The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is a global civil society movement that unites civil society organizations across the globe to lobby and campaign for the right to free, good quality, public education for all. GCE’s mission is to make sure that governments act now to deliver the right of every girl, boy, women and man to a free quality public education.

GCE was first constituted in 1999 to represent a united civil society voice at the World Education Forum in Dakar when the Education for All agenda for 2015 was agreed. The GCE has since successfully campaigned throughout the year, rallying a joint global cry for education, mobilising pressure from all sectors and holding governments and international institutions to account.

Over 18 million individuals in thousands of organizations across more than 140 countries have joined this call. Amongst these are teacher’s unions, child rights campaigners, teachers, parents and students, regional and national education coalitions, a range of major international NGO’s.

A lot has happened as a consequence of this united force for change since we started: constitutions have been amended, laws changed, new policies introduced, financial support secured, new ways of structuring education finance forged, more than 40 million more children have been able to go to school, gender disparities have been reduced, more adults have accessed literacy programmes, and issues around quality and early childhood care have been raised.

Government structure:

At present, the GCE has 110 members made up of national and regional coalitions and INGOs. The GCE is governed by its board and presided by its President Kailash Satyarthi. The GCE board is elected during the General Assembly, held every 3 years.

During the General Assembly the membership also passes resolutions to set GCE’s policies and adopts a Strategic Plan for the next 3-4 year period.

The Strategic Plan summarized in this flyer is being proposed to the General Assembly in February 2011.

To see a full copy of the Strategic plan please see General Assembly Paper 5.

If you have any questions you can raise them during session 7 of the GCE General Assembly (14.30 – 16.00 on Wednesday 23rd February).

The GCE strategic plan is proposed for adoption during the GCE Assembly, but the new GCE board can make changes to reflect the feedback during the discussion.
Specific Objectives:

1. Consolidate the growth of the movement (existing NECs, joining members, regional organizations, international members and the global secretariat) to maximize our political impact. This includes encouraging and increasing good governance practices at all levels, democratization of the movement, enabling diverse constituencies, and joint work between different constituencies including Trade Unions and NGO’s.

2. Develop, deliver, document and publish effective advocacy practices at the national, regional and global level, through research, documentation, analysis and peer learning among all parts of the GCE constituency.

3. Become a movement that constantly improves its functioning through strong evidence based learning and accountability systems at the national, regional and global levels and across the movement, without losing sight of the horizontal nature of the movement.

4. Ensure coherence and coordination of GCE’s communications to members, coalitions, targets and the general public.

5. Increase the political awareness and activism of the general public about their education rights and galvanize the movement around one specific theme each year.

6. To enhance the quality and impact of GCE’s media capacity and capability – at NEC, regional and Secretariat level – which will enable GCE to be more effective as a movement.

Specific Objectives:

1. Extend and deepen influencing work on the full range of issues that affect equitable and transparent state financing of Education for All at the national level.

2. Promote progressive tax reform and other means at national levels to increase the education budget.

3. Hold global institutions accountable for their role in enabling or preventing fulfillment of state and international obligations (G8, G20, G77, regional bodies, IFIs).

4. Demand that education should be prioritized in international co-operation, as an enabling right for the achievement of other rights and to achieve economic growth and human development goals.

5. Support action on the professional teacher gap seeking to mobilize predictable recurrent resources and remove the obstacles on training, hiring and retention of teachers.

6. Advocate for progressive multi-lateral financing instruments including WB and IMF policies, banking taxes, debt swaps and FTI, that will enable states to fulfil the right to education.

7. Resist privatization and PPPs, as major challenges to equity and quality in education financing.

8. Secure political support for full financing of education through increasing public awareness and strategic mobilization through mass global popular campaigns such as 1GOAL; and launching a High-Level Panel of influential individuals to advocate in the political sphere.

Strategic Objective 1
Strengthen and position the GCE movement as a whole and its parts so that they become an undeniable, respected and coherent voice about education rights nationally, regionally and globally and they increase the political awareness and awareness of the general public about their education rights.

Strategic Objective 2
Demand that states fulfill their obligations to fully finance quality education for all, including through international co-operation.

Strategic Objective 3
Focus resources and build up expertise across the movement on discrimination in education as a lever for change.

This Strategic Objective is the foundation for all our work. Without strong, democratically run and diverse members and without internal coherence and productive communication, our work will not be recognized, respected or effective. While welcoming new members our focus will be on quality and impact.

Enough, secure funding is a fundamental requisite for the fulfillment of the EFA goals. It is also a key indicator of real commitment by governments in the north and south. Our role continues to be that of a monitor and advocate of the fulfillment of the commitments of governments.

To achieve real impact a large movement with board overall goals needs to focus in order to gain momentum and accumulate enough expertise to remain cutting edge. This Strategic Objective is moving our work on quality towards a focus on discrimination believing this could be our leverage point.