

RESOLUTION ON ATTACKS ON EDUCATION

The Education International Africa Regional Committee (EIARC), meeting online on 9 and 10 March 2022,

Recalling that:

1. Attacks on education are **any intentional threat or use of force** – carried out for political, military, ideological, sectarian, ethnic, religious, or criminal reasons – against students, educators, and education institutions;

Considering that:

2. Students and educators in situations of armed conflict face violence every day;
3. Schools and universities should be safe havens, where communities can work toward a better future; but in many places, these institutions have become the targets of violent attacks for political, military, ideological, sectarian, ethnic, religious or criminal reasons;
4. Attacks on education include violence against educational facilities, students and education personnel;
5. Attacks, and threats of attack, can cause severe and long-lasting harm to individuals and societies;
6. Access to education may be undermined, the functioning of educational facilities may be blocked, or education personnel and students may stay away, fearing for their safety;
7. Abductions, military conflicts; coups-d'état and unconstitutional power take-over constitute a threat to civil peace needed to achieve inclusive quality education for all;
8. Attacks on education unions negatively impact the provision of quality teaching and learning;

Noting with concern that:

9. In several African countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, and Nigeria where education is threatened by faith-based extremist groups who, kidnap, molest, hurt, and kill educators and students;
10. Several cases of abduction have been reported recently in Nigeria, where educators and learners are kidnapped by bandits and criminal groups who then demand ransom before releasing them;
11. Military conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Ethiopia, Mozambique and South Sudan prevent millions of children and their educators from the opportunity to access education;
12. Unconstitutional takeover of power in several African countries, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, and Mali often comes with the violation of human and trade union rights;
13. Those conflicts and attacks prevent the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on quality education and the African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA): 2016 – 2025 objectives;

Recalling:

14. EI's 8th World Congress Resolution on [Attacks on Schools in Africa](#), adopted in Bangkok in 2019;
15. The inter-governmental political commitment through the Safe Schools Declaration, adopted in Stockholm in 2015 by UN Member States, inviting governments of signatory countries to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities from the worst effects of armed conflict;

Reasserting that:

16. Education is a basic human right and a public good; and that children have the right to free, inclusive and equitable quality public education regardless of where they live;
17. Learners' rights to education cannot be safeguarded in conflict zones if education institutions are not protected from attack;
18. Schools should be safe sanctuaries, providing a safe space for learning where children can be protected from threats and crises;

EIARC, therefore, calls on:

19. African Governments to endorse, domesticate, implement, and support the Safe Schools Declaration to ensure that all students and educators, male and female, can learn and teach in safety;
20. The African Union (AU) and governments to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of attacks on education, including by disaggregating data by type of attack on education, gender, age, and type of schooling, in order to strengthen efforts to prevent and respond to attacks on education; and,
21. African governments to involve teachers, education support personnel and their unions in the efforts to combat attacks on education, including through social dialogue.