



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Thirty-first session

Agenda item 3

### Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 24 March 2016

#### 31/21. Human rights education and training

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

*Reaffirming* the call of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, on all States and institutions to include human rights, humanitarian law, democracy and rule of law in the curricula of all learning institutions, and its statement that human rights education should include peace, democracy, development and social justice, as set forth in international and regional human rights instruments, in order to achieve common understanding and awareness with a view to strengthening universal commitment to human rights,

*Reaffirming also* the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/137 on 19 December 2011, and that States are duty-bound, as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to ensure that education is aimed at strengthening respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that every individual and every organ of society should strive by teaching and education to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 59/113A of 10 December 2004, in which the Assembly proclaimed the World Programme for Human Rights Education as an international effort under the auspices of the United Nations to advance the implementation of human rights education in all sectors, and all previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council on human rights education and training,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government supported the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as appropriate, and encouraged all States to develop initiatives in that regard,

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*Convinced* that human rights education is a long-term and lifelong process by which everyone learns tolerance and respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/254 of 12 February 2016,

*Believing* that human rights education and training is essential to the effective realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and contributes significantly to promoting equality, preventing conflict and human rights violations and abuses, and enhancing participation and democratic processes with a view to developing societies in which all human beings are valued and respected, without discrimination or distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political, or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

*Believing also* that human rights education and training can play an important role in promoting the rule of law, democracy, good governance and sustainable peace,

*Recognizing* that human rights education and training, especially for youth, can contribute to the promotion of inclusive and tolerant societies, thereby favouring the progressive realization of all human rights,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup> including Goal 4, target 7 thereof, and of the Education 2030 Framework for Action,<sup>2</sup> and affirming the interlinkages and integrated nature of all Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

1. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, including by making available the necessary resources and promoting universal respect and understanding thereof;

2. *Encourages* States and all other stakeholders to strengthen the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, including its third phase;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in advancing human rights education and training globally, including through the promotion of national implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, methodological and training support, capacity-building and technical assistance, and urges them to step up collaboration with States, upon request, in order to build their capacity for human rights education and training;

4. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to support the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 4, target 7 thereof;

5. *Affirms* the importance of education, including human rights education and training, as a tool to help to prevent terrorism and violent extremism, as well as racial and religious intolerance, genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity worldwide, and recognizing the catalytic role of education, including human rights

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>2</sup> Adopted on 4 November 2015 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-eighth session.

education and training, in helping to ensure stability and sustainable peace, human rights, social justice, diversity, gender equality and environmental sustainability;

6. *Underlines* the necessity to strengthen international cooperation and coordination in order to advance human rights education and training as a necessary tool for the promotion and protection of human rights;

7. *Appreciates* the work done by the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to collect and develop educational materials on human rights education and training, including through regional centres, and to provide access to online educational materials, including through the Office's resource collection on human rights education and training and the Organization's clearinghouse on global citizenship education;

8. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to further collect and provide access to educational materials on human rights education and training, including through the use of online platforms and information and communications technology;

9. *Welcomes* the initiative by the Secretary-General on preventing violent extremism which, inter alia, calls for education to include teaching respect for human rights and diversity, fostering critical thinking, promoting media and digital literacy, and developing the behavioural and socioemotional skills that can contribute to peaceful coexistence and tolerance;

10. *Appreciates* the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization undertaken in cooperation with Member States to promote human rights education and training through the strategy on global citizenship education, in line with the Global Education First Initiative of the Secretary-General and Goal 4, target 7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Recognizes* the important role of national human rights institutions in promoting effective policies on human rights education and training, and calls upon them to contribute further to the implementation of human rights education programmes;

12. *Also recognizes* the important role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in promoting and providing human rights education and training;

13. *Decides* to convene at its thirty-third session a high-level panel discussion to mark the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, on the theme "The implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices and challenges", and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report of the high-level panel discussion and to submit it to the Human Rights Council by its thirty-fifth session.

*64th meeting  
24 March 2016*

[Adopted without a vote.]

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