The World Programme for Human Rights Education

Joint NGO Oral Statement

The UN Human Rights Council 15th Session
(13th September – 1st October, 2010)

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

On behalf of:

Soka Gakkai International
Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)
Equitas centre international d’éducation aux droits humains
Soroptimist International
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
Association Points-Coeur
Pax Christi International
The International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Planetary Association for Clean Energy
Worldwide Organization for Women
Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH)
Institute for Planetary Synthesis
International Alliance of Women
Al-Hakim Foundation
International Catholic Child Bureau
CIVICUS
World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Women’s World Summit Foundation
International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)
International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL)
Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center

Thank you Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of 22 organisations.

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

We welcome the draft plan of action for the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights
The draft Plan of Action provides practical and essential elements to facilitate the formulation of national policies and actions in each country.

We therefore strongly support the intention of the Platform Member States to have the draft Plan of Action adopted by consensus.

As was the case during the first phase, national actions are vital, setting realistic goals and means for action and involving relevant government authorities from the national to the local levels.

In particular, actions by relevant ministries indicated in the Plan of Action as well as all related levels of government authorities should be ensured.

There is no doubt that collaboration with and support of civil society – from the national level through the community level- will be a contributing factor of the progress to be made. That includes translation of the Plan of Action into the local language that the relevant actors understand in formulating the national policies and programmes.

Mr. President,

The second phase focuses on two broadly-defined sectors: Human rights education in higher education on one hand; and human rights training for civil servants, law enforcement officials and the military on the other.

The involvement of all actors listed in the Plan of Action should be ensured with inclusive approaches, in particular human rights defenders and activists as well as minorities.

In higher education, all stakeholders should keep in mind that close collaboration and interaction with other civil society actors, particularly NGOs in the field of human rights and victims of human rights violations are essential.

This approach should also be applied to human rights training for civil servants, law enforcement officials and the military. A comprehensive policy should be ensured in human rights training for this sector, including cycles of pre-service and in-service training and regular evaluation in order to improve outcomes.

To conclude, Mr. President,

The ultimate purpose of human rights education is the full realisation of human rights for all by building a universal culture of human rights. In the course of implementing the World Programme, when the draft UN declaration on human rights education and training is adopted, the declaration should be referred to for the effective implementation of human rights education.

Thank you, Mr. President.
16 September 2010