

Joint NGO Statement

The Third Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

Delivered at

The UN Human Rights Council 27th session (8 - 26 September, 2014)

Under Agenda Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic,
social and cultural rights, including the right to development

General Debate

By KAZUNARI FUJII on behalf of:

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL (SGI)

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

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATES (HREA)

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (IFUW)

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

AL-HAKIM FOUNDATION

UNITED NETWORK OF YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS (UNOY PEACEBUILDERS)

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM (IMADR)

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC CHILD BUREAU (ICCB)

EQUITAS - INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

ASIA-PACIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER (HURIGHTS OSAKA)

INSTITUTE FOR PLANETARY SYNTHESIS (IPS)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (IARF)

CIVICUS - WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

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

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM (OSMTH)

PLANETARY ASSOCIATION FOR CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

FOUNDATION FOR GAIA (GAIA)

Thank you, Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of 19 organisations.¹

We welcome the plan of action for the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2015-2019)² prepared by the OHCHR.

We also welcome the new web resource “the Right to Human Rights Education”,³ launched by the OHCHR on 10 September, last week.

Together with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, these tools must be fully utilised and implemented.

The third phase of the World Programme aims at promoting social inclusion of marginalised groups; fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue; and combating stereotypes and violence.

We urge all Member States to implement the third phase of the World Programme, keeping in mind the following:

Firstly, the focus group of the third phase of the World Programme, “media professionals and journalists”, need to be enabled not disabled to fully exercise their right to freedom of expression in order to participate in the promotion of human rights education with their public responsibilities.

Secondly, human rights education requires the involvement of all relevant actors and the mutual collaboration between civil society and the government in all countries, for its very aim at realising all human rights of all persons, women and men, young and older people.

Thirdly, the Council should consider a follow up resolution in the 28th session next year on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, in order to reaffirm the political commitment enshrined in the Declaration.

Mr. President,

With appreciation to the seven Member States of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training,⁴ civil society actors including the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning at the UN and an international coalition of NGOs, HRE 2020⁵, will continue to mainstream human rights education in the work of the Council and other human rights mechanisms.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ This statement reflects the views of NGOs expressed in the discussions of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO) and Human Rights Education Associates (HREA).

² A/HRC/27/28 (4 August 2014), “Plan of Action for the third phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education”.

³ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/Listofcontents.aspx>

⁴ Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia and Switzerland.

⁵ The coalition was created in December 2013. Website: <http://www.hre2020.org>