

Statement from the Global Campaign for Education

Delivered by Camilla Croso, President

Ten years ago, donors came together in Amsterdam to launch the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI). During the last decade, progress in securing the right to education has been too slow and on present trends it is unlikely the 2015 EFA goals shall be met. The Global Campaign for Education welcomes the Replenishment Conference now taking place in Copenhagen, which brings together multiple stakeholders committed to the fulfillment of the right to education for all.

In this context, the GCE shall work towards the protection, respect and realization of the right to education mobilizing its network towards advocating States, including governments and parliamentarians, to follow up on their commitments towards the full EFA agenda. Gender equality, Early Childhood Care and Education (which shall be the theme of our next Global Action Week), adult literacy and education, increased and improved domestic financing, increased civil society participation, improved teaching conditions, attention to fragile states, are among top GCE's priorities. GCE expects to promote civil society advocacy around these priorities through different strategies but especially giving continuity to the Civil Society Education Fund project, which will involve at least 40 countries.

The GCE shall also advocate for an increased and improved international cooperation around education, that is respectful of all human rights and that is committed to the strengthening of democracies. We shall guide ourselves on a set of principles, spelt out in our report *Fund the Future: Education Rights Now*. These principles include allocating increased and predictable amounts of resources for Education for All and education rights, untying aid and ensuring

technical assistance is country led, ensuring international cooperation is in tune with government plans, ensuring country ownership and civil society engagement and addressing issues that impact domestic financing such as regressive macro economic policies and tax systems.

Last but not least, the GCE shall work towards the strengthening of the Global Partnership for Education, actively participating through our elected civil society representatives on the GPE Board, in the direction of a stronger, more independent, equal and effective partnership. Education is a right in and of itself, with direct consequences for children's, youth's and adults' present. But it is also an enabling right that impacts the future, one that allows people to secure other rights, to improve health and income, to hold government to account and to live in dignity. The GCE thus welcomes the full replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education.