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**Promotion and protection of all human rights,
civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Joint written statement* submitted by CIVICUS (World Alliance for Citizen Participation), International Alliance of Women (IAW), Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (CCIA/WCC), International Council of Women (ICW-CIF), Good Neighbors International (GNI) and Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI), non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, Human Rights Education Associates (HREA), International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education (OIDEL), International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), Teresian Association, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), Association Points Cœur, Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation), Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH), Al-Hakim Foundation, Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA), Universal Peace Federation (UPF/IIFWP), International Federation of University Women (IFUW), World Federation For Mental Health (WFMH), Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Planetary Association for Clean Energy (PACE), Worldwide Organization for Women (WOW), International Association

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development-VIDES, SOS-Kinderdorf International (SOS-KDI), Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA), International Bureau for Children's Rights and Equitas International Centre for Human Rights Education, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, Soka Gakkai International (SGI), Servas International, Association for World Education (AWE), Association of World Citizens (AWC) and United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society (UMC-GBCS), non-governmental organizations on the Roster.

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2010]

The World Programme for Human Rights Education: Transition from the First Phase to the Second Phase

1. This statement reflects discussions among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) facilitated by the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), Geneva, and views of civil society actors on various topics related to human rights education expressed through the global network of Human Rights Education Associates (HREA).
2. We, the co-signed organisations, believe that the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE) is a vitally important international tool to promote and implement human rights education towards the full realisation of human rights of all through building a culture of human rights in all nations.
3. Human rights education is a sustainable approach to eliminate all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, all other related intolerance and violence.
4. Upholding these views, we would like to draw the attention of Member States to the joint NGO written statement, A/HRC/10/NGO/112, on the United Nations framework for human rights education and civil society participation, submitted to the 10th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2009. The statement with 365 signatories of 56 organisations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and 309 organisations without consultative status including 5 national human rights institutions indicates that NGOs and other civil society actors are committed to human rights education and are important stakeholders in the implementation of human rights education in the United Nations framework.
5. We welcome the launching of the second phase (2010-2014) of the WPHRE, taking note of its focus on “human rights education for higher education and on human rights training programmes for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel at all levels.” (A/HRC/RES/12/4, op.2).
6. With regard to the transition from the first phase (2005-2009) to the second phase of the WPHRE, we would like to draw the attention of all Member States to the two facets in 2010. One is evaluation of the first phase and the other is drafting a plan of action for the second phase.

1. Evaluation of the First Phase

7. Evaluation of the first phase is a critical step to continue effectively the implementation of human rights education within the framework of the WPHRE. Achievements and shortcomings as well as identified challenges and specific needs during the first phase that focused on primary and secondary school systems should be analysed for continuation, expansion and improvement of the efforts.
8. In carrying out the evaluation of the first phase, outcome and impact indicators must be identified. This set of indicators should include core indicators that might apply in any learning or country context, in order to facilitate comparisons. At the same time, additional indicators might be developed that reflect unique and specific characteristics of the learning program and context.

9. These actions should be taken in the evaluation process with the steps provided in the Plan of Action for the first phase, paragraphs 49-51¹ according to which the Member States are called upon to provide their final national evaluation report that will be eventually submitted to the General Assembly in 2010 through the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (UNIACC) of the WPHRE.

10. We are aware that for this purpose, in the end of January 2010, the UNIACC Secretariat, provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), circulated to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations at Geneva a “note verbale” dated 28 January and a questionnaire for Governments, requesting them to prepare and submit their national reports on the implementation of the first phase.

11. We urge all Member States to make necessary arrangements using available means for involving national human rights institutions, NGOs and other civil society bodies to prepare the response to the questionnaire for submission to the OHCHR by the deadline “no later than 31 March, 2010” as indicated in the questionnaire.

12. We are also aware that the questionnaire is to facilitate the Member States to prepare their final national evaluation report on the first phase for which the same deadline is drawn.

13. Therefore, we urge all Member States to comply with the steps provided in the Plan of Action to prepare the final national evaluation report, ensuring the following actions:

(i) To further assist and collaborate with all stakeholders, particularly NGOs and other civil society actors, and set up a focal point if not yet done so, for gathering information relevant to human rights education at the national level, making transparently accessible for NGOs and other civil society actors the evaluation process at the national level.

(ii) To maintain, expand and improve efforts for the implementation of human rights education in primary and secondary school systems.

2. Second Phase

Focus of the Second Phase

14. We take note of the Report of the High Commissioner, A/HRC/12/36, on consultations with United Nations Member States, national human rights institutions, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs that was the basis for determining the focus of the second phase.

15. The second phase encompasses a wide range of sectors focusing on human rights education for higher education and human rights training for persons engaged in specific occupations from law enforcement officers to military personnel. In order to implement the second phase in such a wide range, the plan of action should be carefully elaborated to be effective in practice with indication of actions and evaluation process to follow.

¹ A/59/525 Rev.1, para.49 “At the conclusion of the first phase (2005-200[9]) of the World Programme, each country will undertake an evaluation of actions implemented under this plan of action. The evaluation will take into consideration progress made in a number of areas, such as legal frameworks and policies, curricula, teaching and learning processes and tools, revision of textbooks, teacher training, improvement of the school environment, etc. The Member States will be called upon to provide their final national evaluation report to the United Nations inter-agency coordinating committee” and para.51 “The report will be submitted to the General Assembly(…)” in 2010.

Plan of Action

16. According to HRC resolution A/HRC/RES/12/4 (op.8), the plan of action for the second phase must be prepared by OHCHR for submission to the Human Rights Council at its fifteenth session in September.

17. We call upon all Member States to ensure, when they are consulted on preparation of the plan of action (A/HRC/RES/12/4, op.4), that the plan of action provides practical components regarding NGOs and other civil society actors as well as national human rights institutions:

- (i) To link with higher education institutions and other training institutions to implement effective human rights education; and
- (ii) To participate in formulating national programmes of human rights training for the target sectors of the second phase.

18. For drafting a plan of action or finalising it, a meeting of experts mainly from civil society, organised by OHCHR, would contribute to it as was the case for the first phase. However, to our knowledge, such an expert meeting to formulate or finalise a plan of action for the second phase is not feasible to be organised by OHCHR “within the existing financial resources (A/HRC/RES/12/4, op.4)”.

19. As it is our concern, and recalling the question on financial implications discussed during the intergovernmental consultation on Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/12/4 prior to its adoption during the 12th session of the Council, we remind all Member States and stakeholders of the need for a voluntary fund for human rights education at the international level which can also assist the WPHRE. Alternatively and at least, in the advance planning of the OHCHR annual budget a sufficient proportion should be allotted for the WPHRE and relevant human rights education activities within the United Nations framework.

20. The second phase of the WPHRE is the first transition of the focus from one phase to another in its structure of consecutive phases. In this regard, it is a vital step to evaluate the effectiveness of the WPHRE itself. Therefore, we will continue to closely monitor its process and are determined to contribute to it in order to maintain and further develop the effective implementation of human rights education in all nations through the United Nations global framework.
