

**SECOND MEETING OF
THE UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM**

SUMMARY REPORT

*Palais des Nations, Geneva
20-21 February 2007*

On 20-21 February 2007, the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education in the School System (UNIACC) held its second meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Committee was established in September 2006, in the framework of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, in order to facilitate coordination of international activities supporting the integration of human rights education in the national school systems.

The Committee Members who attended the second meeting were representatives from ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, as well as the World Bank. The meeting also benefited from the participation of representatives from the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as observers.

The second meeting was mainly intended to: (a) analyze opportunities and challenges to further involve UN agencies at country level in assisting the implementation of the Plan of Action of the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE); (b) explore approaches/initiatives to further engage Member States in implementing the World Programme's Plan of Action; (c) review methods to monitor national progress, based on existing UN mechanisms; (d) examine possible cooperation with other inter-agencies initiatives related to human rights/education.

The above mentioned four themes were discussed and related recommendations included:

- building on existing human rights education initiatives carried out at the country level in order to avoid duplications;
- disseminating existing UNCTs' good practices on human rights education in order to support UNCTs' efforts and their potentially catalytic role in assisting the development of national implementation strategies for human rights education in the school system;
- further raising awareness on human rights education in the school system by integrating presentation on the Plan of Action in the agendas of regional workshops on human rights/education;
- further mobilizing Member States' commitments by disseminating good practices collected from regional meetings.

It was also recommended to explore opportunities provided by the forthcoming UNESCO's General Conference (16 October-3 November 2007).

Committee Members discussed various draft working documents and correspondence circulated by the UNIACC Secretariat and the elaboration of a questionnaire combining the Reporting System for the UNESCO's 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International

Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom with the need to monitor progress on the implementation of the Plan of Action. Committee Members would also engage in a stock-taking exercise to obtain a comprehensive picture of the different existing UN mechanisms which deal with human rights education-related issues.

In order to give visibility to human rights education in the school system, Committee Members decided to set up a stand at the fourth session (12-30 march 2007) of the Human Rights Council to distribute human rights education materials and disseminate information on the World Programme, including a new related leaflet. It was decided to further explore possibilities to elaborate a logo for the WPHRE in particular within UNICEF internal networks.

Efforts will be made to promote the Plan of Action in relevant inter-agency initiatives in which Committee Members participate. In this connection, UNESCO, UNHCR and UNICEF will explore areas of potential cooperation respectively with the UN Inter-Agency Committee on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies Steering Group and the United Nations Girls Education Initiative.

The UNIACC third meeting will be held in May-June 2007, at a date to be further determined.

Annex 1

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Second meeting, 20-21 February 2007

Palais des Nations, third floor, Conference Room VIII

Geneva

Agenda

Tuesday 20 February 2007

- 9:15 - 10:30 Introduction and review of activities carried out for supporting implementation of the Plan of Action of the first phase (2005-2007) of the World Programme for Human Rights education
- 10:30 - 11:30 Encouraging and advocating implementation of the Plan of Action: role of UN agencies at country level
- 11:30 - 11:45 *Coffee break*
- 11:45 - 12:45 Encouraging and advocating implementation of the Plan of Action: role of UN agencies at country level (continued)
- 12:45 - 14:15 *Lunch*
- 14:15 - 15:45 Encouraging and advocating implementation of the Plan of Action: advocacy with Member States
- 15:45 - 16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:00 - 17:30 Organization of a side-event at next Human Rights Council session (12 March-6 April 2007)

Wednesday 21 February 2007

9:15 - 10:15 Monitoring implementation of the Plan of Action

10:15 - 10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30 - 12:00 Advocacy and communication strategy

12:00 - 12:30 Strengthening UNIACC working methods and linkages with other inter-agency initiatives

12:30 - 13:00 Other issues for discussion

Annex 2

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

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