

Human Rights Council 45th session

(14 September - 2 October 2020)

Item 3 General Debate

The implementation of the Plan of Action and COVID-19

Delivered by Elisa Gazzotti (Soka Gakkai International) on behalf of

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

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Graduate Women International (GWI)

Asia Pacific Human Rights Information Center (HURIGHTS OSAKA)

International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW)

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco

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

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

Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos (IDDH)

International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL)

International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development - VIDES

Soka Gakkai International

Teresian Association

The Foundation for GAIA (GAIA)

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World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organization

World Federation of United Nations Associations

World Scout Movement Organization (WSMO)

This statement is supported also by HREYN and APDH, NGOs without ECOSOC status

Thank you, Madam President,

I speak on behalf of 21 organizations.

We welcome the publication of the Report on the ‘Evaluation of the implementation of the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education’. We encourage States that have not done so yet to submit their report to OHCHR.

Nine months have passed since the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education started. Its Plan of Action sets great possibilities for human rights education and young people. While COVID-19 adds challenges to the implementation of the Plan, there cannot be a “break” for human rights education which is a key condition for human rights to be a reality.

We urge States to:

First, acknowledge civil society’s role and guarantee access to funds and resources for NGOs that work on human rights education with youth to ensure that they can continue their work effectively.

Second, ensure a meaningful participation of all young people, including those with disabilities, in the implementation of the Plan. This means giving them means, space, opportunities and full support.

Third, take concrete actions to tackle the digital divide, to ensure an inclusive and affordable access to digital technologies also for young people from marginalized communities.

Fourth, facilitate a better collaboration with all the stakeholders, including civil society, to ensure that the promises made in this room are reflected nationally and locally.

Finally, we want to stress that human rights education will only fully achieve its purpose if it is mainstreamed holistically. This means, integrating human rights education into national school curricula and creating synergies between formal and non-formal education.

Thank you.