

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

***SUMMARY REPORT***

*OHCHR, Geneva  
13 June 2008*

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The fifth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education in the School System (UNIACC) was organized on 13 June 2008 at OHCHR Headquarters in Geneva. It gathered representatives from five UN system entities and affiliated organizations (ILO, UNRWA, UNESCO, UNESCO-IBE and OHCHR). The meeting also benefited from the participation of the coordinator for the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and the UNICEF representative for the IASC Global Education Cluster for Emergency Humanitarian Response. A representative of the Council of Europe attended the meeting as an observer.

The aims of the meeting were to (a) examine how to further promote human rights education in schools at the national and international level; (b) track progress on the national implementation of the Plan of Action.

Committee Members discussed feedback and follow-up to the joint UNIACC letters regarding the national implementation of the Plan of Action for the first phase (2005-2009) of the World Programme, sent to all Ministers of Education and UN Resident Coordinators on 10 December 2007. Committee Members agreed that examples of existing UN initiatives which could provide occasions for promoting the World Programme and inspiring other initiatives should be broadly disseminated to their relevant field presences in view of supporting the national integration of human rights education in schools. Committee members also agreed to transmit all information collected on government undertakings to integrate human rights education in schools to the UNIACC Secretariat.

Representatives of UNESCO/IBE Office informed of the forthcoming 48<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO/IBE International Conference on Education which will take place in Geneva from 25-28 November 2008 on the theme of "Inclusive education: the way of the future". The conference aims at supporting the efforts of Member States in providing education to all of their citizens, but particularly to those who have been marginalized or excluded from the system. More broadly, the conference aims to ensure a common understanding of the concept of inclusive education. During the Conference, exhibitions and side-events will be organized to discuss more in depth themes that will not be reviewed thoroughly at the conference. The Committee will envisage organizing a side-event/exhibitions on human rights education in schools as an opportunity to promote the Plan of Action for the first phase of the World Programme.

The Committee was briefed on the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and the IASC Global Education Cluster for Education in Emergencies, in order to identify possible synergies. In light of the presentations, Committee members agreed that these interagency initiatives could provide a common ground for joint activities and be mutually reinforcing. In particular, the Plan of Action and INEE minimum standards could be complementary when applied in the context of emergencies and post-crisis recovery.

The Committee examined the existing UN monitoring mechanisms on which it could build upon to track progress on the national implementation of the Plan of Action. At the next UNIACC meeting, Committee members will report on the results of their internal consultations regarding the feasibility of using the monitoring tools relevant to their organizations to monitor national integration of human rights education in schools.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Committee members decided that the next meeting would be mainly devoted to the following themes: feedback on monitoring mechanisms to track progress on the national implementation of the Plan of Action; preparation of UNESCO/IBE International Conference for Education; planning of activities regarding the celebration of the UDHR 60 and the launch of the International Year of Human Rights Learning. Suggestions were made to hold UNIACC sixth meeting in New York during the third week of October 2008.

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