

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
EDUCATION AND TRAINING: GOOD PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES**

**(HIGH LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION DURING THE 33RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS COUNCIL, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, 14 SEPTEMBER 2016)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

My name is Sneha Aurora, representing Soka Gakkai International, and I am speaking on behalf of HRE 2020, a global coalition of civil society organizations that aims to strengthen the monitoring and implementation of international standards and commitments on human rights education through advocacy, capacity building and resource development.

HRE 2020 appreciates the efforts of the members of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training in organizing this important panel, and for their continuous commitment to human rights education, which plays a critical role in the prevention of human rights violations and conflicts; the promotion of equality and sustainable development; combatting discrimination and promoting social cohesion; and enhancing peoples' participation in decision-making processes.

Despite the existence of international laws and frameworks, including the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and the World Programme for Human Rights Education, the implementation of human rights education remains a challenge. However, in the context of the new Sustainable Development Goals and the Education 2030 Framework for Action, States and the international community are focusing more than ever on accountability, monitoring and review.

To strengthen implementation and follow-up of human rights education and training, we recommend:

Development of laws, policies and programmes

1. Member States must adopt domestic legislation and develop national policies which integrate systematic and comprehensive programmes on human rights education within all educational sectors. Such policies must be based on principles of transparency, participation and accountability; encompass quality education; and reflect existing international human rights standards. There must be a policy basis for allocation of adequate resources to human rights education and training.

Monitoring and review

2. Systematic monitoring and review of national policies and practices ensures that government obligations and commitments are implemented. States must include a review of human rights education and training in their reports to treaty bodies and under the UPR process. UN mechanisms should review State implementation, and include findings in treaty body concluding observations, general comments and recommendations, as well as UPR recommendations and the work of Special Rapporteurs. Civil society must hold governments to account by inputting into the UPR process, and raising awareness of government obligations and commitments.

Finally, Mr President, we invite those who are engaged in monitoring and review to download *The Human Rights Education Indicator Framework*, a publication of HRE 2020, which includes key indicators to assess national implementation of human rights education and training standards.

I thank you for your attention.