Joint NGO Statement

The UN Human Rights Council 19th session (27 February - 23 March 2011)

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

General Debate

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Implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

Kazunari Fujii (SGI) 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)
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (IARF)
ASSOCIATION POINTS-COEUR
AL-HAKIM FOUNDATION
SERVAS INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM (IMADR)
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (EAFORD)
CIVICUS - WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
ASIAN FORUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT (FORUM ASIA)
ONG HOPE INTERNATIONAL
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
MYOCHIKAI (ARIGATOU FOUNDATION)
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS (IAGG)
WOMEN'S WORLD SUMMIT FOUNDATION (WWSF)
ASIA-PACIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER (HURIGHTS OSAKA)
SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM (OSMTH)
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (ICW)
TERESIAN ASSOCIATION
THE SALVATION ARMY
INSTITUTE FOR PLANETARY SYNTHESIS (IPS)
PLANETARY ASSOCIATION FOR CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)
ASSOCIATION APPRENTISSAGE SANS FRONTIERES (ASF)
DAVID M. KENNEDY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL (WFWPI)
UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION
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Implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

Thank you Mme President.

I speak on behalf of 28 organisations.

This statement reflects views of NGOs expressed in discussions facilitated by the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) and through an international network, Human Rights Education Associates (HREA).

We welcome that on 19 December, 2011, the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training was adopted by the General Assembly.

We uphold human rights education as fundamental long-term activity to prevent human rights violations and to strengthen equality and fundamental freedoms.

The Declaration, through its 14 articles, guides and provides principles for: human rights education and training; State responsibilities; the role of non-State actors; international, regional and national coordination and cooperation; and implementation and follow-up.

Mme President,

We call upon all Member States: first, to disseminate the Declaration including its translation into the national language; second, to create a safe and enabling environment to the maximum of their available resources for the engagement of all stakeholders in human rights education and training; third, to ensure adequate training in human rights of State officials, civil servants, law enforcement personnel including the military and police; and fourth, to develop national policies and action plans to implement human rights education in the framework of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

These efforts of States must be reported and evaluated through the mechanisms such as UPR, Treaty bodies and the Special Procedures. This is envisaged by the Declaration, in particular, Article 13. Member States should, for example, include their activities on human rights education within their periodic reports to the Treaty bodies.

We will monitor such efforts and actions of States as actual proof of their commitment to human rights education that they have expressed and accumulated over the past decades.

Thank you Mme President.