

Member of the GCE that presents the motion: CLADE

Title of the motion: Strengthening democracy and citizens' participation in the realization of the human right to education.

Number of words: 398

Details of the person that authorizes this motion:

Signature: 

Date and time of the signature: 22nd November, 6 pm

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Strengthening democracy and citizens' participation in the realization of the human right to education.

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) acknowledges that:

- International legislation and the constitutions of democratic countries guarantee citizens' participation as a right for all. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that every individual has the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs, through political movements or parties, trade unions, civil organizations – directly or through freely chosen representatives (art. 25)
- The struggle to enforce the right to public and free education for all implies plural and collective action of different civil society actors, involving the education community, non governmental organizations, teachers' unions, education workers' associations and social movements.
- There is a serious scenario, in several countries, where the right to civil society participation is violated, and this is increasingly seen in the field of education. We have witnessed the criminalization of social movements, and of their activists as well, the violent and authoritarian repression of public demonstrations and legitimate and peaceful rallies led by teachers or students, particularly, young people. Organizations and activists that are members of the coalitions that form part of the GCE have experienced those situations.

Therefore, the GCE calls for:

- Strengthening the civil society role in the democratic construction of states, with better and broader mechanisms of social watch and popular participation in debate and decision-making, so that power is exercised respecting human rights and the will and contributions of all citizens.
- Strengthening democratic and peaceful forms of negotiation and representation that consider organizations and social movements as legitimate representatives in the processes of debate and decision-making where disagreement has to be considered as legitimate.
- Developing and strengthening consultative and deliberative spaces where civil society can participate in the debate and decision-making processes on the legal and political frameworks of education, either at micro school level or at macro, national and international level.
- Promoting and enforcing the participation of the education community – children, young people and adults, teachers, parents, education workers – in debate and decision making processes on the legal and political frameworks of education.
- Small children should be able to express their opinions and be listened to, as expressed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. With reference to this, the General Observation n° 7 urges to consider the small children as “real protagonists of their own development” in family life, as well as at school, in communities or institutions.