



## OMEPE WORLD ASSEMBLY DECLARATION

Bangkok, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### 76th OMEPE World Assembly Declaration on Promoting a UN Decade for Early Childhood Care and Education

#### Preamble

**Cognizant** of the importance of the first 1000 days of a child's life, and the significant role that early childhood education and care (ECCE) plays in enhancing children's development, learning and wellbeing, and in supporting families, and recognizing the significant disparities in access to quality care and education across global regions, we underscore the imperative to advocate for concerted international efforts.

**Acknowledging** the critical need to place children's rights at the forefront of global agendas, ensuring all children, regardless of socio-economic backgrounds or gender, have access to the necessary resources to thrive from birth.

**Affirming** that the promotion of ECCE is a foundational step towards addressing multidimensional poverty, which affects millions of children under the age of eight, influencing their health, nutritional status, and overall developmental opportunities.

**Highlighting** the alarming rates of undernutrition and lack of educational resources among children, especially those with disabilities, exacerbated by socio-economic crises and health emergencies like the COVID pandemic, which have significantly stalled progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Proclaiming** our committed support to promoting a United Nations Decade for Early Childhood Care and Education, aimed at galvanizing international commitment and mobilizing resources to ensure every child has access to high-quality early education and care.

**Affirming** that the Objectives of the UN Decade for ECCE should be to:

1. Place Early Childhood at the Center of the Global Agenda:

- Promote the recognition of early childhood as a critical period that requires prioritized attention and investment.
- Advocate for the inclusion of early childhood development in national and international policy agendas.

2. Promote Holistic Sustainable Development and Rights of Children:

- Ensure that ECCE programs are designed to address the comprehensive needs of children, including health, nutrition, education, and social-emotional development.
- Uphold the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related international human rights instruments.

3. Strengthen Policy and Institutional Frameworks:

- Support the development and implementation of robust ECCE policies that are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the diverse needs of children and families.
- Enhance intersectoral coordination to ensure integrated service delivery for young children.

4. Mobilize Resources for ECCE:

- Advocate for increased public and private investment in ECCE to ensure sustainable and adequate financing for quality programs and services.



- Promote innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships to support ECCE initiatives.
5. Foster Participation and Inclusion:
- Encourage the active participation of children, families, communities, and civil society in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of ECCE policies and programs.
  - Ensure that ECCE services are accessible to all children, particularly those from marginalized and disadvantaged groups.
6. Expand Access and Improve Quality:
- Strive to increase the availability and accessibility of quality ECCE services, particularly for children in vulnerable situations.
  - Implement evidence-based standards and practices to enhance the quality of ECCE programs and ensure positive outcomes for children.
7. Protect Children from Violence and Abuse:
- Strengthen measures to protect young children from all forms of violence, abuse, and neglect.
  - Provide priority attention to children in situations of mobility, health emergencies, and armed conflict.
8. Promote Early Childhood Education and Care as a sustainable a Public Good:
- Advocate for the recognition of ECCE as a public good that warrants public investment and support.
  - Highlight the societal benefits of investing in early childhood, including improved educational outcomes, social cohesion, and economic development.
9. Ensure Equity and Inclusion:
- Address disparities in access to ECCE services and promote inclusive practices that accommodate the needs of **all** children..
  - Foster environments that support gender equality and the empowerment of girls, from an early age.
10. Build Capacities of the ECCE Workforce:
- Invest in the training and on-going professional development of, and support for, ECCE teachers and educators to ensure high-quality service delivery.
  - Support continuous learning and development opportunities for families and communities as primary caregivers and educators.

**We, the members of the World Executive Committee of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEPE), Presidents and delegates of the National Committees, representatives at the United Nations and at UNESCO, present at the 76th World Assembly, commit to:**

**Actively promote the approval of a decade for Early Childhood Care and Education.**

**Uphold** the rights and dignity of every child and work towards creating a sustainable world where all children can realize their full potential.

**Advocate** for the formal adoption of a UN Decade for ECCE through concerted efforts at national, regional, and international levels.

**Collaborate** with governments, international organizations, civil society, educational and research institutions, and other stakeholders, to promote and implement the objectives of the UN Decade for ECCE.



Organisation Mondiale pour L'Éducation Préscolaire  
World Organization for Early Childhood Education  
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar

**Mobilize** resources and build partnerships to support ECCE initiatives and ensure sustainable and impactful interventions.

**Promote** research, data collection, and evidence-based practices to inform ECCE policies and programs.

### **Summary**

This declaration of support for the UN Decade for Early Childhood Care and Education represents a vital step towards ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive in a safe and nurturing sustainable environment. By committing to this cause, we reaffirm our dedication to building a brighter future for the youngest members of our global community.

Together, let us work towards a Decade of action that works purposefully towards transforming the lives of children and lays the foundation for a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.