

International Council for Adult Education, on behalf of Academia and Education stakeholder I would like to convey the message that Leaving no-one behind is at the core of SDG4 through its emphasis on equitable and inclusive education and lifelong opportunities for all. It means that everyone must have access to quality and free education through all stages of life, early childhood, primary, secondary and higher education and various form of education and learning for adult and older persons.

It also implies that public education systems should be strengthened, with public resources financing public education, including those from ODA.

It was said that education is primary responsibility of the countries. We know: developing and least developed countries won't be able to make it, unless serious changes are made in national economic environment (to mention only a few: tax injustice, debts, donors driven cooperation...).. Addis Ababa agenda does not consider education, not even literacy, except financial literacy. How can they achieve adg4 and other goals relates

We would like to share the concern that privatisation trends, evidenced across the globe, could put the right to education at risk. It was said that private business and trade are engine for development. There are considerable evidences that education privatisation , together with the privatisation of other services, may inhibit equity of access and participation, reduce education to a commodity versus a public good, and infringe education as a human right. Thus, public services are not a human right any more, but become commodity that will not be affordable for majority of people in the world, but will consolidate segregation.

Use of technology might have some risks as well: it could increase access to education, but there is a risk that unequal use of technology can increase the existing gaps (between rich and poor individuals and countries, young and old, ) unless it is accompanied with efforts to increase literacy and level of education. Providing computers and online platforms does not relieve us of responsibility to provide good schools and other learning opportunities, good teacher, and truly transformative curriculum. Otherwise science and technology will make us leave even more people behind.