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Human Rights Council

12th Session (14 September – 2 October 2009)

Item 3

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The Effective Implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education: From the First Phase to the Second Phase

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Thank you Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of twelve organisations.

- We welcome the High Commissioner's Report entitled the consultation on the focus of the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/12/36). We also support the initiative of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training by its six Member States (Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Slovenia and Switzerland) of a draft resolution to determine the focus of the second phase.

- As the High Commissioner's report clearly indicates, specific rights holders are in need of human rights education to enable them to defend their rights. They include deprived and rural communities and all vulnerable or marginalised populations, not only children and women but also migrant workers, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, the elderly, persons in detention, refugees and internally displaced persons as well as minorities.

- Human rights education is also a sustainable approach to democracy particularly through training for officers of government, law enforcement and judicial systems, as well as for health and social workers.

- Mr. President,

For the effective implementation of the World Programme in all its Phases, we call upon the Member States to ensure the following

- First of all, any activity initiated during each phase must be maintained and developed. The shift from one phase to another should not end the implementation of the previous phase.

- Second, each country should prepare a national plan of action in order to determine concrete objectives identify indicators for evaluation, and define duty bearers and rights holders in each Phase.

- Third, in all Phases, civil society actors including NGOs must play a vital role. The ultimate purpose of human rights education is the full realisation of human rights for all by building a universal culture of human rights. The national budgetary allocation for human rights education must be ensured as a matter of the utmost importance. Establishing a voluntary fund for human rights education within the UN referred for consideration in several resolutions^[1] of the former Commission on Human Rights would substantially assist civil society in this area.

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To conclude, Mr. President,

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The national evaluation report of the first phase to be prepared by all Member States would indicate the extent to which the respective Member State can be held accountable. We will closely monitor the vital process of the shift from the first to the second Phase.

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Thank you, Mr. President.

Soka Gakkai International (SGI), Human Rights Education Associations
World Federation of United Nations Associations
International Alliance of Women (IAW)
International Organization for the Elimination Of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)
CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)
Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA)
International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL)
Sovereign Military Order of the Temple Of Jerusalem (OSMTH)
International Federation of University Women (IFUW)

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18 September 2009

[\[1\]](#) E.g., Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2003/70 (April 2003) on the UN Decade for Human Rights Education.