



2023

Education International
9th World Congress

Held online in July 2023

Congress Proceedings



Education International 9th World Congress 2023 | Internationale de l'Éducation 9^e Congrès mondial 2023 | Internacional de la Educación 9^o Congreso mundial 2023



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El Executive Board Members

President

Susan Hopgood (AEU/Australie)

General Secretary

David Edwards (NEA/USA)

Vice-presidents

Mugwena Maluleke (SADTU/South Africa)

Masaki Okajima (JTU/Japan)

Marlis Tepe (GEW/Germany)

Roberto Franklin de Leão (CNTE/Brazil)

Lily Eskelsen García (NEA/USA)

Regional Seats Africa

Yohannes Benti Chokorso (ETA/Ethiopia)

Marième Sakho Dansokho (SYPROS/Senegal)

Regional Seats Asia-Pacific

Hyunjin Kim (KTU/South Korea)

Ram Pal Singh (AIPTF/India)

Regional Seats Europe

Johanna Jaara Åstrand (STU/Sweden)

Sławomir Broniarz (ZNP/Poland)

Regional Seats Latin America

Nelson Alarcón (FECODE/Colombia)

Sonia Alesso (CTERA/Argentina)

Regional Seats North America and Caribbean:

Dianne Woloschuk (CTF-FCE/Canada)

Randi Weingarten (AFT/USA)

Open Seats

Jalila Mohammed Ridha al-Salman (BTA/Bahrain)

Raymond D. Basilio (ACT/Philippines)

Mary Bousted (NEU/United Kingdom)

Alfonso Cepeda Salas (SNTE/Mexico)

Steffen Handal (UEN/Norway)

Manuela Mendonça (FENPROF/Portugal)

Nadine A. Molloy (JTA/Jamaica)

Helene Nekarmbaye (SET/Chad)

Marjolaine Perreault (CSQ/Canada)

Roberto Trochez (COPROSUMAH/Honduras)



Congress Plenary Session 1

Day 1 — Tuesday 11 July 2023

1.1 Opening and President's Speech



The 9th Education International World Congress, held online for the first time, opened over Zoom with a call to order by Education International (EI) President **Susan Hopgood** and a video music performance by the marimba class of Sekampaneng Primary School in Pretoria, South Africa.



EI General Secretary **David Edwards** thanked their teacher, Zephora Letshwene, and EI Vice President **Mugwena Maluleke** for organizing the recording especially for the conference, then introduced the opening speech by President Susan Hopgood.

Hopgood announced EI will postpone elections and resolution debates until the 10th World Congress in Buenos Aires.



She spoke about Covid-19's unequal impacts, praising EI's cooperation with the United Nations (UN) and World Health Organization. But another crisis remains, in "*the ability of governments to maintain and advance the common good, and the capacity of the people to hold their governments accountable.*"

Public resources for education have fallen, she noted; schools in low-income countries often lack electricity, water, and sanitation. There is also a worldwide shortage of qualified teachers. These shortfalls disproportionately affect girls.



The causes include conditions for loans requiring governments to starve the public sector; tax avoidance; and expensive but disappointing technology. Hopgood said, *“Governments and global financial institutions are very quick to use the word ‘cost,’ but we don’t often hear the word ‘value.’”* The problem is not a lack of resources, she said, but “a lack of political will to make education the priority the world needs.”

Hopgood cited a larger concern: “Investment in the common good is fundamental to democracy.” A high-level panel at the UN is addressing teachers’ roles and needs, which Hopgood called a *“breakthrough,”* because educators *“must be supported, valued, and paid their worth,”* with appropriate workloads and working conditions. She added, *“Quality education requires quality teaching for all students in all circumstances”.*

Teachers must raise their voices to spur changes for a sustainable world. She urged member organisations to complete the Status of Teacher survey and work with EI’s *Go Public! Fund Education* campaign.

Public education systems have an *“indispensable role in advancing human rights, equity and equality, peace, democracy, and climate justice”*, she said. *“By growing our unions and elevating our professions, we are building and defending democracy.”*

We must use the power we have in our unions and communities: *“Colleagues, that is leadership. That is our challenge. But that is also our strength.”*

In later housekeeping remarks, Hopgood addressed technical aspects of the online conference format and held a practice vote.

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda and Rules of Order

The president proposed the adoption of the 9th World Congress agenda. The agenda was moved by **Roberto Franklin de Leão**, Vice President, and seconded by **Marjolaine Perrault**, Executive Board member. No changes were proposed to the rules.

The agenda was adopted.

1.3 Report of the Credentials Committee

The Chair of the Credentials Committee, **Johanna Jaara Åstrand**, Vice President, presented the report.

The Committee meeting on 10 July included representatives of the EI regions and the Arab Countries Cross-Regional Structure (ACCRS). Duncan Smith, Guntars Catlaks, and Stephane Ponsard attended from the Secretariat. The Committee was satisfied with the information from the Secretariat on payments, dues, delegates, and votes.

EI wrote to 17 organisations whose delegations were less than 50% women, asking for written justification and proactive measures they will take to improve gender parity in the future. Two made corrections showing they did have 50% women in their delegations. Six provided justification, and two of those made changes to reach gender parity. The justifications were to be taken up by the Executive Board in November 2023.

The Credentials Committee Report was moved by Johanna Jaara Åstrand and seconded by **Hélène Nekarmbaye**, Executive Board member.

The report was adopted.

1.4 Adoption of the Rules of Debate

The Adoption of the Rules of Debate was moved by **Hideyuki Shimizu**, Vice President, and seconded by **Sonia Alesso**, Executive Board member.

Shimizu said that the rules of debate were different for this conference because of the shorter format, which does not allow for policy resolutions and amendments.

The Rules of debate were adopted.

1.5 Adoption of a Clause in Relation to Times of Crises as an Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws

The proposed amendment will become a new Article 27, allowing the Executive Board to make special decisions to respond to crises like the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mugwena Maluleke, Vice President, moved the amendment. He noted EI's Constitution requires congresses to be held at least every four years, but Covid travel bans and limited access to vaccines made that schedule impossible.





Manuela Mendonça, Executive Board member, seconded the motion, saying EI should be able to concentrate on responding to crises without being unduly restrained, but added the amendment should apply only in exceptional situations.

Magope Maphila (SADTU/South Africa) spoke in favour of the amendment, reviewing Covid-19 precautions adopted in South Africa.



Lasse Bjerg Jørgensen (BUPL/Denmark) supported the amendment to give the Executive Board room to manoeuvre, but asked that it be worded more precisely and debated at the next Congress.

The amendment was carried.



1.6 Adoption of an Enabling Resolution Limiting the Business of This Ordinary Session of the World Congress and Extending the Term of Office of the Executive Board

ENABLING RESOLUTION 1 LIMITING THE BUSINESS OF THIS WORLD CONGRESS AND EXTENDING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

General Secretary **David Edwards** moved the resolution, which sought to limit the business of this 9th World Congress and extend the terms of office of the current Executive Board. He noted that an online conference is difficult for attendees in different time zones, requiring very early or very late hours. The Executive Board felt this Congress should address limited business, he said, as things like resolutions and elections are better discussed face-to-face.



Marième Sakho Dansokho, Executive Board member, seconded the motion, speaking of the unevenly implemented Covid protocols in African countries, impeding travel, and establishing the need to hold an online Congress because of this. She however also highlighted technological challenges with such a format, which meant she was in favour of limiting the business of the current Congress.

Enabling Resolution 1 was carried.

1.7 Progress Report 2015-2019

El General Secretary **David Edwards** presented the progress report for 2015 to 2019, noting it would be limited at this conference, with a fuller report presented at the 10th World Congress in Buenos Aires in 2024.

Edwards asked for a moment of silence for colleagues lost to Covid-19. He praised EI's engagement in the global response.

He noted that *"in the face of crisis, we are never paralysed. We mobilise."* In recent years, EI has participated in many events advancing education and the position of women, such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the World Higher Education Conference.

Migration and refugees were a focus, in the United States, Türkiye, Lebanon, Sudan, Ukraine, and Syria, presenting difficult conditions for education. EI also helped crisis teachers receive back pay and worked against child and forced labour.

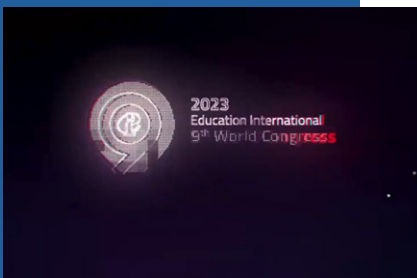
A delegation visited Ukraine: *"We saw incredible valour and union values on full display as a people fight against their own eradication and for democracy."* In Myanmar, EI worked for stability and the release of political prisoners.

But anti-democratic pressures are rising. Edwards cited the disbanding of the Hong Kong Teachers' Union, the need for observation in Afghanistan, attacks on trade unions in Belarus, and the targeting of union leaders in Eswatini.

Uganda saw the intimidation of teachers and a deadly school attack; attacks or threats closed many schools in Mali. EI also asked Israel to protect Palestinian schoolchildren. Bahrain, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon saw violations of union rights. EI pressed Iran to release imprisoned trade unionists and protect rights of assembly. In Haiti, it started a solidarity fund.

Edwards noted that *"sometimes progress is the simple absence of war... [or] simply a victory for the rule of law"* as in Ethiopia, Brazil, and Fiji. In the battle against privatisation, he cited gains in Nepal and Morocco, and the successful outcomes of a mission to Argentina and Uruguay. About education, he said, *"It's the foundation of human enterprise, woven into the ambitious narratives of every priority of the future."* EI also issued a climate manifesto and held workshops.

Education is the catalyst, Edwards said, for meeting UN Sustainable Development Goals. It requires better funding, corporate responsibility, and government accountability: *"A new social contract focused on the value of collecting*





and deploying the people's money for the public good." He recommends preventing manipulation of financial systems and tax avoidance.

Educators must organise and mobilise: *"The path to a sustainable future to our rights as citizens of the world is the same as our path to union rights, and that path is democracy."* The new UN panel will address teacher shortages, professionalism, and public funding. *"For the first time, there is a high-level agreement that education is an investment, and the key component of this investment is teachers and education workers."*

Advancing technology, Edwards said, requires attention to equity. Privatisation gains force with chronic public underfunding. EI must *"be a force, not only for education and sustainable development, but for democracy itself."*

"We continue to make a difference worldwide", he said. *"And we will not stop."*

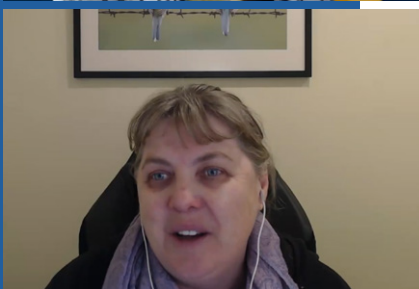


Interventions

Julian Farges (SNES-FSU/France) talked about the problems of austerity, tax fraud, and Covid. France's public education system has lost the equivalent of 1% of the country's GDP in recent years. People cannot continue to make the sacrifices they made during the pandemic, he said, and educators must protect students from the rise of autocratic powers.



Unifah Rosyidi (PGRI/Indonesia) noted that inequalities worsened during the pandemic. As the educational system rebuilds, she says, it should do better, with more investment in education, attention to the digital divide, and support for disadvantaged students.



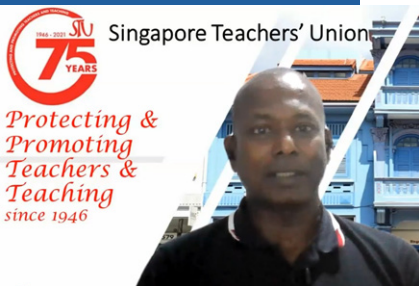
Correna Haythorpe (AEU/Australia) cited problems in the Asia-Pacific region, including privatisation, teacher shortages, lowered standards, and attacks on unions and human rights. Climate justice is an ongoing crisis.



Maïke Finnern (Executive Board) wants education to be a human right. She said education should not be privatised. Germany helped Türkiye and Syria after the earthquake, she said, and is still helping colleagues in Ukraine. Also, EI should pressure Iran and Belarus for trade union rights.



Tsukasa Takimoto (JTU/Japan) said the Asia-Pacific region suffers from a lack of education funding. Since it is the most vulnerable to climate change, educators are prioritizing that, he said, as well as supporting education in Cambodia, Philippines, Myanmar, and Afghanistan.



Manuela Mendonça (Executive Board) mentioned stronger links between EI and Portuguese-speaking organisations and projects for trade union organizing in some African countries.

Mike Thiruman (STU/Singapore) praised EI's work and noted the pandemic's toll on teachers' well-being.

Grace Nyongesa (UASU/Kenya) thanked EI for its support against privatisation of public universities in Kenya. She feared privatisation could lead to job losses, lower educational quality, and barriers for the disadvantaged.

The remaining interventions were postponed to the next day, and Day 1 was closed.





Congress Plenary Session II

Day 2—Wednesday 12 July 2023



2.1 Progress Report 2015-2019 (cont.)

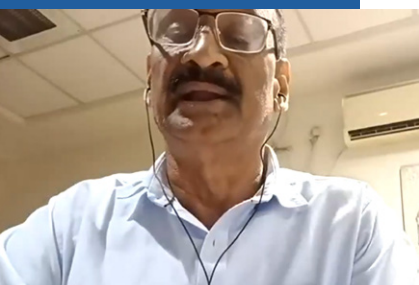
Continuing with the business of the Progress Report, more delegates offered interventions.

Alfonso Cepeda Salas (Executive Board) congratulated EI on its work for public education and trade unionism. He asked EI to also consider education workers' social benefits, such as housing and healthcare.

Sławomir Broniarz (Executive Board) spoke about the teacher shortages, the need for better wages and working conditions, and the worry that digitisation might exclude some students. He thanked those who have worked to support Ukrainian children.

Kamala Kanta Tripathy (AIPTF/India) talked about problems in India, including only 3% of GDP allocated to education, heavy teacher workload, lack of retirement benefits, too much use of contract teachers, and threats of privatisation. He praised the Go Public! Fund Education campaign and announced a month-long march for financing and investment in teachers.

Richard Gundane (ZIMTA/Zimbabwe) spoke of climate problems, including cyclones and the El Niño effect. He stressed the need for better policies for climate education and a just transition. Zimbabwe anticipates severe droughts this upcoming year and the government has only inadequate financial resources to meet them.



2.2 Response to the General Discussion on the Progress Report



Responding to the interventions, General Secretary Edwards addressed a number of the expressed concerns.

On climate change, he referred to the Teach for the Planet campaign and noted that the *Go Public!* campaign would research countries' spending on fossil fuel subsidies and the need for divestment. Teachers' perspectives, he said, also must be heard in the multi-stakeholder partnership led by UNESCO.

According to Edwards, well-being came to the forefront during the pandemic, in all areas of work. A second barometer of health and well-being will come out on October 10, he said, and well-being is important in the global teacher status survey.

He noted that EI has been developing principles for the UN high-level panel's discussions of workload, pay, conditions, technology, AI, and digitisation. Since the panel's recommendations must be funded, he called attention to the *Go Public!* campaign.

As to social protections, some countries are struggling with questions of teachers' retirement funds and pensions, he said, while others must still address teacher poverty and a lack of social safety nets.



Edwards moved to receive the Progress Report, and **Randi Weingarten**, Executive Board member, seconded this.

Weingarten spoke of EI's recent rapid and tangible responses to natural disasters, war, and attacks on democracy. Praising the breadth and depth of the work shown in the General Secretary's Progress Report, she highlighted EI's efforts to alleviate problems of climate change, help those suffering from war and displacement, link education and democracy, and work with important global organisations for change.

The Progress Report was received.

2.3 Report on Financial Statements 2019-2022



Lily Eskelsen García, Chair of the Finance Committee, Vice President, reported on EI's financial statements. She noted that due to the limited agenda for this Congress, it was proposed that EI have a bridge programme and budget for 2024 and extend by a year both the terms of the Internal Audit Committee and the engagement of the external auditors. Full reports from both will be given at the in-person 10th World Congress.

In a limited report, she announced that, despite higher costs and inflation due to Covid-19 and economic and political difficulties, EI's finances remained generally stable and dues received covered budgeted expenses each year.

She noted that audited financial statements and interim reports for the years since 2019 were among the Congress documents, along with a summary from the internal audit committee.

Statements showed a positive balance for income and expenditure, as well as assets and liabilities.

The external auditors deemed the statements to be a true and fair view of EI's net equity and financial position according to Belgium's reporting framework. The 2020 Internal Audit Committee meeting could not be held due to Covid-19 restraints, but in the next years, it met three times online to review and accept interim annual audited financial statements. The audited statements were then discussed and received by the Finance Committee and the Executive Board.

She concluded that "*EI's overall financial situation is good*" and called its accounts "*in order and well managed*."

Eskelsen García moved to receive the report on the financial statements from 2019 to 2022, and **Jalila Al Salman**, Executive Board member, seconded the motion.

The report was received.

2.4 Adoption of Resolutions on External Auditors and Internal Audit Committee

Normally, during a Congress, external auditors are appointed and the Internal Audit Committee members are elected for the upcoming four years. Because of the abbreviated agenda of this Congress, and the next in-person Congress being a year away, two resolutions have been proposed, to extend both the mandate of the external auditors and the term of the Internal Audit Committee, by one year.

ENABLING RESOLUTION 2 EXTENDING THE MANDATE OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The external auditors for the previous period were Ernst & Young (EY). This resolution allows them to continue their work in 2023 and to report on the five-year period since 2019 at the next Congress.

The resolution was moved by **David Edwards**, General Secretary, and seconded by **Steffen Handal**, Executive Board member.

The resolution was carried.

ENABLING RESOLUTION 3 EXTENDING INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE TERM OF OFFICE

This resolution was moved by **David Edwards**, General Secretary, and seconded by **Alfonso Cepeda Salas**, Executive Board member.

The resolution was carried.

2.5 Presentation of the Programme and Budget 2024-2028

General Secretary **David Edwards** first defined three ideas: “*Covidifying, indexing, and bridging*”. Covidifying means considering things like travel restrictions and holding online events as a result of the pandemic; indexing means adjusting for inflation; and bridging means filling the one-year gap before the next Congress.

A video introduced the programme and budget.

Edwards named four principles: (1) holding the 10th World Congress in Buenos Aires; (2) winning the *Go Public! Fund Education* campaign; (3) supporting members in threats and emergencies; and (4) operating the Secretariat.

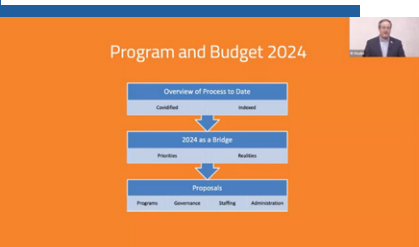
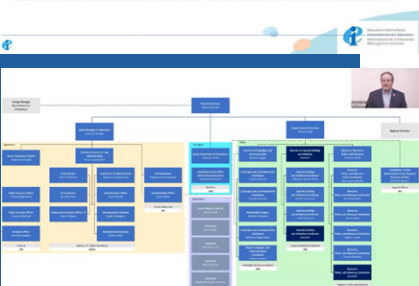
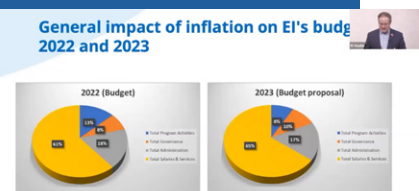
Dues cannot remain frozen, he said. In Belgium, when inflation passes 2%, salaries must be raised, so they have gone up by 12% already since the last World Congress. Between 2022 and 2023, salaries and costs as a percentage of the overall budget rose by 4%, to 65% of the budget. The proposed increase is 5% on the per capita ceiling rate, to €1.685 per member, which will keep programme activities stable.

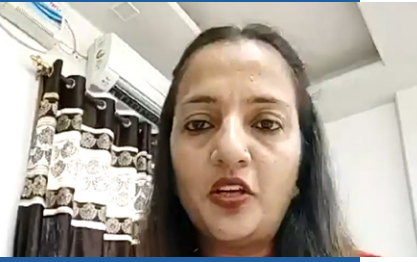
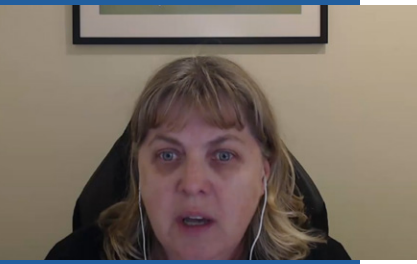
The four strategic directions—System, Status, Rights and Democracy, and Renewal—will continue in 2024.

Under System, he said, the most important focus is the *Go Public!* campaign; but he also mentioned austerity; research on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and debt; the climate crisis; and the private sector’s desire to push into education.

Under Status, a UN high-level teachers’ panel, a global status of teachers report, and an ILO/UNESCO commission will offer recommendations.

Under Rights and Democracy, Edwards expects further attacks on human and trade union rights. He urges members to spread the use of the human and trade union rights manual and keep on with gender work.





Under Renewal, he mentioned tools for strengthening and renewing and the *Academy for Labor Movement Activists (ALMA)*.

The 2024 budget maintains funding for events, he said, but cautioned that unfilled vacancies have caused some work to be paused.

Edwards said, *“All the progress that we have been able to achieve together has required resources. And we take our job as stewards of those resources very seriously.”*

Interventions

Claire Guéville (SNES-FSU/France) noted that EI must maintain its commitments despite budget constraints. She said increasing dues is a difficult decision, but she understands the need to continue projects and reinforce solidarity.

Correna Haythorpe (AEU/Australia) said affiliates must take their business and responsibilities seriously. She supports the budget and increase in dues so that EI can perform its important work.

Risa Fukae (JTU/Japan) spoke about youth and next-generation leadership programmes with participants from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Mongolia. Keywords in Edwards’s speech, she said, were organisational strength and solidarity.

Katarina Murto (OAJ/Finland) spoke in favour of responsible financial management in trade unions. She supports the rise in dues but hopes increases do not continue, and she asks for transparent budgets.

Monika Sharma (AIPTF/India) thanked Edwards for his attendance at AIPTF’s women’s congress and voiced her support for the Go Public! campaign.

Ida Næss Hjetland (UEN/Norway) supported the dues increase and priorities Edwards outlined. She stressed the urgency of providing adequate funding for public education.

Mário Nogueira (FENPROF/Portugal) agreed with EI’s plan and the Go Public! campaign. He spoke of restraints on teachers’ salaries despite increasing profits for financial and economic groups, and noted that pay and conditions must improve to attract and keep qualified teachers.

Cuqui Vera (FECCOO/Spain) announced support of EI for its leadership and voice and said that EI cannot afford to limit its trade union action or other efforts, because the future of education is at stake.



Sonia Alesso (Executive Board) talked about external debt in Latin America and its effect on educational financing. Other problems, she said, are sustainability, companies' grabbing of resources, and the defense of human rights.



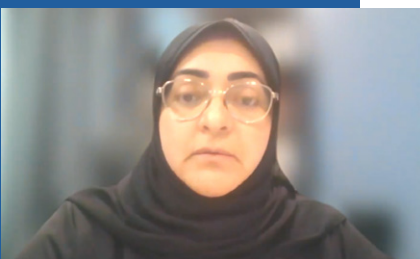
Svante Tideman (STU/Sweden) said cuts in education funding are a short-sighted solution in times of crisis. He spoke of protests and advances in Sweden, as part of a global movement, for equity and quality and against privatisation.



Eduardo Pereyra (CTERA/Argentina) supported the budget and the campaign for the funding of public education, against privatisation and commercialisation. He noted that in many countries, education budgets have been reduced or frozen.



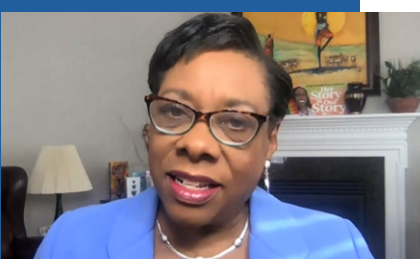
Rossella Benedetti (UIL-SCUOLA RUA/Italy) said she understood the increase in dues but said EI needs a dues calculation reflecting teacher salary levels. While EI's advocacy is very important, she said that its impact varied by country.



Jalila Al Salman (Executive Board) spoke supporting the programme and budget. Teachers are in a critical situation, she noted, trade unions are weakened, and governments are reluctant to raise educator pay. She asked for solidarity and synergies among unions.



Souleymane Compaore (SNESS/Burkina Faso) agreed that meeting in person adds value. However, he said increased dues could be a problem in developing countries. He called education the primary building block for development but said that thousands of schools in Burkina Faso had closed in 2023.



Becky Pringle (NEA/USA) thanked Hopgood and Edwards for attending NEA's convention in Florida, where rights to read and learn are being revoked. She talked about the Go Public! campaign, issues of equity and access, and the need for people to help each other in horizontal relationships.

The remaining interventions were postponed to the next day, and Day 2 was closed.

INTERPRETATION / INTERPRÉTATION / INTERPRETACIÓN

EN Interpretation is available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Arabic.

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Education International 9th World Congress Internationale de l'Éducation 9^e Congrès mondial Internacional de la Educación 9^o Congreso mundial

Congress Plenary Session III

Day 3—Thursday 13 July 2023

3.1 Presentation of the Programme and Budget 2024-2028 (cont.)

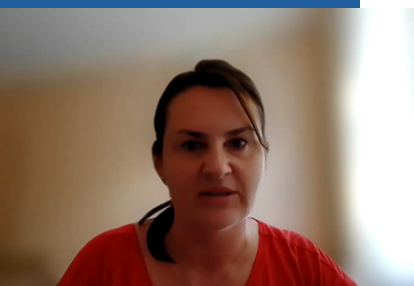
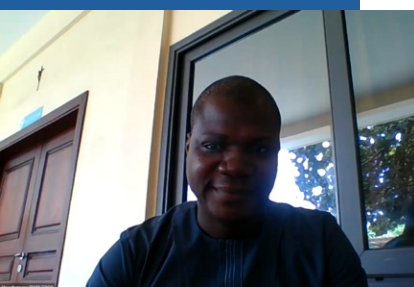
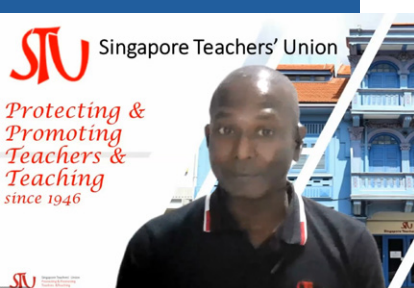
The third and final session began with more interventions on the programme and budget.

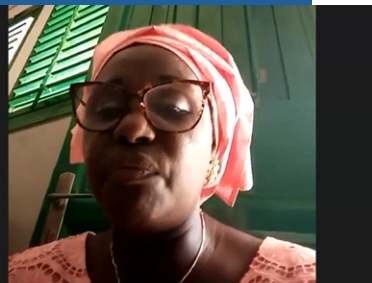
Marième Sakho-Dansokho (Executive Board) stressed the importance of the *Go Public!* campaign in Africa, where governments may not abide by funding commitments. She called capacity building a major need and noted violations of human and trade union rights.

Mike Thiruman (STU/Singapore) noted EI's vital role in advancing education and teachers' rights and today's critical needs. He called for financial prudence but also for better staffing in EI's Asia-Pacific office.

Aboudermane Mama (FESEN/Togo) spoke of austerity measures in Togo due to Covid, a crisis in that country's north, and the need for trade union freedom. He gave his full support for the programme and budget.

Kateryna Maliuta-Osaulova (TUESWU/Ukraine) praised EI for its efforts on behalf of those who are in crisis or at war and thanked it for the solidarity fund. She also appreciated global support for Ukraine's trade unions and encouraged EI to continue to help.





Aissata Sall (UDEN/Senegal) congratulated the Executive Board for implementing resolutions, but noted that the increase in dues would be difficult. She cited a need for better digital and remote capabilities and asked for more EI support for attendance at in-person meetings.

Basil Manuel (NAPTOSA/South Africa) cited problems in South Africa with higher interest rates, inflation, and exchange rates, as well as other difficulties in education. However, he expressed great support for the programme and budget.

3.2 Response to the General Discussion on the Programme and Budget 2024-2028

David Edwards thanked the speakers for their appreciation of EI.

The dues increase, he emphasized, applies only to the ceiling rate, not to the floor rate.

During the pandemic, he said, there were concerns as to whether EI could maintain solidarity and relevance, but data shows that *“an unprecedented uptick”* in member engagement in all areas, including reporting of rights violations, responses to urgent action appeals, participation in webinars, and advances in language resources and translation.

He assured members that EI takes stewardship seriously, especially in deciding which meetings can be online and which should be in-person. Other measures are being reviewed, such as shortening the Congress by two days. In fact, he said, *“over this period for this Congress, we’ve been able to save almost €2 million compared with the last period.”*

Also, he promised that the Asia-Pacific office will be fully staffed and operating by the beginning of October.

As to delegates’ comments on EI’s bravery and hope, he said that *“you’re actually the brave ones. You give us hope, and we feel it ... a privilege to be able to serve you and stand with you in this moment of time”*. He added, *“We’ve got a lot of fronts. But we are a multitude. We are many, and we are collectively really strong”*, and will go on moving forward together.

ENABLING RESOLUTION 4 ADOPTING THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET AND THE DUES RATE FOR 2024

The resolution was moved by Edwards and seconded by **Maïke Finnern**, Executive Board member.

Finnern said that her union was one that would be affected by the dues increase. However, she noted that in many countries,



the rights of educators and unions were threatened and that solidarity is important. She said that solidarity missions and funds can make a difference in times of crisis, and that she supports the increase so that EI can continue its work.

The Enabling Resolution was carried.

3.3 Adoption of a Resolution Substituting a Simplified and Clarified Text of the Constitution and Bylaws

The 8th World Congress in Bangkok adopted a resolution to redraft EI's Constitution and Bylaws, to achieve clarity and consistency and a better sequence of items, so they are more accessible to member organisations. The Executive Board approved the new text at its 60th meeting in November 2022. This resolution proposes that the new text replace the old one.

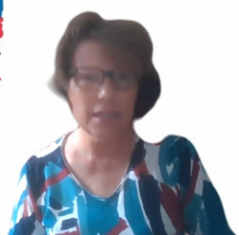
ENABLING RESOLUTION 5 SUBSTITUTING A SIMPLIFIED AND CLARIFIED TEXT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The resolution was moved by **Mugwena Maluleke**, the Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Vice President, and seconded by **Dianne Woloschuk**, Executive Board member.

Maluleke emphasized that the new text contained editorial changes only. These addressed four areas: (1) simplifying the text; (2) modernizing it for technological changes and current practices; (3) clarifying the language; and (4) achieving consistency between the Constitution and the Bylaws.

The work also compared the English, French, and Spanish versions, he said, to make sure that they all said the same thing, and that the language in all was inclusive, aligned with EI values, and reflecting EI as an organisation. It changed references to printed publications and processes that are now electronic, made sure the same words were used for the same things, and inserted bookmarks and links.

He added that more substantial improvements may be proposed to the 10th World Congress in Buenos Aires.





Interventions

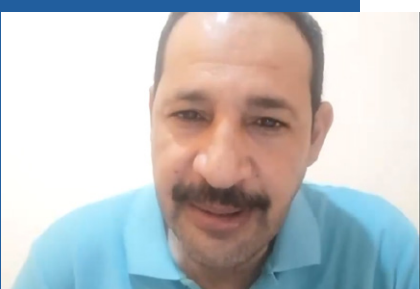
Odile Cordelier (SNES-FSU/France) says that the new text is less technical, more accessible, more inclusive, and more political. It helps EI promote democracy, stand with trade unions, and build better education systems. She thanked the staff and Secretariat for their hard work.



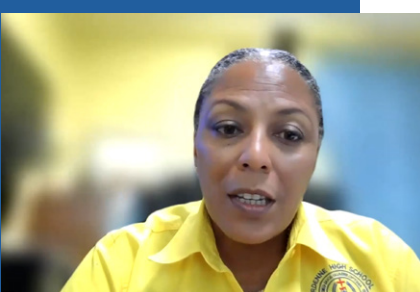
Marjolaine Perreault (Executive Board) praised the new text for its attention to support staff. To work for the success of all, including students with particular needs, she said, educators must have secure jobs, with proper financing, proper services, guaranteed pensions, and equal opportunities.



Najat Ganay (SNE-FDT/Morocco) congratulated EI on the environmentally friendly online conference and thanked the Committee for the text's inclusive language. But she highlighted the weakening of democracy and trade union rights in Tunisia and the need for more women in trade unionism.



Roberto Baradel (CTERA/Argentina) praised EI's essential work in solidarity and women's participation. He spoke of the oppression of teachers and indigenous people, who are sometimes kidnapped or imprisoned.



Mohamed Nouiga (SNE-FDT/Morocco) spoke of the firing and salary cuts of teachers in Tunisia, and some success for teachers' status in Morocco. He recommended that governments consider the educational sector not a social sector but a strategic one.



Nadine Molloy (Executive Board) congratulated EI for its work in these difficult four years. She said the Constitution and Bylaws were like a roadmap for EI that needs to remain current, relevant, and inclusive.



Magope Maphila (SADTU/South Africa) believes the redrafting of the material will make it more accessible and will enable inclusivity across the broad range of educators and support personnel.

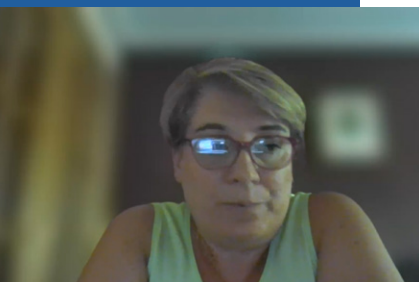
Saddek Dziri (UNPEF/Algeria) spoke of diminished purchasing power and severe conditions imposed for international loans. He called attention to educators' difficulties in Palestine and Yemen and asked for global solidarity with Tunisia.



Alfonso Cepeda Salas (Executive Board) said the changes to the text clarify how to deal with things like gender equality, technology, and critical situations. He spoke of Mexico's salary increases, for support staff in particular.



Abdoul Aziz Camara (SNEEL-CNTS/Senegal) mentioned three important points: consistency between statutes and rules of procedure; gender vocabulary; and undocumented students in Senegal.



María Luz González Rodríguez (STES-I/Spain) expressed concern about the status of women, a potential loss of rights, and digitisation, which involves large corporations and the harvesting of teacher and student information.



Filbert Bates Baguma (UNATU/Uganda) said the changes were timely. He urged everyone to think ahead to address whatever may come after Covid-19, so that we lead reforms and provide direction to others.

The resolution was carried.

3.4 President's Closing Remarks



President Hopgood thanked all who had helped make the Congress a success, including EI staff, interpreters, and delegates. She spoke of the changes needed for this Congress because of Covid-19 conditions, saying, *"We adapt and our ability to adapt keeps us going."* Still, she said, *"an impressive number of delegates were credentialed and participated from every region and nearly every country."*

Quoting General Secretary Edwards, she noted that *"a strong public education system is not inevitable. It must be fought for and defended."* She praised EI's work over the past four years, saying that *"we have built the knowledge, the reputation, the power, and the alliances at the highest level to be a force not only for education and sustainable development but for democracy itself."*

Hopgood spoke of a major focus: *"Go Public! Fund Education is an urgent call for governments to invest in public education, a fundamental human right and public good, and importantly, to invest in teachers, without whom there can be no quality education."* This means guaranteeing labour rights, with good working conditions, appropriate workloads, and proper salaries: *"We are working together across borders to guarantee every student's right to have a well-supported, qualified teacher and a quality learning environment."*

According to Hopgood, *"Investment in the common good is fundamental to democracy."*

She then closed the Congress.

