



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights,  
civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## **Written submission by the Denmark: Danish Institute for Human Rights\***

### **Note by the Secretariat**

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Denmark: Danish Institute for Human Rights\*\*, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

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\* National human rights institution with A-status accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

\*\* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.



## Annex

### **Statement on the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE) by the Danish Institute for Human Rights under Agenda Item 3 of the 42 Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva.**

The Danish Institute for Human Rights congratulates the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on a comprehensive draft plan of action for the fourth phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. The Institute particularly welcomes the focus on youth and the detailed guidance and suggestions provided for developing human rights education programmes for youth. The Institute further notes the strong linkages in this draft plan of Action between international human rights obligations on human rights education and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights acknowledges that our suggestions provided in response to the OHCHR's requests for contributions are largely reflected in the draft plan of Action now presented to the Human Rights Council under its Agenda Items 2 and 3. It extends its gratitude to OHCHR for the opportunities it has offered for these contributions.

The Institute's comments at this stage are focused primarily on the proposed implementation plans in the draft plan of action, particularly in relation to how progress in human rights education, including measures devoted to youth, will be monitored and reported by States.

We note that despite strong encouragement in previous phases of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, many States still lack an overall National Action Plan for Human Rights Education. The Institute is thus concerned that requesting States to develop a comprehensive human rights education strategy for youth, as proposed in the current draft plan of Action, as opposed to building on existing strategies and plans and integrating youth concerns in National Action Plans for Human Rights Education, might side-line rather than strengthen human rights education and youth concerns. The Danish Institute for Human Rights therefore recommends that the final Action Plan is more flexible in this regard and focuses primarily on providing recommendations and guidance on how youth concerns can be better reflected in National Action Plans for Human Rights Education.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights also has concerns regarding the monitoring of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. The Institute has noted that States do not adequately report back to OHCHR on progress. For example, only 22 States and 18 NHRIs provided submissions for the Mid-Term Review of the Third Phase. In addition, the data provided in the state reports did not allow for an effective assessment of progress over the reporting period. The Danish Institute for Human Rights therefore proposes the use of a measurement framework with operational indicators linked to a state's human rights obligations on human rights education. The Danish Institute for Human Rights, in consultation with the OHCHR, is currently producing and piloting an indicator framework for measuring progress against the human rights education elements of SDG indicator 4.7.1. This tool, which is already in line with commitments from the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and international human rights standards, could be expanded with relevant indicators to measure progress under this Fourth Phase on the more youth-focused initiatives. Besides offering a more reliable measurement framework for strengthening national efforts on human rights education, such a comprehensive framework could help rationalise international human rights education reporting and minimise the workload on States in this regard.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights strongly encourages States to engage with national human rights institutions for the collection of data on human rights education using one comprehensive measurement framework.