

## **Joint NGO Oral Statement**

The UN Human Rights Council 10th session (2-27 March, 2009)

Agenda Item 5: Human rights bodies and mechanisms

### ***Draft UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training***

**Kazunari Fujii on behalf of:**

**SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL (SGI)**

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND FREEDOM OF EDUCATION (OIDEL)**

**PAX ROMANA**

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (IFUW)**

**CIVICUS: WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (EAFORD)**

Thank you Mr. President,

We appreciate the progress report on draft UN declaration on human rights education and training presented by the Council's Advisory Committee.

Human rights education contributes to the promotion of gender equality, the rights of the child, women, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, elders, migrants, and all other vulnerable groups of people.

Human rights education also promotes inter-religious and inter-cultural understanding, and acts to eliminate racial discrimination and xenophobia as well as protecting human rights defenders. Sustainable development and the prevention of conflict can also be achieved through the implementation of human rights education.

Mr. President,

We would like to draw the attention of the Member States to the joint NGO written statement A/HRC/10/NGO/112 on the UN framework for human rights education and civil society participation. The written statement was jointly submitted by 365 organisations, representing all continents from 88 countries.

This written statement reflects discussions facilitated by the NGO Working Group on Human

Rights Education and Learning in Geneva and the Human Rights Education Associates (HREA).

As part of the collective initiative of NGOs combined with the written statement, the NGO Working Group is facilitating a series of five NGO Panels on human rights education during the present session of the Council.

Mr. President,

We would like to call upon the Member States to ensure that the following elements will be incorporated in the UN declaration on human right education and training.

- (1) Clear conceptualisation of human rights education based on a broad definition;
- (2) Clarification on the accountability by reference with duty-bearers and rights-holders;
- (3) Linkages between the declaration and existing monitoring mechanisms such as treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR;
- (4) Clear indication of the state's responsibility for ensuring financial resources for human rights education within the national budgetary policies; and
- (5) The important role of civil society actors and NGOs.

Keeping in mind these elements, we support Recommendation 2 in the progress report of the Advisory Committee which requests the Council to adopt a decision on holding an informal seminar in Geneva through OHCHR facilitation, in order to enrich the collective debate before the next session of the Advisory Committee.

To conclude, we support the proposed draft resolution prepared by the Platform of four governments for Human Rights Education and Training and hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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### ***The World Programme for Human Rights Education***

**Claudia Neury on behalf of:**

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND FREEDOM OF EDUCATION (OIDEL)**

**SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL (SGI)**

**PAX ROMANA**

**CIVICUS: WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (EAFORD)**

Thank you Mr. President,

We uphold human rights education as an essential agenda for all nations. Human rights education is a sustainable approach to all human rights issues and a lifelong process, irrespective of people's age.

Children, women, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, elders, migrants, and all other vulnerable groups of people, as well as government officials, and law enforcement officers, including all actors of the judicial systems are the concerned subjects in the implementation of human rights education.

We welcome the draft resolution on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, prepared by the Platform of four governments for Human Rights Education and Training in the Council.

We would like to draw the attention of the Member States to the joint NGO written statement A/HRC/10/NGO/112 on the UN framework for human rights education and civil society participation. The written statement was jointly submitted by 365 organisations, representing all continents from 88 countries.

The first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education will be concluded at the end of this year, 2009. However the focus of the first phase, the implementation of human rights education in primary and secondary school systems must continue. Conclusion of the first phase means only the shift of focus from the first phase to the second phase, and does not mean the end or the start of a new implementation of human rights education.

In the concluding process of the first phase this year, we would like to call upon the member states not to fail to take the necessary steps to ensure the final evaluation as provided by the Plan of Action for the first phase of the World Programme.

We further call upon the member states to assist and collaborate with all stakeholders, particularly NGOs and other civil society actors, for gathering information relevant to the first phase, making the evaluation process accessible and transparent for NGOs and other civil society actors at the national level, as well as providing feedback on the final evaluation to all stakeholders.

Mr. President,

We are also committed to assist the Council in determining the parameters for the second phase. Necessary technical assistance by OHCHR should also be sought.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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