

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

SUMMARY REPORT

The third meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education in the School System (UNIACC) was organized on 1 June 2007 at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva. It gathered representatives from seven UN system entities (ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO/IBE, UNHCR, UNRWA and OHCHR). The meeting also benefited from the participation of representatives from the Council of Europe and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the Office of the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva (one agenda item) as observers.

The aims of the meeting were to (a) exchange information on existing and planned United Nations efforts to integrate human rights education in primary and secondary schools; (b) discuss modalities for monitoring progress of national implementation of the Plan of Action for the first phase (2005-2007) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE); (c) review methods to further engage Member States in implementing the Plan of Action; (d) explore means to further involve the United Nations system at country level in assisting the implementation of the Plan of Action; and (e) examine possible synergies and cooperation with other UN inter-agency initiatives related to human rights/education.

Committee Members were presented with an overview of United Nations mechanisms which could be used for monitoring national implementation of the Plan of Action. The monitoring of UNESCO's 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS were presented in more detail by UNESCO and UNAIDS respectively. The guidelines currently being developed for reporting concerning, inter alia, the 1974 Recommendation, will include clear directions for States on submission of information relating to the national implementation of the Plan of Action.

The UNIACC agreed that monitoring of the national implementation of the Plan of Action needs build upon existing mechanisms and initiatives, and that monitoring needs to be decentralized in order to further involve UNCTs and relevant national stakeholders, including the civil society. Monitoring of the Plan of Action will continue to be one focus of the Committee; Committee members are invited to submit information on national integration of human rights education in the school system and initiatives to monitor implementation of the Plan of Action to the Secretariat.

In order to assist Member States to evaluate progress in integrating human rights education in the school system, as well as to assist United Nations Country Teams to support national efforts, OHCHR will develop two tools. The Committee Members

suggested related tools which could be examined in this process and also discussed how the Committee can provide constructive input into the tools.

The Committee decided that a side-event at the sixth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2007 will be organized to promote human rights education in primary and secondary schools, advocate implementation of the Plan of Action and raise the visibility of the activities and joint commitment of the United Nations in the area of human rights education in the school system. The side-event will consist of lunch-time discussion providing practical examples from the field of how the United Nations work to promote human rights education in the school system, as well as a two-days information stand with related materials from all Committee Members.

The UNIACC continued its discussion on initiatives taken during the previous meetings. Accordingly, the Committee confirmed its commitment to jointly address Ministers of Education and United Nations Country Teams to solicit their engagement to national implementation of the Plan of Action for the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. Committee Members further discussed other United Nations inter-agency initiatives relating to human rights/education, with which the Committee will continue to explore possible synergies and cooperation.

The UNIACC fourth meeting will be held in November-December 2007, at a date to be further determined.

Annex 1

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

Third meeting
OHCHR, 48, Avenue Giuseppe Motta, Meeting Room 14, Rez Inférieure

Geneva

Annotated Agenda

Friday 1 June 2007

- 9:15 - 10:15 **ITEM I: Introduction and up-date of activities since the previous meeting**
- *Opening remarks (Francesca Marotta)*
 - *Feedback on the Committee's activities since the second meeting (Paola Maresca)*
 - *Tour de table: 5 minute inputs by Committee Members on their relevant initiatives, including feedback on activities carried out at the country level*
- 10:15 – 11:00 **ITEM II: Monitoring implementation of the Plan of Action**
- *Presentation and discussion of Overview of UN monitoring mechanisms useful for promoting HRE in the school system (Paola Maresca)*
 - *Considerations in regard of the UNESCO monitoring of the Plan of Action (UNESCO)*
- Document: Overview of UN monitoring mechanisms
- 11:00 - 11:15 *Coffee break*
- 11:15 – 12:00 **ITEM II: Monitoring implementation of the Plan of Action (continued)**
- 12:00 - 12:45 **ITEM III: Development of tools**
- *Discussion of a Self-assessment tool for Member States to evaluate the implementation of human rights education in the school system in accordance with the Plan of Action*
- Document: Concept Note on Self-Assessment tool
- 12:45 – 14:15 *Lunch*

- 14:15 - 15:00 **ITEM III: Development of tools (continued)**
- *Discussion of a tool for UNCTs to support national implementation of human rights education in the school system in accordance with the Plan of Action*
- Documents: Concept Note on Action 2 tool for UN Country Teams
- 15:00 - 16:00 **ITEM IV: Organization of a side-event during the Human Rights Council**
- *Background on the HR Council and present ideas for a side-event to discuss the UNLACC members' work to promote HRE in the school system, possibly in relation to the work of the HR Council (Paola Maresca)*
 - *Discussion*
- 16:00 - 16:15 *Coffee break*
- 16:15 - 17:15 **ITEM V: Review of pending issues**
- *Final review of UNLACC letters to Ministries of Education and Resident Coordinators/UNCTs and discussion on follow-up to the mailing*
 - *Feedback from UNESCO, UNICEF and UNHCR on possible cooperation with other UN interagency initiatives*
- Documents: UNIACC letter to Ministries of Education,
UNIACC letter Resident Coordinators/UNCTs,
Table on Other relevant UN interagency initiatives
- 17:15 - 17:45 **ITEM VI: Other issues for discussion**
- *Next steps, including next meeting*
- 17:45 Drinks (optional)

Annex 2

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

Third Meeting, 1 June 2007

*OHCHR, 48, Avenue Giuseppe Motta, Meeting Room 14, Rez Inférieure
Geneva*

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