

**Embargoed till: Monday, 12.00 a.m.**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**08/2009**

## **Global Education Fund called for NGO Declaration adopted for UNESCO Conference**

**Bonn, 30.03.2009** – In the run-up to the UNESCO World Conference in Bonn, 120 civil society organisations from all over the world have adopted a declaration on education for sustainable development. In it, they call upon the government representatives of the UN Conference to firmly establish Global Learning not only in the education system but in all areas of life. In addition, a global education fund is to be introduced to support sustainable education instruments such as volunteers programmes in all world regions.

“UNESCO’s aim has to be to enable all people world-wide to participate in the learning process towards sustainable development. This can only be achieved by addressing people personally at local level and by their culture entering education activities,” said Claudia Warning, Executive Chair of the Association of Development German Non-governmental Organisations (VENRO). Warning argued that the UN had to support the countries of the South in establishing education networks and international platforms.

In addition, the national governments ought to integrate the organisations at grassroots level more strongly into the development and implementation of education strategies and programmes. Here, the African governments are called upon in particular to demonstrate good governance and continuously provide more financial resources for education. “Of course a global education fund does not release the national governments from their duty to ensure general access to good education via government funding”, Warning stressed.

One instrument to promote the process of Global Learning is voluntary programmes, such as the German “weltwärts” programme. “If these programmes really are to be successful, they have to integrate not only the people of the North in cultural exchange but also those of the South. So we need global volunteers programmes for all of this world’s regions. This is the only way to ensure a contribution from Global Learning to international understanding,” Warning said.

The NGO congress “Global Learning, weltwärts and beyond” took place in Bonn from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009. 175 civil society participants from 51 countries attended the event. The organisers were VENRO and the Task Group on Education of the European Non-Governmental Organisation confederation for relief and development, CONCORD. Towards the end of the Congress, the Bonn NGO Declaration was adopted, which is to enter the debates at the UNESCO Conference from the 31<sup>st</sup> March till the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

# GLOBAL LEARNING, WELTWÄRTS AND BEYOND

With the financial support of the  
Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development  
(BMZ)



Bundesministerium für  
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit  
und Entwicklung

World University Service  
(WUS) is the co-  
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organisational  
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[VENRO](#), reg. Ass., is the Association of Development German Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs). Its membership comprises around 120 German NGOs operating in the areas of private or Church development co-operation, humanitarian aid and development education, public relations and lobbying activities.

[CONCORD](#)/Development Education Forum (DEF) is the Task Group on Education of the European Non-Governmental Organisation confederation for relief and development, CONCORD. The European Federation represents more than 1,200 organisations.