

## **Innovations in education: towards quality access and common good**

Dear participants, ladies, and gentlemen

Let me start by expressing my gratitude for the invitation and the chance to participate in this event on behalf of the Global Student Forum, the umbrella organization of 202 student organizations and movements from 122 countries.

Education: towards quality access and common good are concepts rooted in the policies of our organization and students have been historically on the forefront of the fight for better accessible and quality education. That's why last November with the launch of the campaign: Don't Cut Our Future, the GSF and its membership demanded and kept on asking for better funding for education all over the world.

For us it is clear that we cannot talk about access to education without addressing the funding of it. According to the OECD, "between 2012 and 2018, the proportion of government expenditure devoted to primary to tertiary education slightly decreased on average across OECD countries (1%)" and "increases in educational expenditure did not keep pace with the growth in government expenditure overall".

Parallel the World Bank notes that the disruption to education systems and economic challenges of lesser developed countries have led to an expansion of "learning poverty."

In Latin America, "Learning poverty, defined as the percentage of 10-year-olds unable to read and understand a simple text, may have grown from 51% to 62.5%": we're talking about roughly 7.6 million additional 'learning poor' primary education school-age children.

Having said that, I would like to point out that common goods are typically non-excludable but are usually rivalrous to some extent while public goods are generally considered as goods that are available to anyone.

Neglecting the pressing need for increased education funding at this point in time will result in further entrenching inequalities for generations to come. We believe that education should not be the victim of the different crises but rather the driver of its solution.

Thank you.

Carmen Romero, Global Student Forum.

