthermore, in many countries we see national education budgets being slashed by governments.**
- 8. Simply put, this is just plain wrong.**
- 9. One of the pillars of democracy is quality public education for all as it is essential for the common good and the empowerment of a nation's citizenry.**
- 10. Education is the most powerful tool to lift us out of this crisis and deliver us our future and achieve global justice.**
- 11. On this World Public Services Day let us all commit to intensifying our campaign to ensure all governments around the world invest in quality public services including quality public education for all.**

**Susan Hopgood**

**EI President**

