

Joint NGO Statement

The Third Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education Media Professionals and Journalists

Delivered at

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

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)

ASSOCIATION POINTS-COEUR/ HEART'S HOME

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (IFUW)

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

EQUITAS - INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

AL-HAKIM FOUNDATION

UNITED NETWORK OF YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS (UNOY PEACEBUILDERS)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (IARF)

TERESIAN ASSOCIATION

ASIA-PACIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER (HURIGHTS OSAKA)

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC CHILD BUREAU (ICCB)

CIVICUS - WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

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

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

INSTITUTE FOR PLANETARY SYNTHESIS (IPS)

Thank you, Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of 17 organisations.¹

We welcome the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2015-2019), in view to promoting social inclusion of marginalised groups; fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue; and combating stereotypes and violence.

With regard to the focus of the third phase, human rights education and training for “media professionals and journalists”, we would like to emphasise the following views.

A draft plan of action for the third phase being prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner must reflect the views of NGOs, media professionals and journalists in compliance with the Human Rights Council resolution adopted in September, last year, on the World Programme.²

The plan of action must be beneficial and practical for media professionals and journalists to engage with the World Programme.

Media professionals and journalists in many cases are in great need of empowerment through human rights education to protect their own freedoms and rights. At the same time, they are opinion shapers and are accountable for their strong social impact. Their social influence could contribute to increasing stereotypes and prejudices, or even generating false charges and accusation of innocent persons.

This is a two-fold aspect of this target group of the World Programme.

On one hand, media professionals and journalists have public responsibilities for respecting human rights standards and principles. On the other hand, the protection of their rights, especially the freedom of expression, must be guaranteed, and the safe environment to exercise that right must be ensured.

The third phase must be built upon the previous phases of the World Programme, in particular, incorporating human rights education into training and education of journalists. The implementation of existing human rights education initiatives within the schooling, higher education and professional training sectors must be maintained.

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 Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/24/15, adopted on 27 September, 2013 (paragraph 6, in particular).