

Human Rights Council 31st session (29 February – 24 March 2016)

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General Debate:
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political,
economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to
development

Joint oral statement

Association Points-Coeur

Foundation for Gaia

Graduate Women International (formerly IFUW)

International Movement Against All Forms of
Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)

International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms
of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

Make Mothers Matter

OSMTH (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of
Jerusalem)

Servas International

Soka Gakkai International

Teresian Association

Thank you Mr President. I speak on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning.

We find it significant that Human Rights Education is part of the 2030 Agenda and brought to the highest level of policy making through the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals¹ and of the Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for action².

We want to reaffirm that Human Rights Education is a human right in itself. International instruments acknowledge the right to an education that promotes human rights and they assert that education for human rights is essential for sustainable development.³

Review and monitoring at the national level can ensure that a State is meeting its obligations on Human Rights Education. We welcome the report of the OHCHR on the Evaluation of the implementation of the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education⁴ and we encourage States that have not yet done so to implement action plans and to send their national reports to the OHCHR as only 30 states submitted their reports in 2015.

The year 2016 will mark the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, and with appreciation for the States Platform for Human Rights Education and Training⁵. We welcome the follow-up resolution and we hope it will give Human Rights Education the place it should have in the work of the Council.

Civil society plays an important role in the implementation of the right to education. The NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning remains committed to working in this direction. Thank you Mr President.

¹ Doc. A/RES/70/1

² Doc. ED-2015/Education 2030/1

³ notably through the implementation of the dedicated UNESCO Programmes “Education for Sustainable development” (<http://www.desd.org/>) and “Global Citizenship Education” (<http://en.unesco.org/gced>)

⁴ Doc. A/HRC/30/24

⁵ comprising 8 States : Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand