**48th session of the Human Rights Council**

**High-level panel discussion on the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training:**

**good practices, challenges and the way forward**

*Concept note (as of 28 September 2021)*

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| **Date and venue:** | **Wednesday, 29 September 2021, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva and online platform (Zoom)** *(to be broadcast live and archived at* [*http://webtv.un.org*](http://webtv.un.org)*)* |
| **Objectives:** | In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, the panel discussion will provide a space to discuss current issues related to human rights education and training. In order to build synergies with other current relevant United Nations initiatives, the panel discussion will focus on human rights education and trainingfor youth. The **panel’s objectives** are to:  * **Highlight the role** of human rights education and training for youth in achieving the right to education, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Target 4.7); * **Discuss synergies** among current United Nations initiatives related to human rights education and training for youth, including the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing), the United Nations Youth Strategy and the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights; * **Explore the contribution** of human rights education and training for youth to tackle global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, discrimination, conflict and violent extremism; * **Review information on national implementation** of human rights education and training for youth and draw lessons learned, particularly in the context of the fourth phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education; * **Examine international and regional intergovernmental efforts** to encourage national implementation of human rights education and training for youth, raise awareness about and encourage Member States to contribute to intergovernmental monitoring mechanisms; * **Identify opportunities** to give further impetus to national implementation of human rights education and training for youth, in the years to come, in line with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the World Programme for Human Rights Education. |
| **Chair:** | **H.E. Ms.** **Nazahat Shameen Khan**, President of the Human Rights Council |
| **Opening statements:** | **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  *(live video message)*  **Ms. Stefania Giannini**, Assistant Director-General for Education at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) *(video message)*  **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**, United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth *(video message)* |
| **Panellists:** | * **H.E. Ms. Simona Kustec**, Minister for Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia  *(video message)* * **Ms. Gwendolyn Ll. Pimentel-Gana**, Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines *(video message)* and **Ms. Leah C. Tanodra-Armamento**, Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines  *(concluding remarks)* * **Mr. Vernor Muñoz Villalobos**, Board Member of Universidad Estatal a Distancia de Costa Rica *(video message)* * **Mr. Irfaan Mangera**, Youth Activism Programme Manager at the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation *(video message)* |
| **Outcome:** | The panel discussion aims at generating recommendations on giving further impetus to national implementation of human rights education and training for youth, based on good practice, challenges and current opportunities, in line with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, Target 4.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the fourth phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 42/7, the Office of the High Commissioner will prepare a summary report of the discussion for submission to the Council at its forty-ninth session. |
| **Mandate:** | In its resolution 42/7, the Human Rights Council decided to convene at its forty-eighth session a high-level panel discussion to mark the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training on the theme “The tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices, challenges and the way forward”. |
| **Format:** | The panel discussion will be limited to two hours. The opening statements and initial presentations by the panellists will be followed by a two-part interactive discussion and conclusions from the panellists. A maximum of one hour will be set aside for the podium, which will cover the opening statements, panellists’ presentations and their responses to questions and concluding remarks. The remaining hour will be reserved for two segments of interventions from the floor, with each segment consisting of interventions from 12 States or observers, 1 national human rights institution and 2 non-governmental organizations. Each speaker will have two minutes to raise issues and to ask panellists questions.  The list of speakers for the discussion will be established through the online inspription system and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups of States will be moved to the beginning of the list. Delegates who have not been able to take the floor due to time constraints will be able to upload their statements on the online system to be posted on the HRC Extranet. |
| **Accessibility:** | In an effort to render the Human Rights Council more accessible to persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others, the panel will be webcast and made accessible. International sign interpretation and real-time captioning in English will be provided. During the event itself, participants can access live English captioning on the StreamText web page (<https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=CFI-UNOG>). In Room XX, four seats are reserved for participants using wheelchairs, in the seventh (last) row. Hearing loops are available for collection from the Secretariat desk. Oral statements may be embossed in Braille from any of the six official languages of the United Nations, upon request and following the procedure described in *The accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities* (available on  <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Accessibility.aspx>). |
| **Background:** | The international community has expressed consensus on the fundamental contribution of human rights education to the realization of human rights and sustainable development. In December 2011, the General Assembly adopted the **United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training**. The Declaration states that human rights education and training provides persons with knowledge, skills and understanding and develops their attitudes and behaviours to empower them to contribute to the building and promotion of a universal culture of human rights.[[1]](#footnote-1) It also affirms that States have the primary responsibility to promote and ensure human rights education and training.[[2]](#footnote-2)  In recent years, human rights education for youth has been increasingly identified as a strategy for preventing and tackling current global challenges.[[3]](#footnote-3) In its resolution 2250 (2015), the **Security Council**, affirming the important role that youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, urged Member States to support, as appropriate, quality education for peace that equips youth with the ability to engage constructively in civic structures and inclusive political processes. The **United Nations Youth Strategy**, Youth 2030: Working With and For Young People,[[4]](#footnote-4) launched by the Secretary-General in 2018, commits the United Nations to increase efforts to promote human rights education and training for youth, as well as global citizenship and sustainable development education, without discrimination, to foster civic awareness and participation, volunteerism and a culture of peace and non-violence among young people. In 2020, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the Secretary-General launched the **Call to Action for Human Rights** in which he also called upon the United Nations family to advocate for children and young people to receive an education that prepares them for the fu­ture they face.[[5]](#footnote-5)  With a view to advancing the implementation of human rights education programmes for youth, in its resolution 39/3, the Human Rights Council decided to devote the fourth phase (2020-2024) of the **World Programme for Human Rights Education** to youth, with special emphasis on education and training in equality, human rights and non-discrimination, inclusion and respect for diversity with the aim of building inclusive and peaceful societies. It also aligned the fourth phase with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specifically with target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.  The World Programme, proclaimed by the General Assembly in 2004, is a global initiative aimed at advancing the implementation of human rights education programmes in all sectors. It is structured in consecutive phases: its first phase (2005–2009) was dedicated to the integration of human rights education in the primary and secondary school systems; its second phase (2010–2014) focused on human rights education in higher education and human rights training for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel; and its third phase (2015–2019) focused on strengthening implementation of the first two phases and promoting human rights training for media professionals and journalists. |
| **Background documents:** | * [General Assembly resolution 59/113A](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/59/113) of 10 December 2004, “World Programme for Human Rights Education” * [General Assembly resolution 66/137](https://undocs.org/A/RES/66/137) of 19 December 2011, “United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training” * [Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) of 9 December 2015](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2250(2015)) * [Youth 2030: Working With and For Young People](https://5d962978-9e17-4b96-91be-93983605fae8.filesusr.com/ugd/b1d674_9f63445fc59a41b6bb50cbd4f800922b.pdf) (2018) * Plan of action for the fourth phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, [A/HRC/42/23](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/42/23) of 26 July 2019 * [Human Rights Council resolution 42/7](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/42/7) of 26 September 2019, “World Programme for Human Rights Education: adoption of the plan of action for the fourth phase” * [The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights](https://www.un.org/en/content/action-for-human-rights/index.shtml) (2020) |

1. [United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/467/04/PDF/N1146704.pdf?OpenElement), article 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Ibid*, article 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the panel discussion on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices and challenges, [A/HRC/35/6](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/35/6) (2017). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [The United Nations Youth Strategy, Youth 2030: Working With and For Young People](https://5d962978-9e17-4b96-91be-93983605fae8.filesusr.com/ugd/b1d674_9f63445fc59a41b6bb50cbd4f800922b.pdf) (2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The_Highest_Asperation_A_Call_To_Action_For_Human_Right_English.pdf) (2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)