

**OPEN LETTER TO G8 LEADERS ON A
GLOBAL FUND FOR EDUCATION FROM MARY ROBINSON,
ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU AND MUHAMMAD YUNUS**

June 30, 2009

To the Leaders of the G8:

We, the undersigned, are writing to implore the leaders of the world's richest countries to renew their commitment to the children of the world by revitalizing the global compact on Education for All. At this year's G8, we urge those same leaders to announce an agreement to launch a fully resourced Global Fund for Education.

We are heartened by the commitment of the United States President, Barack Obama, to provide a contribution of at least \$2 billion dollars to a Global Fund for Education which would help to eliminate the global education deficit by 2015. Such a bold and ambitious plan should be endorsed by other members of the G8 through a public commitment to such an initiative, which must be launched before the end of the year with full funding. A Global Fund for Education would ensure that the funding shortfall is no longer the main impediment to progress on basic education, and moreover that those investments have the greatest impact on access to and quality of education.

At this time of fiscal crises, it is even more imperative that we provide the safety net of knowledge to the world's poorest children and save them from paying with their lives for our financial mistakes. Education must be an integral part of the global response to the economic crisis. Without skills such as literacy, numeracy and problem-solving, millions of children and adults are trapped in poverty. Education is the key to unlocking inter-generational deprivation, as it offers the knowledge people need to live healthy, happy lives.

By investing in education, the G8 can leverage huge returns in women and children's health, nation and peace-building, and global economic development now and in the future. At this critical time, millions of children are dropping out of school to join the labor market, governments are being forced to cut their education budgets and total aid commitments to basic education are dropping at an alarming rate.

We are making an urgent and personal appeal for the G8 to achieve Education for All by committing to launch a Global Fund for Education by the end of the year.

Sincerely,



Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland



Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of
Cape Town



Professor Muhammad Yunus