



## **GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION**

### **Introduction to the Constitution**

#### **Preamble**

The Global Campaign for Education which was established in October 1999, is an alliance of diverse self-governing voluntary organisations (non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, trade union federations, faith-based groups, etc.), each having their own members. It unites civil society in the common pursuit of the right to quality basic education for all, with emphasis on publicly- funded education.

The GCE's founding aim was to ensure that the World Education Forum in Dakar, April 2000, would result in concrete commitments and viable policies designed to implement the Education for All goals, including gender equity by 2005, universal enrolment in and completion of free primary education by 2015 and a 50% reduction in adult illiteracy by 2015. In its 2001 General Assembly, the GCE committed itself to the building of an international movement, one with minimal bureaucracy and with a long-term commitment to monitor the achievement of the EFA goals. The campaign intends to continue its advocacy work until Education for All is achieved.

#### **Mission Statement**

GCE promotes education as a basic human right and mobilizes public pressure on governments and the international community to fulfil their promises to provide free, compulsory public basic education for all people, in particular for children, women and all disadvantaged, deprived sections of society.

GCE is built on the conviction that quality education for all is achievable, and by the concern for immense cost of failure.

GCE believes that in an increasingly knowledge-based economy, exclusion from education will translates into growing poverty, inequality and deprivation.

GCE is committed to achieve its mission with objectivity, transparency and accountability and to follow democratic norms and processes in all its plans and actions.

GCE believes education is:

- A universal human right;
- The key to poverty alleviation and sustainable human development;
- A core responsibility of the state;

- Achievable if governments mobilize the political will and make available necessary resources.

GCE calls for:

- Free and compulsory, quality public basic education for all children, of at least eight years duration;
- Increased provision of quality early childhood education and care;
- The eradication of adult illiteracy and the provision of a second chance to learn for youth and adults who miss out on formal schooling;
- An end to child labour;
- Democratic participation of civil society, including teachers and their unions, in education decision making at all levels
- Accountability to civil society for decisions made in relation to education at all levels;
- Reform of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank policies to ensure that they support rather than undermine free, quality public basic education;
- Fair and regular salaries for teachers, properly equipped classrooms and a supply of quality textbooks;
- Inclusive and non-discriminatory provision of services for all;
- The mobilisation of political will and new resources in support of National Education plans to realise the EFA Goals, including adequate public expenditure of at least 6 % of GNP, and substantially increased aid and debt relief for the poorest countries.

## **CONSTITUTION of Global Campaign for Education**

### **Article 1: NAME**

The organisation shall be called Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

### **Article 2: AIMS**

The organisation shall:

1. Campaign for the implementation of the actions and policies needed to ensure that every man, woman, boy and girl can realise their right to quality, free public education;
2. Provide a common platform and meeting point for civil society organisations to coordinate their campaigning activities on Education for All ;
3. Build an international movement with a long term commitment to promote and monitor the fulfillment of the right to basic education and the achievement of the 2005 and 2015 Millennium Goals on education and the other Education for All goals ;
4. Co-operate with national, regional and international organisations in pursuit of its aims.

### **Article 3: Membership**

#### **(a) Membership**

Membership of GCE shall be open to self-governing and democratic national and regional coalitions of civil society organisations, and international networks and non-governmental organisations working for quality public education for all.

### **(b) Conditions for membership**

An organisation seeking membership shall:

- Subscribe to the mission of GCE ;
- Submit a membership application to the GCE Board for consideration and approval.
- Be a self-governing civil society organization, coalition or network- NGO, Community Based Organisation, Federation or Trade Union;
- Work at the national, regional and/or international level in the field of education - (education delivery, research, lobbying and/or advocacy) ;
- Contribute to the achievement of GCE aims through co-ordinated actions and activities
- Be a national coalition, regional network or international organisation;
- Pay membership and annual fees based on a graduated scale approved by the general assembly of the organisation ;

### **(c) Rejection of application for membership**

- (i) If an application for membership is rejected by the GCE Board, an appeal may be made by the applicant to the General Assembly;
- (ii) In rejecting an application the Board shall state the reasons for rejection and the Secretariat shall inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for non—admission;
- (iii) The decision of the Assembly shall be final.
- (iv) If the Assembly is more than 12 months away then an interim appeal can be heard by a separate body as established in the by-laws.

## **Article 4: Rights and Obligations of members**

(a) Member organisations shall have the right to:

- Participate in the activities of the organisation and in the General Assembly;
- Use the GCE Logo with the approval of the Secretariat;
- Receive regular information on the implementation of the Dakar Framework of Action and other EFA activities;
- Subject to budget allocations receive campaign materials for special events, and other GCE publications;
- Seek to have its nominees elected to the governing structures of the organisation.

(b) Member organisations shall:

- Mobilise and advocate for the right to education;
- Submit on regular basis reports on advocacy work undertaken and share other relevant information ;
- Pay membership and annual subscriptions to the organisation ;
- Monitor the implementation of Education for All goals at national/regional and international levels.

## **Article 5: Suspension and Termination of Membership**

- (a) The Governing Body of a member of GCE may lodge a complaint against another on the grounds of violation or non-compliance with the GCE constitution. The Board may also initiate a complaint against a member of GCE for non compliance or violation of the GCE constitution;

- (b) Such complaints shall be referred to a special committee of not more than three members, which shall enquire into the charges and conduct a due hearing before presenting its findings to the GCE Board;
- (c) The organisation whose membership status is under review by the special committee shall be given due notice, a copy of the charges, the right to respond to the charges and a copy of the finding of the committee; such organisation shall have the right to defend itself at the General Assembly;
- (d) A two thirds of membership of the Board present and voting shall be required for the Board to exclude an organisation from membership;
- (e) The member organisation concerned shall be informed of the decision of the Board and of the reasons justifying that decision; an appeal can be lodged as outlined in the by-laws.
- (f) An organisation which is more than 24 calendar months in arrears of the payment of the membership fees without the approval of the Board shall be excluded from membership;
- (g) An organisation may also withdraw from membership in GCE but shall give notice of such intent six months in advance;
- (h) Only notifications of withdrawal duly authorised by the members of the governing body of an organisation shall be accepted by the GCE board.

#### **Article 6: Associate Membership**

The GCE Board reserves the right to admit special organisations and corporate institutions outside of the Membership defined in Article 3 as associate members provided they pledge to respect and support the principles and mission of the GCE and they receive the continued approval of the GCE Board.

#### **Article 7: Governance of GCE**

The GCE shall be governed by the following Governing Bodies:

- General Assembly of its members
- GCE Board
- The Secretariat as delegated by the General Assembly and GCE Board

#### **Article 8: General Assembly**

The General Assembly of GCE shall be the Supreme governing authority of the GCE.

*(a) Membership of the General Assembly shall be:*

- Members of the GCE Board
- Delegates from National coalitions and Regional networks
- Delegates from International Organisations
- Members of the Secretariat in a non voting capacity
- Representatives of Associate Members in a non voting capacity

*(b) Entitlement to delegates and observers*

- Each fully paid member organisation shall be entitled to send up to 10 delegates (the first one will be supported if necessary).
- Subject to the approval of the Board, member organisations may appoint Observers to the Assembly. Observers will not have any entitlement to vote at the General Assembly, or to speak without the express permission of the Assembly
- The Board may also invite non member organisations to participate as observers in their meetings and the Assembly.

*(c) Powers of the General Assembly*

The General Assembly shall:

- Adopt the rules of procedure and agenda.
- Adopt the activity report of the GCE Board
- Determine the policies, principles of action and programme of the GCE
- Elect the GCE Board
- Appoint auditors
- Consider the audited Financial Report,
- Adopt general budget
- Determine the membership fees/contribution.
- Have the authority to amend the Constitution by two-thirds majority when the total votes cast amount to at least 50% of member organizations.
- Have the authority to amend the bylaws by a simple majority vote of members present and voting.
- Take final decisions concerning appeals against a refusal to admit an organization into membership or the removal of a member organization from membership of GCE.

Meetings of the General Assembly:

- The Assembly shall meet in Ordinary Session at least once in every three years.
- The venue, date and provisional agenda of the Ordinary Assembly shall be determined by the Board.
- An extra-ordinary General Assembly may be convened on the authority of the Board or shall be convened at the written request by paid up member organizations that total at least 50% of GCE members. This can be a physical meeting or virtual meeting as defined in the By-laws.
- A fully paid up member organisation (national coalition or international network) with the exceptions of the founding members Education International and Global March shall be entitled to one vote.
- The Global March Against Child Labour and Education International shall be entitled to the equivalent of ten percent (10%) each of the total votes organizations. The actual number of votes constituting the special ten percent of votes shall be determined by the Board and approved by the General Assembly in Session.

**Article 9: The GCE Board**

The Board, the political organ of the Campaign, shall direct the affairs and activities of the GCE between General Assemblies in conformity with the resolutions and decisions of the latter.

*(a) Composition*

1. The Board shall have a membership of not more than fourteen elected from the membership of member organisations as follows:

Education International	2 representatives
Global March	2 representatives
International Alliance/Organisations	2 representatives
National/Regional Coalitions in Asia, Africa & Latin America	2 representatives in total for each continent
National/Regional Coalitions in Europe and North America	1 representative between them
National/Regional Coalitions in the Middle East	1 representative between them

2. Each membership category shall be responsible for choosing its representatives as outlined in the by-law. They shall be affirmed by the General Assembly.
3. Members of the Board shall be elected for a term of three years and may seek reelection
4. All GCE Member Organizations, except those with permanent seats, shall only be able to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms on the GCE Board. This applies to terms beginning on or after 2011.
5. For those GCE Member Organizations with permanent seats on the GCE Board, the individuals nominated to serve on the GCE Board shall only be able to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. This applies to terms beginning on or after 2011
6. Vacancies occurring in the membership of the Board shall be filled by the membership category concerned. A member so elected/nominated shall serve for the remaining term of the person he/she is replacing
7. From 2011 onwards, GCE officer positions can only be held by the same person for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

*b) Meetings and responsibilities of the GCE Board*

1. The GCE Board shall meet face to face at least twice a year.
2. The GCE Board shall:
  - Initiate policies and actions in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and with the aims and principles of GCE.
  - Draft the agenda of the General Assembly
  - Review implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly
  - Review and approve financial statements, establish annual budgets, and submit a general budget to the General Assembly
  - Overall responsibility for internal governance of the GCE
  - Consider applications for membership in accordance with constitution and by-laws.
  - Consider suspension or exclusion of member organisations in accordance with constitution and by-laws
  - Oversee all programmes and activities of GCE ensuring appropriate accountability mechanisms are in place
  - Ensure good communication and GCE engagement amongst its members
  - Determine the salaries and conditions of service of the staff of the secretariat
  - Submit to the General Assembly a report on its decisions and activities

- interpret the constitution in the absence of the General Assembly
- Have the authority to co-opt any member of an affiliated organisation for any particular meeting but such a co-opted member shall have no voting rights

*C) Chair of the Board*

1. Board shall elect a Chair from the Board membership. She/he shall have leadership qualities in the field of education and advocacy.
2. She/he shall be elected by the Board after each GCE General Assembly for a term of three years.
3. She/he is accountable to the GCE Board.
4. His/her responsibilities include :
  - Overall responsibility for the Board's functioning
  - Responsible for overseeing the financial arrangements of the GCE
  - Responsible for overseeing the GCE co-ordinator on behalf of the Board
  - Co-coordinating and chairing the GCE Board meetings and relevant sub-committees

The Board may also elect a Deputy Chair to assist the Chair in fulfilling the Chair's duties and responsibilities or to undertake the duties and responsibilities of the post in the absence of the Chair. The Deputy Chair will be elected under the same terms and conditions as the Chair. The Chair and Deputy Chair may not be from the same constituency on the GCE Board.

*D) President*

1. The Board shall elect a president from the Board membership. She/he shall have leadership qualities in the field of education.
2. She/he should be elected by the Board after each GCE Congress for a term of up to three years.
3. She/he is accountable to the full GCE Board.
4. His/her responsibilities include :
  - Political leadership for the GCE
  - Lead spokesperson for the GCE
  - Senior representative of the GCE in political forums
  - Chair of the World Assembly

The GCE Board may also elect a Vice-President to assist the President in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the post or to undertake the duties and responsibilities in the absence of the President. The Vice-President will be elected under the same terms and conditions as the President. The President and Vice-President may not be from the same constituency on the GCE Board

**Article 10: The Secretariat**

1. The Board shall appoint a Coordinator to manage the secretariat and implement its decisions and those of the General Assembly
2. The GCE Coordinator shall be assisted by such additional staff in the Secretariat as the GCE Board approves from time to time
3. The Secretariat shall support the Board in its efforts to achieve the objectives and implement the principles set out in its mission statement and the work of GCE members

4. The Secretariat shall facilitate national and international campaign activities
5. The GCE headquarters shall be determined by the GCE World Assembly.
6. The Board shall decide on the venues for the secretariat staff outside of the headquarters.
7. The Board shall determine the procedures regarding the appointment, suspension, salaries and conditions of employment of staff members.

**Article 11: National and Regional Members**

1. The GCE shall promote the establishment of National coalitions and Regional networks of civil society organisations for the promotion of quality public education for all
2. The national coalitions and regional networks shall be autonomous organisations and develop their own by-laws and procedures
3. National coalitions and regional networks shall be assisted to seek adequate representation on bodies established for the provision and maintenance of quality education for all. They shall monitor and influence the activities of national and international organisations and ensure transparency and accountability
4. Any national coalition or a regional network shall have the right to apply for membership of GCE and shall be admitted as a member by the Board, provided that the applicant complies with Article 3 of the GCE constitution
5. GCE shall encourage the formation of one viable national coalition in a country and one regional network in a continent

**Article 12: Finance**

*a. Income*

The Finance of GCE shall include:

- Membership fees Donations,
- Grants and special contributions for specific activities
- Proceeds from Fund Raising Activities and
- other sources approved by the Board

*b. Scale of Member ship dues*

There shall be a graduated scale for payment of membership dues as set out in the by-laws and set by the GCE Board.

*National Coalitions: (countries)*

Least developed	USD 100	per annum
Less developed	USD 200	per annum
Middle income countries	USD 300	per annum
High income countries	USD 400	per annum

*Regional Coalitions* USD 400 per annum

*International Organisations/ Networks* USD 5000 per annum

The Board shall determine the various categories and review the rates and the categories from time to time.



*c. Funds*

The funds of the campaign shall be deposited in savings and /or current account in a bank approved by the board.

*d. Audit*

The Board shall appoint external auditors of the campaign (GCE). In the year of a General Assembly, appointment of the Auditors should be the responsibility of the General Assembly and not of the Board. The Board should only have an advisory role here by providing a shortlist of reputable Audit firms from which the Assembly will appoint.

*e. Financial year*

The financial year shall be the calendar year ending on the 31st of December.

**Article 13: Official Languages**

The official languages of GCE shall be Arabic, English, French and Spanish and any other languages recommended by the Board and approved by the General Assembly

**Article 14: By-Laws and Rules of Procedure**

The General board shall make by-laws and rules of procedure to regulate elections, conduct of the Assembly and Board meetings and other matters referred to it by the constitution.

**Article 15: Legal Status of the GCE**

The Board shall have the authority to take such steps as are necessary to ensure continuous registration of the GCE as a Not for Profit legal entity with entitlement to employ staff and hold bank accounts in the country in which its secretariat is located. The current registration is in the by-laws.

**Article 16: Miscellaneous**

• **Interpretation of the Constitution**

The interpretation of this constitution and by-laws is within the competence of the Board.

• **Translation of the Constitution**

The English version of the constitution is the main copy legally registered in South Africa. Translated versions of the constitution must be approved by the GCE Board.

• **Amendments of the Constitution**

Notices of motion to amend the constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by a GCE member or the GCE Board not less than four months before the opening of the General Assembly. They shall be circulated to all member organisations prior to the opening of the Assembly as detailed in the by-laws. A proposed amendment to the constitution shall be declared adopted if supported by not less than two-thirds of the total votes cast by at least fifty per cent of member organizations.

• **Dissolution of GCE**

The GCE may be dissolved by a vote at a General Assembly on a motion from a fully paid –up member organization to dissolve the GCE, of which four months notice must be given to the Secretariat, and which receives not less than two-thirds of total votes cast by at least sixty percent of member organisations. In the event of the dissolution of GCE any remaining funds shall be given to any charitable institution as decided upon by the Assembly at which it is dissolved.