



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

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World Teachers' Day 2015:

Theme: "Empowering teachers, building sustainable societies"

Dear Colleagues,

This year, on World Teachers' Day, members of Education International will mobilise throughout the world to **highlight the importance of teacher empowerment for providing quality education and building sustainable societies for all.**

In September 2015 the UN Member states will adopt a new post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Following EI and member organisations' advocacy efforts over the last 2 1/2 years, the provision of inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all has been accepted as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals which will drive global development for the next 15 years. Furthermore, the global education community, which met in Incheon, South Korea in May this year agreed that empowered, well-trained, qualified, supported and motivated teachers and education workers play a crucial role in contributing to sustainable development through the provision of high quality education. This commitment must be reflected in national or local legislation and be translated into action, both locally and globally.

With this year's World Teachers' Day we want to celebrate teachers worldwide and stress the importance of empowering educators so that they can provide quality education and contribute to sustainable development. Teacher empowerment should entail the provision of decent working conditions, well-resourced, safe and healthy working environments, trust, professional autonomy, academic freedom, high quality initial training and continuous professional development, among others. Where education workers are facing precarious working conditions, are pressured by stringent standardisation regimes, have no freedom to exercise their profession and face a low status in society, the provision of high quality education and its contribution to sustainable development remains a major challenge.

It is time for educators around the world to stand together for the profession and to call on governments to take concrete measures to empower teachers for building sustainable societies. Taking place soon after the adoption of the new sustainable development framework, this year's World Teachers Day is also an opportunity to call on governments to implement the new education goal and all of its targets by investing in teachers.

Please share with us your plans and activities for World Teachers' Day 2015 so that we can give them maximum visibility and see in what ways we could support your commemoration. Please send an email to 5oct@ei-ie.org.



Limited funding of up to 2,000 euros will be available to member organisations in developing countries, on a first-come first-served basis. Please contact us directly for details.

The poster for this year's commemoration is attached. A limited number of printed copies is available upon request.

We and teachers around the world count on your participation! With our voices lifted together, we can put pressure on governments and the international community to value and empower teachers to build sustainable societies.

In solidarity,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary