International Standards for Human Rights Education:
The Rights-Based Approach

Thank you Mr. President.

I speak on behalf of 19 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 support the draft text of the UN declaration on human rights education and training, made available before the Council.

Many NGOs made substantial contributions to the drafting process since its very beginning.

We stress the following.

Human rights education is a sustainable endeavour for dealing with the root causes of human rights violations and abuses, contributing to the prevention of such violations and abuses.

Human rights education is a lifelong process for all persons, regardless of age, and including women, men, children, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, elders, migrants, and all minorities and vulnerable groups of people.

The effective implementation of human rights education requires the rights-based approach.

As article 1 of the draft declaration stipulates, we call upon all Member States to make efforts to ensure that everyone has access to human rights education and training.

Such efforts should take into account various settings, whether public or private, formal, informal or non-formal.

Languages and methods suited to the local specific needs and conditions should be utilised.

At the international level, the Council’s Special Procedures and UPR should be recognised as contributory mechanisms for the effective implementation of human rights education.

Mr. President,

The declaration will be a significant momentum for the UN to officially proclaim international standards for human rights education.

We hope that it will be an opportunity for all stakeholders, including civil society and all governmental
authorities, to work together to encourage a more conscious and robust culture of human rights in all countries.


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