

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday 22 December***

**\*\* UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WELCOMES EDUCATION COMMISSION FINDINGS AND ENCOURAGES ACTION ON EDUCATION**

The United Nations General Assembly this week adopted two resolutions welcoming the Education Commission's report and encouraging states to consider its recommendations.

On Monday, the General Assembly approved a text from its Third Committee – which focuses on social, humanitarian, and human rights issues – entitled *Literacy for life: shaping future agendas*. The preamble of the resolution recognizes that “substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education in order to enable millions of people to acquire literacy skills for decent work” (PP6). The operative part of the text “takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, and calls upon Member states and other stakeholders to consider implementing the considerations contained therein” (OP5).

And on Wednesday, the General Assembly adopted a resolution of its Second Committee – which deals with issues relating to economic growth and development – on the *Second United Nations decade for the Eradication of Poverty* (2008-2017). In this resolution, the General Assembly reiterated the role of substantial and efficiently spent investments in improving the quality of education and enabling millions of people to acquire skills for decent work. It also expressly “takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, and the recommendations contained therein, as appropriate” (OP35).

The resolutions represent a significant development in the Commission's efforts to highlight and advance the report's findings through the UN system. In addition to strengthening global accountability, the second phase of the Commission's work will also focus on supporting pioneer countries, establishing a Multilateral Development Bank Investment Mechanism, catalyzing strategic initiatives, and spreading the Commission's key messages.

Commenting on the resolutions, Commission Chair Gordon Brown said:

“We welcome the UN's recognition of the Commission's report, which proposes the largest expansion of educational opportunity in history.

“Despite the irrefutable case for investment in education, and despite the promises made and remade by generations of leaders, education has not been sufficiently prioritized by governments to even come close to ensuring this universal right.

“Education can wait no longer – evidence is clear that it is now, more than ever, an imperative for social and economic progress.

“We look forward to working with the UN in the second phase of the Commission’s work to hold governments accountable for the promise of education and opportunity.”

**- 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 **Arthur 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**

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- **Helle Thorning-Schmidt**, Chief Executive, Save the Children; Former Prime Minister, Denmark

**EDITOR'S NOTES:**

**The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity's report, "The Learning Generation: Investing in education for a changing world," has put forward an action plan for the largest expansion of educational opportunity in history.**

In order to build 'The Learning Generation', the Commission will call upon the world's leaders to commit to education transformations:

**Strengthening performance** – put in place the building blocks of delivery to strengthen the performance of the education system, maximize efficiency and put results first.

**Fostering innovation** - harness new technology and develop creative approaches to organizing and delivering learning.

**Prioritizing inclusion** - ensure that education reaches everyone, taking additional steps to include those at greatest risk of not learning.

**Increasing finance** - mobilizing new domestic resources and increasing international support and leadership, prioritizing investment in countries that demonstrate commitment to invest and reform education systems

Bringing these four transformations together, the Commission proposes a **Financing Compact for the Learning Generation**, bringing low- and middle-income countries together with their partners in the international community to increase education financing from \$1.2 trillion to \$3 trillion by 2030, and deliver comprehensive reform in the efficiency and effectiveness of how each dollar is deployed. The Compact will aim to incentivize new action by all partners, hold all countries to account for their responsibilities for education, and ensure that countries committed to getting all children learning are given the support they need.

# the Education Commission

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**A full copy of the report; “The Learning Generation: Investing in education for a changing world” can be found at: [report.educationcommission.org](http://report.educationcommission.org)**

For further information, contact Reid Lidow: [rlidow@educationcommission.org](mailto:rlidow@educationcommission.org)

Confirmation of the General Assembly’s approval of the Second Committee resolution is here: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11880.doc.htm>

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