



The Global Initiative  
*for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*



**RIGHT TO EDUCATION PROJECT**

**UN Human Rights Council 29<sup>th</sup> session**

**June 2015, Geneva**

**Joint Oral Statement given by the  
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and  
the Right to Education Project,  
In relation to Item 3, Interactive Dialogue with  
the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education**

The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Right to Education Project and our national and regional partners welcome the Special Rapporteur's report on 'Protecting the right to education against commercialization', which reminds us that education is an inalienable right of every person – and not a privilege of the rich and advantaged.

The report highlights the negative impacts of the increasing growth of private actors and commercialization in education on the fundamental human rights principles underpinning the right to education – such as non-discrimination – and we would like to congratulate the Special Rapporteur for raising his voice on this important issue.

The growth of private providers in education is unprecedented and very different from the development of community and religious schools that preceded the current trend. There is a growing body of research evidence that assesses the increased engagement of private actors in education against human rights standards and demonstrates that private provision frequently excludes the most marginalized groups from accessing education, creates segregation, and does not deliver quality education – directly contravening the right to education as defined by international law.

Therefore, we commend the Special Rapporteur's recommendation for monitoring private providers in education, in particular through a framework of regulations that includes requirements for private providers to respect the right to education and measures to hold them accountable.

We wish to stress the importance of freedom of education as guaranteed under international law and the positive role that private actors may play. However, as underlined by the Special Rapporteur, the involvement of private providers in education should supplement and not

supplant public education and we commend his call for increasing investment in public education including through taxation.

To help clarify the human rights principles applicable to assessing the roles and limitations of private actors in education, a group of academics, education advocates and NGOs are developing a set of Principles based on existing international human rights law. We call on any interested stakeholder to join this process.

We invite States to welcome this important report and to develop policies that ensure private providers operate in compliance with human rights standards to ensure quality education for all.

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