

Education & Academia Stakeholder Group
Giovanna Modée contribution to the Consultation on the Summit of the Future

2024, May 30th

Dear Excellencies, colleagues and partners,

The **Education & Academia Stakeholder Group and the Global Campaign for Education** welcome the efforts in the build up of the Summit of the Future, as a renewed commitment in our critical context. Along with seeking for immediate solutions to conflicts and disasters, leaders are called to strengthen peace, democracy, as well as economic, gender and environmental justice. In this sense, progress will not be possible without education and lifelong learning for all.

We welcomed the first revised version of the Pact for the Future, which has responded to some of the important points raised by key stakeholders, particularly the inclusion of “quality inclusive education and lifelong learning” and the “call to increase investment in education”. However, to be fully in line with the spirit of the SDGs and particularly with the several UN Human Rights Treaties, the Pact also needs to go further.

As we know, education and lifelong learning are not an end in themselves, but the basis of sustainable development. In this sense, particularly to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and respect human rights, as stated in Actions 5 and 11, **inclusive, free, public and transformative education must be explicitly named**, along with the commitment to strengthen educational systems that are effectively able to promote critical thinking, liberation and human dignity. Dear Co-facilitators: it will be very difficult to transform global governance and even more so, to achieve international peace and security, if the structural causes are not addressed through education.

Despite its transformative potential, the realization of the human right to education continues to face dramatic obstacles, such as lack of financing, the exclusion of important populations such as girls and children with disabilities, the attacks against students, teachers, and schools, as well as reductionist approaches to the curriculum that limit the purpose of education to basic measurable skills. The persistent inequalities, multiple discriminations and racism, within educational systems is deeply concerning.

Additionally, in the fundamental commitment to protect civilians in armed conflict, stated in Action 12, **the protection of education facilities, learners, teachers and other education personnel from attack must be explicitly spelled out, along with the key role of education in emergency situations**. The use of schools for military purposes of any kind must be strictly forbidden and its educational community, protected.

Finally, the participation of civil society must be guaranteed not only as a democratic exercise but as a key manner to bring about qualified contributions in line with human rights principles. In this sense, together with civil society movements worldwide, we echo concerns with the formation of Impact Coalitions as the main focus of UN Civil Society Conference – we need to protect our multilateral processes as inclusive and safe spaces, protecting the corporate and anti-rights capture of the UN, thus guaranteeing representative, participatory and inclusive process.