

53rd session of the Human Rights Council
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education: Securing the right to education: advances and critical challenges (A/HRC/53/27)

Written Statement Submitted by the Global initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) and the Right to Education Initiative (RTE)

GI-ESCR and RTE welcome the Special Rapporteur's report, particularly its holistic approach to education, embracing all its dimensions and recalling the need for an expanded vision of the right to education through life and a commitment to education as a public common good.

GI-ESCR and RTE join the Special Rapporteur in her call for reinforcing the implementation of the right to education, including through accountability and monitoring processes, stressing that this cannot be achieved without adequate financing.

GI-ESCR and RTE reiterate her remark that 'financing education is a legal obligation under international law', which entails the allocation of maximum available resources for the progressive realisation of the right to education, including resources that could potentially be mobilised, in particular through progressive taxation.

GI-ESCR and RTE emphasise with the Special Rapporteur that States must prioritize the funding of free, high-quality public education and ensure that it is truly inclusive. As mentioned in her report, private actors' involvement must be regulated and support given to private educational institutions must meet certain requirements, as laid down in the *Abidjan Guiding Principles on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education and regulate private actors' involvement in education* ([Abidjan Principles](#)).

GI-ESCR and RTE highlight her serious concern that 'powerful corporations increasingly influence educational policies and the use of public resources in ways that benefit corporate interests' in contradiction with human rights and the public, common good nature of education.



With the rapid development of the digitalization of education, ‘understanding the profits-driven agenda of digital technology companies’, as suggested by the Special Rapporteur, is paramount to safeguard against private interests that could be detrimental for the realisation of the right to education for all.

GI-ESCR and RTE would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for her important role in protecting and advancing the right to education and will continue to support her mandate.

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