

El Africa Committee Meeting

20 - 22 March 2023,
Holiday Inn Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa

RESOLUTION ON ESWATINI

The Education International Africa Regional Committee (EIARC), meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 21 and 22 March 2023,

1. Deeply concerned about the developments in the Kingdom of Eswatini where the Government of Eswatini continues to violate trade union rights, and deny the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) the right and autonomy to effectively engage with the Government on all matters pertaining to the welfare, training, and retention of teaching personnel;
2. Recalling the resolution passed by the El Africa Regional Committee meeting online on 10 March 2022, calling on the Eswatini authorities to respect International Labour Standards, stop violation of workers' rights to organize and associate freely, and refrain from victimizing union officials;
3. Recalling the resolution passed by the El Executive Board meeting online, from 14 – 16 March 2023, urging the Government of Eswatini to uphold human and trade union rights and to engage in dialogue with SNAT;
4. Concerned that the Government of Eswatini has continued to harass the SNAT President for his role in the union and the persistent attempts by the Government to weaken SNAT by interfering with the check-off system and by refusing to increase dues or to register new unionized members;

The El Africa Regional Committee urges the Government of Eswatini to:

5. Respect and protect the fundamental rights of workers and trade unionists, including the right to freedom of association, collective bargaining, and peaceful assembly, in line with International Labour Standards, to which Eswatini is a signatory, in particular, ILO Conventions 87 on freedom of association and Convention 98 on the right to organise and collective bargaining;
6. Cease immediately all forms of harassment and intimidation against trade unionists and human rights defenders and instead engage in constructive continuous dialogue with SNAT;
7. Uphold the check-off system and process the request to increase SNAT membership dues in a timely manner, and register all new unionised teachers as required by law; and,

8. Reinstatement of the salary and benefits of the President of SNAT, dropping all charges laid against him for undertaking legitimate union duties, and ensuring his safety.