

## **Inputs by the OIC Group Geneva<sup>1</sup>**

### **Draft plan of action for the Fifth Phase (2025-2029) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education**

The OIC Group in Geneva underlines its unwavering commitment towards promoting and protecting all human rights.

The OIC Group remains committed to combating discrimination and violence against anyone, anywhere, pursuant to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, international law, international conventions and respective constitutional and legal provisions.

The OIC member states repose a strong faith in the UN system and consider it an important platform to advance international cooperation and negotiate international treaties and norms that are universally agreed and implemented in ways our collective aspirations for shaping peaceful, prosperous and inclusive societies are fulfilled.

Upon review of the Draft Plan Action for the Fifth Phase (2025-2029) of The World Programme for Human Rights Education, the OIC notes with deep concern the presence of numerous elements of concerns, particularly with respect to the promotion of non-consensual concepts such as Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) and sexual and reproductive rights. Some of the key concerns are as follows:

- Implementation of the consensus-based HRC resolution and this Draft Plan would be undermined due to inclusion of controversial terminologies in the Draft Plan
- The consensual spirit of this HRC resolution has always been maintained and it must be noted that some of OIC member states were also core group members and co-sponsors of this resolution;
- The Draft Plan includes multiple references such as “gender identity or gender expression,” “gender-stereotyped” forms of bias or false content, reference to people of diverse “gender identities,” the “interaction and intersectionality” of “gender” with other characteristics, and gender- “transformative” human rights education;
- Reiterating that the terminology mentioned above are yet to be agreed by States and these are a contested area of normative development in international human rights law and opposed by various States, and since the Draft plan calls, in particular, for changes to national laws, policies, and curricula, we request revision of the Draft Plan to remove the controversial and non-consensual terminologies;
- With specific reference to the Draft Plan’s promotion of SOGI, the Group underlines that there is no codified definition of SOGI in international human rights law;
- The references to SOGI remain in contravention of the fundamental principles of universality and respect for diverse national and regional particularities and the various

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<sup>1</sup> Except Albania

historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds of nations, as explicitly outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

- SOGI is a highly contentious concept, even among several non-OIC member states. The adherents of this concept continue to add new and diverse meanings to it and remains subject to evolving academic interpretations. Bringing such a divisive concept with controversial legality into the UN documents and reports needs to be avoided;
- Similarly, while acknowledging that international human rights treaties protect everyone's rights to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the OIC Group strongly discourages attribution of "sexual and reproductive rights" to "children and young people" in a blanket manner and also without taking into account the essentiality of parental guidance for children.

Therefore, in order to ensure the Draft Plan's consensual nature and the international support that previous phases of the World Programme for Human Rights Education have received, the removal of such references and adhering to intergovernmentally agreed non-discrimination language grounded in the core international human rights treaties is crucial.

The OIC Group will continue to promote international cooperation in light of principles, purposes and objectives of the UN Charter, international law and within the framework of intergovernmental consensus as reflected, inter alia, in the international human rights treaties.

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