



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

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

**Joint written statement\* submitted by World Organization of the Scout Movement, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center, Equitas centre international d'éducation aux droits humains, Globethics.net Foundation, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL), Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, Latter-day Saint Charities, Women's World Summit Foundation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, Soka Gakkai International, non-governmental organization on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 May 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



## **New appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education**

The NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning, which includes around 50 non-governmental organizations and aims to advocate for human rights education, welcomes the new Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education. The role of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education as an independent expert, is extremely valuable and key especially during these times of global conflicts and instabilities. In June 2008 the Human Rights Council requested the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, among others to ‘review the interdependence and interrelatedness of the right to education with other human rights’.<sup>1</sup> Our group proposes that the Human Rights Council considers expanding the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, starting by examining human rights education implementation during the country visits and then when preparing Reports to the General Assembly. Such steps would contribute to promoting, safeguarding and implementing both the right to education and to human rights education.

Human Rights Education is a key component of the Right to Education. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states that ‘Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.’<sup>2</sup>

In addition, by adopting the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, Member States had delivered a strong message that human rights education and training was a priority for the international community and for all States. Therefore, our working group wants to remind member states to review progress in the national implementation of human rights education and training, by submitting their mid term reports on the fourth phase of the World Programme, to OHCHR, to share the collective responsibility for HREL. The UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011) in Article 13 encourages States to report on the implementation of human rights education and training.<sup>3</sup>

It is in our hope that this new appointment will contribute to the advancement of human rights education, to ensure the realization of the right to education and ultimately realize more just and inclusive societies where words and international commitments are translated into concrete action.

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1. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/SREducation/Pages/EducationAndHR.aspx>

2. Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948) <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

3. Art 13 UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011) <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/467/04/PDF/N1146704.pdf?OpenElement>