



## THE EDUCATION RELIEF FOUNDATION AND GLOBETHICS.NET

High-level Stakeholders Meeting on Balanced and Inclusive Education  
*An ERF and Globethics Consultation Meeting*

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**DATES: 6- 8 DECEMBER 2017**

**VENUES:**

- **6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December : World Council of Churches, 150 Route de Ferney, 1218 Geneva –Switzerland**
- **8<sup>th</sup> December: United Nations, Palais des Nations Room XXII**

**I. Rationale**

UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2004

**Article 1 - Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity**

Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

**Article 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development**

Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

**Article 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity**

Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with other cultures. For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its diversity and to inspire genuine dialogue among cultures.

Global interactions have brought many benefits to societies in terms of educational opportunities, economic development, cultural pluralism, and improvements in health and mortality rates. These global benefits come, however, with a price which includes increased inequalities in resource distribution, forced movement of people, and the erosion of historic values, cultures, and languages.

The most predominant challenges to inclusive education from the perspective of cultural connectivity are being addressed through global citizenship education around the world. While these efforts have proven impactful in certain contexts, innovative responses remain to be found and implemented in many parts of the world to improve effective policies and practices in global citizenship education. There is therefore an imperative that inclusion and diversity are emphasised upon at early stages of educational experience of young people. The greater knowledge on the interdependence and connectivity of cultures will enable young people from various backgrounds to become responsible citizens of their countries and to be recognised as drivers of socio-economic growth based on their ability to value connectivity, interdependence, and cooperation across cultures.

## II. Objectives

This high-level consultation meeting is jointly organised by The Education Relief Foundation (ERF) and Globethics. The terms of reference (ToR) the meeting are:

1. *Acknowledge the regional stakeholders' meetings jointly organised during 2017 by the Education Relief Foundation (ERF) and its partners, namely the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO), the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS), the Centre for Applied Linguistics (CAL), and Globethics.net Foundation (GE.net), as global contributions to our efforts in moving the SDG4 agenda forward in the regions of Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Global North;*
2. *Endorse recommendations collated from the regional stakeholders' meetings on youth development through balanced and inclusive education by the adequate training of teachers with our Balanced and Inclusive Education (BIE) pedagogies to support culturally responsive school environments.; and*
3. *Endorse the need for developing a global guide for ethics, principles, policies and practice for the delivery and uptake of our balanced and inclusive education methodology, based on ERF's four pillars of balanced and inclusive education, which support the principles of intraculturalism, transdisciplinarity, dialecticism and contextuality.*

***The results of this international meeting will be formally presented at the United Nations in Geneva on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in view of producing a Policy Guide for Code of Ethics in Balanced and Inclusive Education.***

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Day 1: 6 December 2017		
Venue: World Council of Churches Main Hall		
Participation: Group 1 (Global North inclusive of UNESCO & Missions)		
Time	Activities	Speaker /Facilitator
8:30-9:00	Registration	
09:00-10:00	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p><b>Welcome Remarks</b></p> <p>How do we articulate the possibilities, limitations and challenges of balanced and inclusive schooling and education in the Global North?</p> <p><b>Photo Session &amp; Press</b></p>	<p>Shaikh Manssour Bin Mussallam, President, Education Relief Foundation, Switzerland</p> <p>Keynote speaker: Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger, President and Founder, Globethics.net Foundation, Switzerland</p>
10:00- 10:30	Coffee and Tea Break	

10:30- 12:00	<p>PANEL PRESENTATION (90min)</p> <p>Share policies and implementing mechanism for achieving balanced and inclusive education based on intraculturalism, transdisciplinarity, dialecticism and contextuality (ERF's four pillars of balanced and inclusive education)</p> <p>Q&amp;A (20 min)</p>	<p><b>Q&amp;A (20 min)</b> - Facilitator: Prof. Dr. Obiora Francis Ike, Executive Director, Globethics.net Foundation, Geneva</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00- 15:00	<p><b>SESSION 2a: Reflections and input on the working paper</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide situation on <i>Balanced and Inclusive Education</i> in the context of the Global North</li> <li>2. Share policies and implementing mechanism for achieving balanced and inclusive education based on intraculturalism, transdisciplinarity, dialecticism and contextuality (ERF's four pillars of balanced and inclusive education)</li> </ol>	
15:00-15:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
15:30-16:30	<b>ERF's Four Pillars of Balanced and Inclusive Education</b>	Shaikh Manssour Bin Mussallam, President, Education Relief Foundation, Switzerland
16:30 – 16:45	<b>Ethics in Higher Education</b>	Divya Singh, Globethics.net Regional Program, South Africa, Author of the Book "Ethics in Higher Education, published by Globethics.net, 2017)
16:45- 17:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	Moderator: Prof. Dr. Obiora Francis Ike, Executive Director, Globethics.net Foundation, Geneva

<b>Day 2: 7 December 2017</b> <b>Venue: World Council of Churches Main Hall</b> <b>Participation: Group 1 (Global North inclusive of UNESCO &amp; Missions)</b>		
Time	Activities	Speaker/Facilitator
09:00-11:00	<p><b>SESSION 1: Policy and Programme Response for A Balanced and Inclusive Education</b></p> <p><i>What concrete partnership opportunities can best leverage commitments towards imparting BIE?</i></p> <p><i>What are the expectations and requirements in view of delivering BIE at the grassroots?</i></p> <p><i>What issues are emerging from all partners contributing? How can these be addressed?</i></p>	<p><b>Institution Presentations</b>  See CH, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Norway, Hungary policies</p> <p>TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNESCO</li> <li>• EU Delegation, Education</li> <li>• EACEA Bologna Process</li> <li>• OCDE Policy Outlook</li> </ul>
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15-12:30	<p><b>SESSION 2: WORKSHOP</b>  <b>Findings and recommendations on Balanced and Inclusive Education</b></p>	<p>Discuss key recommendations to promote balanced and inclusive education in the context of the ever-increasing complexity of the Global North economic, socio-cultural, and political environment.</p>

Day 2: 7 December 2017		
Venue: World Council of Churches Main Hall		
Participation: Group 2 (Global North and Global South Delegates inclusive of UNESCO & Missions)		
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00- 16:00	Side meetings	Please request the logistics team for room reservations
16:00 -18:00	<p><b>Preparations for the Global Forum at the UN</b></p> <p><i>Draft 'Findings and Recommendations for Decision-makers' - Paper will be based on the input from the all regional meetings' reflections and will be discussed for amendments.</i></p> <p><b>Recommendations and Endorsement of Policy Guide for Ethics in Education based on ERF's Four Pillars of BIE</b></p>	<p>Peter Fell, Education Relief Foundation, Switzerland</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Obiora Francis Ike, Executive Director, Globethics.net Foundation, Geneva</p>
19:00	Welcome Dinner	Venue to be determined -Sponsored by (INSEEC)

Date: 8 December 2017		
Venue: Palais des Nations, Room XXII, United Nations Geneva		
Participation: Group 1 and Group 2 inclusive of observers & media		
Time	Activities	Speaker /Facilitator
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome Remarks	Prof. Dr. Obiora Francis Ike, Executive Director, Globethics.net Foundation, Geneva
10:05 – 10:30	Opening Key note address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate to international Geneva (TBC)</li> <li>• HIGH OFFICIAL (INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION) TBC</li> </ul>
10:35 -11:00	Inaugural Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Jack Mathieu Émile Lang, Former Minister of Culture, Former Minister of Education, France</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SM, President ERF, Geneva, Switzerland</li> <li>• Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger, President and Founder, Globethics.net Foundation, Switzerland</li> <li>• The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations - TBC</li> </ul>
11:30- 13:00	COUNTRY ENDORSEMENTS	<p>3 min per country representation (20 delegations)</p> <p>(Endorsements from the missions in Geneva: orally from the floor)</p>
13:00	Photo Sessions	<p>Group photos</p> <p>Individual photos with partners</p>

### III. Methodology

During 2017, ERF and its partners have hosted four high-level meetings on the topic of balanced and inclusive education in Thailand, Nigeria, Panama and Switzerland.

At this final stage, ERF and its partners are consolidating the recommendations from these four regional meetings to produce a set of substantive policy and action-oriented recommendations that will be leveraged through a book entitled Policy Guide for a Code of Ethics on Balanced and Inclusive Education. The High-level Forum on December 8<sup>th</sup> of this year at the United Nations venue will be the occasion to gather high level stakeholders who

support our joint efforts towards advancing the global agenda for a balanced and inclusive education where Ethics plays a crucial role.

## I. Venues

<u>For Days 1 &amp; 2 (December 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>, 2017)</u> World Council of Churches (WCC) /Ecumenical Centre 150 route de Ferney CH-1218 Le Grand Saconnex / Geneva Switzerland	<u>For Day 3 (December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017)</u> UN Palais des Nations, Room XXII 14, avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Genève 10 Switzerland
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## II. Contact Persons

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