

ORAL QUESTION H-0003/09  
for Question Time at the part-session in February 2009  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Linda McAvan  
to the Council

Subject: Teachers in developing countries

Efforts to increase attendance at school in the developing world have had considerable success, but the increase in the number of pupils in schools has not been matched by an increase in the number of teachers. In many classrooms in developing countries, the pupil-to-teacher ratio is often 100:1, or even higher. Current International Monetary Fund conditions attached to loans to developing countries place restrictions on public sector spending as a whole, and also impose a ceiling limit for teachers' wages. Millions of school children are not getting the education they need because fiscal rules prevent developing countries from employing enough teachers.

Given that providing children with a decent education is vital to ensuring real, lasting development, will the Council put pressure on the IMF to allow greater fiscal flexibility so that developing countries can provide their children with the teachers they so desperately need?

Tabled: 09.01.2009  
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