



# PHILIPPINES

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

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ON BEHALF OF THE  
PLATFORM OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND TRAINING (HRET)  
COSTA RICA, ITALY, MOROCCO, PHILIPPINES,  
SENEGAL, SLOVENIA, SWITZERLAND

THIRD COMMITTEE DEBATE  
ON  
AGENDA ITEM 64  
(REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL)

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**Draft joint statement of the Platform on Human Rights Education and Training  
composed of Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia and  
Switzerland on**

**Agenda Item 64 – Report of the Human Rights Council**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Platform on Human Rights Education and Training, a cross-regional group of countries composed of Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia and Switzerland.

It is with great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment that the Platform on HRET welcomed the adoption by the Human Rights Council last March, by consensus, of Resolution 16/1 entitled *United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training*. This constituted a very important step in many respects.

Allow me to take this opportunity to highlight a few:

- It has been a long journey since the adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution 6/10 in December 2007 which set the first milestone of this initiative. Resolution 6/10 requested the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to prepare a draft declaration on human rights education and training, to be presented to the Human Rights Council for consideration. Resolution 6/10 also requested the Advisory Committee to seek the views and inputs of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, national human rights institutions as well as civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations.

The Platform, throughout this initiative, has encouraged the active participation of States, of the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, as well as of all relevant stakeholders. There is no doubt that the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training is the result of a genuine multi-stakeholder approach and rests on very broad consultations.

- Various aspects of human rights education and training have been developed and adopted throughout the years. For example, we can mention some of the political declarations, such as the Vienna and Durban declarations and programmes of action which reiterated in their respective contexts, the importance of human rights education and training in the promotion and respect for human rights with regard to all individuals without distinction of any kind such as race, sex, language or religion, but also the role that human rights education and training can play in changing attitudes and behavior for more tolerant societies.

Yet no single document was available that contained all the necessary principles and elements for those engaged in such work or for those seeking human rights education and training. No single document existed that took stock of the more practical lessons-learned that the community engaged in human rights education and training had accumulated over the years,

including through the World Programme. That gap is what the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training is meant to fill. Though non-binding in a legal sense, the Declaration compiles and structures essential principles in this regard and the Platform is convinced that it will serve as a reference document for many years to come.

- With the adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution 16/1 in March of this year, the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training is the first reference document entirely created by the Human Rights Council since its establishment in 2006. It provides a clear and precise definition of human rights education and training, its scope, its principles and the different means to ensure its effective implementation. Finally, the Declaration paves the way for follow-up initiatives at the national, regional and international level, including through international cooperation.

Resolution 16/1 is one of the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council which is to be brought to the attention of the General Assembly for its consideration and future action. It is the turn of the General Assembly to adopt the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training. For this purpose, the Platform on HRET will be introducing a procedural resolution under agenda Item 64 Report of the Human Rights Council on this issue. As per practice, the content of that procedural resolution is predefined by Resolution 16/1 which recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

The HRET Platform reiterates its hope that its procedural resolution will receive broad support, not only through its adoption by consensus but also with increasing number of co-sponsors.

I thank you Mr. Chair.