

Joint NGO Statement

The UN Human Rights Council 13th session (1-26 March, 2010)
Agenda Item 5: Human rights bodies and mechanisms

The Draft UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

Thank you Mr. President.

I speak on behalf of X 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 in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO) and through the global network of Human Rights Education Associates (HREA).

We appreciate the views of Members States, especially of the Platform, expressed at the High Level Discussion on the draft UN declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

Building upon those commitments and views, the implementation of human rights education requires each Member State to proactively take concrete steps in collaboration and partnership with civil society actors that are vital stakeholders of the draft declaration.

In this respect, we would like to draw the attention of Member States to the NGO written statement jointly submitted with 365 signatory organisations to the 10th session of the Council (A/HRC/10/NGO/112), and the NGO written statement No.94 (A/HRC/13/NGO/94) submitted to the current session under this Agenda Item.

We consider the current draft declaration not establishing a new right but rather reconfirming the already existing right which was described already in 1999 in the OHCHR publication entitled “The Right to Human Rights Education”.¹

As Member States have pointed out, the declaration will provide the guiding principles that fill the gap between international human rights standards and actual practice. Therefore, the right to human rights education, both to receive and provide human rights education, should be part of the definition contained in the declaration.

Mr. President,

In the regional context, the Council of Europe is about to adopt the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. The definition and principles should be consistent at regional and international levels.

Lastly, the drafting of the declaration should continue with civil society participation, swiftly but without haste.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Downloadable from the OHCHR website at: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/RightHREducationen.pdf>