

# Swiss Proposal for the fourth Phase (2020-2024) of the World Program for Human Rights Education

Switzerland advocates the following focus for the fourth phase of the World Program for Human Rights Education

- (1) The target sector: the general public (informal education), decision makers in economy and politics, leaders of education institutions.
- (2) The focus areas: recognize and promote the right to the exercise of citizenship / promote Global Citizenship Education.

In a globalized world with unresolved social, political, economic and environmental challenges, education that helps build peaceful and sustainable societies is essential. Education must be transformative and bring shared values to life. It must cultivate an active care for the world and for those with whom we share it. It requires transforming the way people think and act.

The fourth Phase (2020-2024) of the World Program for Human Rights Education should be linked to the **Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4, Target 4.7<sup>1</sup>**, which promotes the concepts Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education (Slogan “Learning to live together sustainably”). Switzerland is convinced of the importance of target 4.7 and fully supports UNESCO’s work in this field.

## Promote and foster Global Citizenship Education

Global Citizenship Education empowers people to act in a responsible way and to take part with understanding in choices that take place at all levels of societies, locally as well as globally.

Global Citizenship Education should especially support the achievement of the following goals:

- Develop the values knowledge and skills necessary for peace, tolerance, and respect for diversity;
- Cultivate a sense of community, active participation and open dialogue;
- Ensure schools and communities are free of all forms of discrimination and exclusion<sup>2</sup>, including gender inequality, bullying, violence, xenophobia, and exploitation;
- Develop the values knowledge and skills necessary for working towards sustainable economic development.

Switzerland believes that strengthening Global Citizenship Education guides people to share the values of human rights. Vice-versa, Human Rights Education is a very important element supporting Global Citizenship Education.

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<sup>1</sup> “By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development”

<sup>2</sup> Exclusion in all its forms - political, social and economic – is also a key factor that may lead to violent extremism.