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SPEAKER
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Joint NGO Statement
The World Programme for Human Rights Education
From the First to the Second Phase

Addressed to

The UN Human Rights Council 12th session (14 Sep. - 02 Oct. 2009)
Agenda Item 2 & 3: GENERAL DEBATE

- Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General
Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Kazunari Fujii on behalf of:

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL (SGI)
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND FREEDOM OF EDUCATION (OIDEL)
WORLD FEDERATION OF UN ASSOCIATIONS (WFUNA)
CIVICUS: WORLD ALLIANCE FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN (IAW)
WOMEN'S WORLD SUMMIT FOUNDATION (WWSF)
PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTH EAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (PPSEAWA)
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (IFUW)
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (EAFORD)
SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM (OSMTH)
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATES (HREA)

Thank you Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of 11 organisations.

We welcome the **High Commissioner's Report** on the focus of the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/12/36). We also support the initiative of **the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training** by its **six Member States** of a **draft resolution** to determine the focus of the second phase.

Specific rights holders are in need of human rights education to enable them to defend their rights. They include deprived and rural communities and all vulnerable or marginalised populations, not only children and women but also migrant workers, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, the elderly, persons in detention, refugees and internally displaced persons as well as minorities.

Human rights education is also **a sustainable approach to democracy** particularly through training for officers of government, law enforcement and judicial systems, as well as for health and social workers.

Mr. President,

For the effective implementation of the World Programme in all its Phases, we call upon the Member States to ensure the following.

First of all, any activity initiated during each phase must be maintained and developed.

Second, each country should prepare a national plan of action.

Third, in all Phases, civil society actors including NGOs must play a vital role. Establishing **a voluntary fund for human rights education within the UN** referred for consideration in several resolutions¹ of the former Commission on Human Rights would substantially assist civil society in this area.

To conclude, Mr. President,

The national evaluation report of the first phase to be prepared by all Member States would indicate the extent to which the respective Member State can be held accountable. We will closely monitor the vital process of the shift from the first to the second Phase.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ E.g., Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2003/70 (April 2003) on the UN Decade for Human Rights Education.