**COALITION AGAINST PRIVATIZATION AND COOMERCIALIZATION OF EDUCATION(CAPCOE) COMMUNIQUE – AUGUST 2018.**

We the Education Unions in Ghana affiliated to Education International namely GNAT, NAGRAT, TEWU and CSOs in education, having met on the 30th of August, 2018 to review our **Campaign Against the Privatisation and Commercialization of Education in Ghana;**

Having thoughtfully reviewed the outcome of the field survey and cognisant of article 25.1 (a) of Ghana’s constitution which calls for the basic education for all;

Noting also that Ghana has signed onto international conventions such as the Sustainable Development Goals, goal 4 of which calls for inclusive and equitable quality free education for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;

Express deep concern regarding the reported establishment of a new global fund for education – the **Education Outcome Fund (EOF) for Africa and Middle East.** We note with trepidation that Ghana is listed as a potential target country of this fund.

We are alarmed to learn that the focus of this fund will be on non-state actors. This will contribute to the commercialization and commodification of education and legitimise profit making in the provision of education and weaken efforts to strengthen and expand the provision of inclusive and equitable quality free education for all consistent with sustainable Development Goal 4.

Given the scarcity of resources, it is deplorable that EOF intends to transfer tax-payer funds intended for the well-being of children to private investors who seek to profit from education.

EOF’s promotion of schooling models including charter schools/PPPs and fee charging, so called ‘low-cost’, private schools ignores the growing body of evidence which shows that privatisation does not improve access to education nor improve outcomes in education but rather deepens inequality and segregation denying the right of all children to quality education.

KG, Primary and JHS education is the foundation of our educational system and government must fund education at this level to give equal opportunities to every Ghanaian child.

This is to ensure that the educational system of Ghana has a very strong foundation. This responsibility must not be left in the hands of the private entrepreneur. Just as how the state is finding money for the free SHS, the lower level of our educational system must be well resource to provide free quality KG, Primary and JHS education.

Accelerating private participation in the basic education is a clear indication of the state neglecting her core duties.

* We call on the government of Ghana and the international community to demonstrate their commitment to SDG4.
* We call for public ownership of education as privatization and commercialization will lead to the alienation of children from their cultural roots.
* We call on all stake-holders, the media, traditional leaders, opinion leaders and religious leaders to form alliance with us to fight this social cancer.

The government of Ghana should rise to its responsibilities and take the lead, using every legitimate means, including reclaiming of school lands to expand the provision of access to education by expanding school infrastructure. Government should also use administrative fiat to acquire other lands necessary to provide educational infrastructure whilst MMDAs protect areas earmarked for schools in newly developing communities.

Education Unions and CSOs in education in Ghana call on the government to wean itself from donor funding and its concomitant conditionalities. It should operationalize the “Ghana Beyond Aid” mantra by plugging the loop-holes in tax mobilisation, eliminate harmful tax- exemptions and prioritise its expenditure by investing in human capital development of the country through education.

Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT)

National Association of Graduate Teachers (NAGRAT)

Teachers and Education Workers Union (TEWU)

Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC)