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**SHAKIRA RELEASES VIDEO CALL TO MAKE #LearningGeneration A REALITY:
“NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION”**

**UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON JOINS GLOBAL LEADERS IN ADVOCATING FOR
EVERY CHILD IN SCHOOL BY 2030**

***Click here for video:** <http://bit.ly/LearningGeneration>

International Artist and Advocate for Education Shakira Mebarak has teamed up with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg, UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown and other world leaders to make education the world’s number one priority.

Shakira has just released a video in which she urges viewers to “write to your government, leaders, Presidents and Prime Ministers. Urge them right now, to make the next generation the ‘Learning Generation.’ We can make it happen.” The call-to-action video has already been viewed by over a million people. It features UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who calls for the end of child marriage, child labour and child trafficking. He advocates that every child should be in school by 2030. Shakira adds: “Now is the time for action.”

The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity (The Education Commission), a global group including presidents, former prime ministers, Nobel laureates, business and education leaders, has set out the first-ever budget for global education, detailing from now to 2030 the costs and benefits of delivering a universal, high-quality primary and secondary education for all in its newly-released report. It proposes that investment in education be tripled to over \$3 trillion a year by 2030.

The Education Commission’s report, entitled *The Learning Generation: Investing in education for a changing world*, was presented on Sunday, September 18th to the United Nations Secretary-General at the start of the 71st General Assembly.

In a compelling and moving video, Education Commissioner Shakira Mebarak describes the next generation as the ‘Learning Generation’: “You are the future doctors, future teachers, future artists, future Presidents. Education should be your birthright, not a luxury.”

Norwegian Prime Minister and Co-Convener of the Education Commission Erna Solberg said: "The imperative to get all children and young people learning is shared by all countries. All countries will gain from action and all will face the dangerous consequences of inaction. Evidence shows that, for example, when youth have equal access to education and employment opportunities the risks of

engaging in extremist activities are lower. This is a time of opportunity, but that time is running out."

UN Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of the Education Commission, Gordon Brown remarked: "This is the civil rights struggle of our generation and Shakira's video presents a wake-up call and a challenge for us all. This is why we have launched an agenda for action calling for the largest expansion of educational opportunity in history underpinned by an increase in education financing from \$1.2 trillion today to \$3 trillion by 2030. We are calling this vision the #LearningGeneration and we urge each and every country to step up to the plate. This is a time of hope and of opportunity. By 2030 let us ensure that every child is in school."

Shakira's involvement in the world of education began in 1997 with the creation of her foundation, *Pies Descalzos*, that operates schools and educational projects in Colombia. She said: "I believe education is the key to everything. As an activist and a child of the developing world, I have seen education's power to transform lives. Education is the difference between success and failure, or even life and death for many children. Studies have shown that education affects every major challenge we face in society. It creates economic growth, paves the way for peace and stability, and helps erase the legacy of marginalization."

- ENDS -

ABOUT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION:

The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity (The Education Commission) is a major global initiative engaging world leaders, policy makers and researchers to develop a renewed and compelling investment case and financing pathway for achieving equal educational opportunity for children and young people.

The Education Commission is bringing together the best research and policy analysis on the actions necessary to increase investment in concrete, relevant learning outcomes that have a positive impact on economic and social development. The Commission is co-convened by Prime Minister **Erna Solberg** of Norway, President **Michelle Bachelet** of Chile, President **Joko Widodo** of Indonesia, President **Peter Mutharika** of Malawi and the Director-General of UNESCO **Irina Bokova**. The UN Special Envoy for Global Education, **Gordon Brown**, serves as the Chair of the Commission.

Commissioners:

- **Anant Agarwal**, CEO, edX; Professor, MIT
- **José Manuel Barroso**, Former President, European Commission
- **Felipe Calderón**, Former President, Mexico
- **Kristin Clemet**, Managing Director, Civita; Former Minister of Education and Research and Former Minister of Labour and Government Administration, Norway
- **Aliko Dangote**, CEO, Dangote Group

the Education Commission

- **Julia Gillard**, Chair, Global Partnership for Education; Former Prime Minister of Australia
- **Baela Raza Jamil**, Adviser/Trustee, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA)
- **Amel Karboul**, Secretary-General of MEF (Maghreb Economic Forum); Founder and Chair of Change, Leadership & Partners (CPL); Former Minister of Tourism, Tunisia
- **Jakaya Kikwete**, Former President, Tanzania
- **Jim Kim**, President, World Bank Group
- **Yuriko Koike**, Governor of Tokyo; Former Member of the House of Representatives and Minister of Defense, Japan
- **Anthony Lake**, Executive Director, UNICEF
- **Ju-ho Lee**, Professor, KDI School of Public Policy and Management; Former Korean Minister of Education
- **Jack Ma**, Founder and Executive Chairman, Alibaba Group
- **Graça Machel**, Founder, Graça Machel Trust
- **Strive Masiyiwa**, Executive Chairman and Founder, Econet
- **Teopista Birungi Mayanja**, Founder, Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU); Deputy Director Education Services, Kampala Capital City Authority
- **Shakira Mebarak**, International Artist; Founder, Fundación Pies Descalzos
- **Patricio Meller**, Professor, University of Chile and President, Fundación Chile
- **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Chair, GAVI; Former Minister of Finance, Nigeria
- **Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi**, Cabinet Member, Minister of State for Tolerance, United Arab Emirates
- **Kailash Satyarthi**, Founder, Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- **Amartya Sen**, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy, Harvard University
- **Theo Sowa**, CEO, African Women's Development Fund
- **Lawrence Summers**, Charles W. Eliot University Professor and President Emeritus, Harvard University; 71st Secretary of the Treasury for President Clinton and the Director of the National Economic Council for President Obama
- **Helle Thorning-Schmidt**, Chief Executive, Save the Children; Former Prime Minister, Denmark

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A full copy of the report *The Learning Generation: Investing in education for a changing world* is available here: <http://report.educationcommission.org>

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