RESOLUTION ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF ILO
CONVENTION 87, CONCERNING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION
AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE

The Second World Congress of Education International, meeting in Washington D.C.,
U.S.A., from 25 to 29 July 1998:

We must believe in values of humanity because otherwise we do not leave any point of reference for
children to put their faith in…

Rigoberta Menchu

1. **Recalls** that 10th December 1998 is the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights;
2. **Recalls** that 1998 is also the 50th anniversary of the adoption of ILO Convention 87 concerning
Freedom of Association and the Right to Organise;
3. **Recognises** that since 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has become the yardstick
to measure the degree of respect for and compliance with international human rights standards,
and that it continues to be the fundamental source of inspiration for national and international
efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;
4. **Notes** that the Universal Declaration recognises the inherent dignity of the human family and
that the rights contained therein are universal, inalienable and interrelated, and that they provide
a set of common values around which people can unite that transcend frontiers and cultural
differences;
5. **Recognises** the significance of national and regional differences but rejects the current
justification of authoritarian and paternalistic governments that the concept of freedom in certain
regions of the world differs from that guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
or that certain peoples are only concerned with economic rights and are not yet ready to concern
themselves with civil liberties and political freedoms;
6. **Notes** that such authoritarianism promotes repression and prevents meaningful change and
preserves the structures of power and privilege;
7. **Reaffirms** that democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are
interdependent and mutually reinforcing;
8. **Notes** that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own
political, economic, social and cultural systems;
9. **Reaffirms** the responsibility of all peoples, states, individuals, and all groups in civil society
to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of
Human Rights;
10. **Acknowledges** the fundamental importance of the Universal Declaration to the promotion and
protection of human rights, including the right to education;
11. **Recalls** commitment 6 of the World Summit for Social Development which recognises the role of
education in promoting sustainable development, health, social justice, respect for human rights
and democracy;
12. **Reaffirms** that education for human rights and democracy is in itself a human right and is a pre-
requisite to the full realisation of social justice, peace and development;
13. **Notes** that education for human rights and democracy lays a solid foundation for guaranteeing
human rights and preventing their violation;
14. **Promotes** a democratic and participatory education process to empower people and civil society
to improve their quality of life;
15. **Is opposed** to international financial organisation guidelines that encourage privatisation, deregulation and the elimination of public services and social welfare, in the name of the reduction of government deficits;

16. **Regrets** that violations of the rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights continue;

17. **Considers** that violations of the Universal Declaration result particularly from:
   - an increase in regional, civil and inter-ethnic conflicts;
   - continuing cruelty which constitutes crimes against humanity;
   - violations of principles of humanitarian assistance;
   - refusal to grant full rights to women;
   - violation of the rights of children to receive education;
   - economic exploitation of children;
   - denial of rights to refugees.

18. **Recognises** the fundamental importance of ILO Convention 87 to the existence of education unions and to the promotion of the rights of all who work in education;

19. **Recognises** that violations of ILO Convention 87 continue by authoritarian governments that refuse to permit organisations to exist that they do not control;

20. **Notes** that 45 countries have not ratified ILO Convention 87.

21. The Congress **calls** on Education International and its Member Organisations to:
   - renew their commitment to the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to ILO Convention 87;
   - promote adherence to, and implementation of, the rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
   - pursue the ratification of ILO Convention 87 by all states in a campaign with the ICFTU and ITFs;
   - pursue policies that promote equality and social justice at all intergovernmental levels and at the national level;
   - work actively at the UN Commission on Human Rights and at the ILO to strengthen the role of the two organisations and their impact on policies that will promote human rights;
   - renew efforts to have human rights education that promotes democratic values as an integral component of all education.