

2005/26. World Programme for Human Rights Education

The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,

Recalling its resolutions 2003/5 of 13 August 2003 and 2004/18 of 12 August 2004,

Reaffirming article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in accordance with which education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Convinced that human rights education is a key to changing attitudes and behaviour based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promoting tolerance and respect for diversity in societies,

Convinced that human rights education is a long-term and lifelong process by which all people at all levels of development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others, and that human rights education significantly contributes to promoting equality and sustainable development, preventing conflict and human rights violations and enhancing participation and democratic processes, with a view to developing societies in which all human rights of all are valued and respected,

Reaffirming the need for continued actions at the international level to support national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015, in particular universal access to basic education for all, including human rights education, and for human rights education as a means of empowering groups suffering discrimination, particularly women and the poor,

Recognizing the invaluable and creative role that non-governmental and community-based organizations play in the promotion and protection of human rights by disseminating public information and engaging in human rights education, especially at the grass-roots level and in remote and rural communities, and taking into account their concern regarding the continuation of activities undertaken during the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004,

Recalling the views expressed in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Commission on Human Rights on the achievements and shortcomings of the Decade and on future activities in this area (E/CN.4/2004/93), and the views expressed in

the report of the High Commissioner to the Commission on the follow-up to the Decade (E/CN.4/2003/101) as to the need to continue a global framework for human rights education beyond the Decade in order to ensure a priority focus on human rights education within the international agenda, provide a common collective framework for action for all relevant actors, support existing programmes and provide an incentive for the development of new ones, as well as enhance partnership and cooperation at all levels,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/181 of 22 December 2003, in which the Assembly decided to dedicate a plenary meeting during its fifty-ninth session on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 10 December 2004, to review the achievements of the Decade and to discuss possible future activities for the enhancement of human rights education,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/71 of 15 April 2004 and Economic and Social Council decision 2004/268 of 22 July 2004 recommending that the General Assembly proclaim at its fifty-ninth session a world programme for human rights education to begin on 1 January 2005, structured in consecutive phases, the first phase of which will focus on primary and secondary school systems on the basis of plan of action to be prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant governmental and non-governmental actors,

Noting with appreciation that the overall objective of the world programme, as stated in paragraph 3 of Commission resolution 2004/71, is to maintain and develop the implementation of human rights education programmes in all sectors, and drawing attention to the fact that the development of innovative human rights education strategies in the formal education sector, with, as requested by the Commission, an indication of at least minimum action, should not preclude lasting support for activities carried out in other sectors, in particular programmes developed at grass-roots level and aimed at promoting human rights education for vulnerable groups such as populations involved in post-conflict reconstruction, women and other groups suffering discrimination, and the poor as actors of development and social change,

1. *Welcomes* the proclamation by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/113 of 10 December 2004 of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, structured in consecutive phases, which began on 1 January 2005, and stresses that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should continue their work in the field of human rights education;

2. *Also welcomes* General Assembly resolution 59/312 of 14 July 2005, in which the Assembly adopted the revised draft plan of action for the first phase (2005-2007) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/59/525/Rev.1), which focuses on primary and secondary school systems, and encouraged all States to develop initiatives within the World Programme for Human Rights Education and, in particular, within their capabilities, the revised draft plan of action;

3. *Recommends* that the human rights treaty bodies, when examining reports of States parties, devote attention specifically to human rights education, particularly in the framework of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and that human rights education be included in the agenda of the annual meeting of the persons chairing the treaty bodies so that they can make recommendations on how human rights education can contribute to national capacity-building aimed at strengthening national human rights protection mechanisms;

4. *Decides* to consider the issue of human rights education at its fifty-eighth session under the same agenda item.