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Thank you for joining our invitation to this webinar.

It's a pleasure to meet you.

I think it is important at a time like this for our organization to renew our commitment to a global mobilization of education international that has as its watchwords the enhancement of schools and all those who work in them starting with teachers.

The issue that the right to education is under attack is so - all over the world. It is so for the same reasons that have led us in recent years to make important battles to defend it.

The idea of profit as a measure of the economic choices of governments has led to the fundamental rights of citizens being pushed aside. The right to education is one of them.

Our goal is full accessibility - for all- to the education and training system, to knowledge, research and science, and culture. It is exactly - access or not access- to knowledge that can determine (determin) the greater polarization in the condition of labor or ability to emancipate oneself, to resist with some tools the productive transformations (digital and green),

it is exactly through the development of education and training systems in inclusive or democratic terms that we can change the process of social, political and democratic disintegration that we see taking place. We are coming out of a pandemic that has exposed deep gaps in access to rights, starting with fundamental ones. Such as health or education, and the failure of the capitalist economic model in the face of great emergencies and the extraordinary exactly by returning to an even more extreme pattern of that model, which does not place care, overall well-being, the person, the environment, among the goals of development.

An economic model then that makes neglect or waste as the matrix of economic growth. An economic model that has failed and failed to the extent

that it has polarized wealth, opened gaps and increased social and economic inequalities.

Moreover, at this stage at least in our country we see a progressive process of privatization of the right to education. A temptation always presents in right-wing governments such as ours.

So, we need more investment in education and more investment in valuing teachers. We need a golden rule in the European framework, I say this in light of the revision of European economic governance. Because the revision of the Stability and Growth Pact not providing for the possibility of having a golden rule on social investments, health and education, for a country like ours almost automatically translates into cuts in public spending, that is, social spending.

This means cuts in teaching and support staff, greater difficulty in the management of teaching, an increase in the number of pupils per class, and lower quality of teaching. The second effect is the lack of resources for the renewal of the collective national labor agreement. By salaries, by economic recognition, we can measure how much a country cares about its teachers.

If, as in the case of Italy, this is done with delay or scarce resources, we cannot speak of respect for the function and role of the teacher.

The difficult salary situation is in danger of turning into a real emergency in the face of the sharp increase in inflation -as a result of the economic crisis- recorded since 2022, which severely erodes the purchasing (purchasing) power of salaries. In the face of this, there is an urgent need to put in place a strong action, aimed at structurally protecting the salaries of employees in general and in school sector.

Enhance the teaching profession, which must also face the challenges of the complexity of the relationship with students.

The existence of the younger generations today is traversed (traversed) by processes and phenomena that can also take on shocking manifestations, in terms of violence and degradation.

And they question us as adult citizen women and men, as institutions, and as schools.

It is evident the indispensable function of the education system.

For the civic and democratic formation of the younger generations and as a natural presidium of prevention of logics and behaviors of violence, of overpowering, of human and civil degradation, of xenophobia.

It is the important, the high function of our work.

It is the goal of a school put in a position to take the direction of educational interventions in the different territories. To build networks and educational pacts. Put in a position, above all, to be truly inclusive and attractive.

A place in which to experience acceptance, respect, listening and appreciation of diversity, experience solidarity, co-construct knowledge and learning processes, share the pleasure of discovery, learn to participate, be aware of one's rights and duties.

At the end , there are important challenges concerning the transitions that are going on in the world: green and digital reconversion, artificial intelligence, and therefore the need to reconstruct in the complexity of transition processes, and in transition processes in complex, articulated societies, the capacity for representation and the recomposition of labor starting with the possibility in the first place of reading ourselves, by those we represent, as a class and therefore regaining the cultural and political hegemonic function.

For these reasons, tomorrow in Rome the CGIL and its categories and many associations will be in the square for a huge demonstration: among the seven points there is the strengthening of the education system.

However, I believe it is essential that education unions are able to carry out joint actions to demand these policies, starting with the global campaign of - Education International FLC CGIL considers the international trade union path to be central because there is an increasing connection of the political choices made by national governments. Our commitment is aimed at a collective mobilization, a common commitment that can really change the present and above all the future.