"Today is World Teachers' Day 2012 and I salute teachers and educators all over the world for their work with children, teenagers and adults. This year's slogan is "Take a Stand for Teachers" in order to highlight this important work as a viable career option for people entering the job market. The goal at UNESCO Headquarters is to raise the profile of teachers and attract top graduates to this profession. The harsh reality though is that teaching will never gain the status that it deserves until beginning teachers are paid at the same level as beginning doctors, lawyers and engineers. When education becomes the highest societal value of a nation, perhaps the profession of teaching will be elevated and be compensated accordingly. Please join me in thanking teachers all over this globe for their dedicated work and Take a Stand in valuing this profession."