

Joint NGO Statement

The World Programme for Human Rights Education From the second phase to the third phase

Delivered at

The UN Human Rights Council 28th session (2 - 27 March, 2015)

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)

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATES (HREA)

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

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

AL-HAKIM FOUNDATION

EQUITAS - INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE (INPEA)

CIVICUS - WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

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

ASIA-PACIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER (HURIGHTS OSAKA)

INSTITUTE FOR PLANETARY SYNTHESIS (IPS)

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

TERESIAN ASSOCIATION

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM (OSMTH)

LATTER-DAY SAINT CHARITIES

Thank you, Mr. President.

I speak on behalf of 16 organisations.

This year, we enter the Third Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2015-2019).¹

It aims at promoting social inclusion of marginalised groups; fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue; and combating stereotypes and violence, with a particular emphasis on the role of journalists and other media professionals.

We urge all Member States to keep in mind that “media professionals and journalists” need to be enabled, not disabled, to fully exercise their right to freedom of expression for the promotion of human rights education with their public responsibilities, and that human rights education requires the involvement of all relevant actors for realising all human rights of all persons, women and men, young and older people.

As for the evaluation of the second phase, the OHCHR recently requested all Member States to provide their national report. We urge all Member States to contribute their national feedback and information on achievements and shortcomings of the second phase to effectively evaluate and continue its implementation.

The World Programme, together with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,² and the web resource “the Right to Human Rights Education”,³ launched by the OHCHR last year, provide sufficient guidance for the implementation of human rights education in all countries. In this regard, the Council should consider a follow up resolution 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 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 2020,⁵ will continue to mainstream human rights education in the work of the Council.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ A/HRC/27/28 (4 August 2014), “Plan of Action for the third phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education”.

² Adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2011.

³ 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: www.hre2020.org