

# Global Student Statement

June 2010 • G8/20 Summits • Canada

In June 2010 the leaders of Spain, the Netherlands, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Malawi and the G8/G20 nations, will gather in Canada for an historic meeting. Following the economic downturn and with many nations still facing financial instability, the future of the global economy will be at the top of the agenda.

The world is at a crossroads. With ballooning levels of public debt, many powerful interests are pushing governments to cut social spending and privatise public services. There is no question that such measures will hurt the people of the world, especially those who already face economic or social marginalisation.

To secure economic and social prosperity for the future, countries must resist the urge to privatise education and other public services. Education is an essential public good and a fundamental right for all, as is access to health-care, nutrition and other social services and infrastructure.

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## We, the representatives of over 150 million students from across the world, affirm that:

- all people have the right to participate in a free, high-quality public system of post-secondary education, regardless of location, race, religion, gender, culture, sexuality or socio-economic background;
- universally accessible higher education is essential to ensure the world's future prosperity;
- the right to teach, learn, study, research and publish free of orthodoxy or threat of reprisal and discrimination is an essential component of all systems of higher education;
- global equality, and economic and social prosperity can only be ensured through people in every country having universal access to accountable public services, including higher education;
- citizens of every country have the right to high-quality public infrastructure to deliver essential social services including but not limited to high-quality healthcare and education;
- the world's rich nations have both the ability and responsibility to work in solidarity and multilaterally with the rest of the world in meeting these goals.

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## Further we call on the leaders present at the June 2010 meetings of the G8 and G20 to:

- chart a course for the global economy that prioritises the aforementioned principles;
- establish plans to meet the following principle enshrined in the United Nations Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights:  
*"higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education";*
- propose bold action to combat global poverty; make real progress to prevent global warming and transform the global economic and financial system to create a fair and sustainable world.



**All-Africa Students Union**



**Asian Student Association**



**Canadian Federation of Students**



**European Student Union**



**General Union of Arab Students**



**International Students Union of Norway**

**Organización Continental Latinoamericana Y Caribeña de Estudiantes**



**United States Student Association**

