



International Summit on the Teaching Profession 2016 Berlin

Closing speech

Dr. Claudia Bogedan

President of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany

Closing Session

4 March 2016

Esteemed fellow ministers,

Dear Colleagues,

Dear participants in the International Summit on the Teaching Profession,

Ladies and gentlemen,

for all of us present, two demanding but above all inspiring days are coming to a close.

We have in the most diverse setups – be it in the plenary sessions, in breakout groups, or bilaterally – enjoyed extremely valuable and constructive discussions together.

We as hosts have created the setting for the summit. And I am very grateful for the appreciation which you have shown us as organisers and hosts of the ISTP Summit. But, it has been you, all, dear participants who

have made it a success. You are the leading actors of a global trend which aims to promote the professionalisation of teaching.

However, adequate budgets are essential. Adequate financing is important, so that teachers can be properly trained and given further training. But this is not enough on its own. We want to prepare them properly for their career, and give them specialist support throughout their working life. The ISTP has come up with a lot of good practice examples on how to do this.

The professionalisation of teaching is an objective whose importance cannot be over-estimated.

We cannot simply leave it as empty words.

In the last two days, decision-makers, experts and practitioners have put their heads together here. We have taken a further important step towards a quality-based and an evidence-backed professionalisation of the teaching profession.

Moreover, we did not only talk about policies but also about the politics of implementing to achieve our policy goals.

This is the special feature of the International Summit on the Teaching Profession.

Take your personal impressions, your conclusions and your learning experiences home with you and become multipliers!

The ISTP is something quite special. It is unique in its design. But what is special about this year`s summit in Berlin?

I would like to point to the innovation of the break-out format. I think this concept is extremely enriching and important for the success of the Summit. In Berlin we had the opportunity for open debates in a setting which protects the confidentiality of what was discussed. In spite of this unique feature, the new format was not a closed shop, in which participants conspired in some way to get things done. No, we have brought together and presented the results achieved in the break-out sessions. Thus, the breakout session has been a beneficial part of the 2016 ISTP in Berlin.

What more can we take back home from Berlin?

This Summit has given us the opportunity to collectively reflect on the emerging challenges and opportunities that education systems face today, such as integrating the massive influx of refugees and preparing students to live in increasingly diverse societies, and to discuss what can be done to ensure the professionalization of the teaching profession to meet these new demands.

We highlighted the importance of collaboration between governments and the teaching profession, and working hand-in-hand for further actions to achieve excellent learning of students.

We mentioned the need to support teachers in all their interests, especially in relation to digital competencies.

We discussed the challenges and opportunities to implement policies which promote teachers professional learning and growth. Successful reforms can be delivered if the system shares a common vision. The respective roles and responsibilities of governments, teaching profession and other stakeholders were highlighted, as well as the different forms of partnerships that can make professional learning and growth happen.

We have all learned a great deal in Berlin, as I promised we would in my opening speech. For those responsible, the ISTP has produced important experiences for future education policy:

Internationalisation: only through international collaboration and networking with other entities responsible for education can we make further progress along the chosen path. For Germany, the aim is to be part of the group of the most successful educational nations. Exchanging good practices within the international education family, if I may put it this way, has become a paradigm for us.

However, it is not about cherry-picking. We have to be sensible for the different context policies are embedded in.

Focus on a common objective: no matter how different the educational systems, the paths to teaching, the teaching cultures, the educational mandate or the organisational and pay systems may be we all agree that the quality of teachers is a

decisive factor in the development and the safeguarding of quality in the educational system. We are guiding our education policy efforts by this maxim – particularly in the area of initial and in-service teacher training. We all face similar challenges in Providing our pupils with necessary skills for the 21st century.

Redefining the role of teachers by also focusing on advisory skills and readiness to innovate. We understand this to mean the willingness, in the sense of lifelong learning, to undergo current, continuous and further training. By doing so, teachers participate under their own initiative at the innovation process in schools and in teaching.

The professionalisation of teachers also promotes the sharing of knowledge among teachers as experts in teaching and education on the one hand, and policymakers and associations, administrations and further training institutions, on the other.

In closing this event, we would like to thank the OECD for providing the evidence base and analysis that underpinned our discussions. We also thank Education International for its support to the planning of this Summit and its constructive dialogue throughout the process. We also express our gratitude to Tony MacKay and Gavin Dykes for guiding and moderating our deliberations so skilfully. Last but not least, we thank the German foundations sponsoring this event for their generosity.

As hosts, we are drawing positive conclusions from the Summit. I hope you had an enjoyable stay in Berlin. You may have had the opportunity to get to know this fantastic city, or you may be able to do so in the next few days. It was a great pleasure to have you had here.

I wish you all a safe journey back home and every success in implementing our ideas and suggestions in your day-to-day work.

See you next year in Scotland!