

UNGA Resolution: Education for Democracy

The General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 58/159 and 62/150, the Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1999/57 and 2000/47, Human Rights Council resolutions 6/10, 6/24, and 7/11 concerning the right to education, the relationship between human rights and democracy, and good governance;

Noting the seminar conducted by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Interdependence between Democracy and Human Rights (Geneva, November 2002)

Recalling also the declaration by the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993) that "all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated" (VDPA, para 5) and that democracy (based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives), development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. (VDPA, para 8)

Recalling further that the WCHR reaffirmed the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights and that the human person is the central subject of development;

Noting in this context the Human Development Reports by the UN Development Program and other studies in recent years which found that development often suffers because of a lack of education;

Recalling with appreciation the finding of the Inter-American Democratic Charter that education is an effective way to promote citizens' awareness concerning their own countries and thereby achieve meaningful participation in the decision making process, and reaffirming the importance of human resource development for a sound democratic system (p. 5, IADC);

Acknowledging that education is key to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the development of human potential, and alleviating poverty and fostering greater understanding among our peoples and that, to achieve these ends, it is essential that a quality education be available to all, including girls and women, rural inhabitants, and minorities (Article 16, IADC);

Noting also the Council of Europe Recommendation which finds that education for democratic citizenship is fundamental to its primary task of promoting a free, tolerant and just society and that it contributes to defending the values and principles of freedom, pluralism, human rights and the rule of law, which are the foundations of democracy;

Recognizing with appreciation the important work of regional democracy education programs, such as the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices and the Council of Europe Programme on Education for Democratic Citizenship, in the advancement of global society;

Welcoming the emphasis in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance on civic education as an essential element of a culture of democracy and peace (ACDEG, Art. 12);

Bearing in mind the statements concerning the links between education and democracy adopted at the most recent Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies (Bamako, November 2007);

Noting with particular interest the Global Strategic Plan for Democracy Education, endorsed by the Ministerial Meeting of the CD in Bamako;

1. **Reaffirms** the fundamental link between democratic governance and the promotion and protection of human rights;
2. **Calls** upon all States to take cognizance of the importance of civic education and education for democracy in their national development;
3. **Urges** States to draw upon the Global Strategic Plan for Democracy Education (2003) in developing their curricula, to ensure that they take into account best practices so as to increase support to civil society especially to facilitate citizens' engagement in policy making (Bamako Consensus para 43).;
4. **Calls** upon the Agencies, Funds and Programs of the UN system, including particularly the UNDP, UNICEF, UNDEF and UNESCO, to devote appropriate expertise and resources to assisting States as they develop these educational materials, when requested;
5. **Urges** states to integrate civic education in their educational curricula [Art. 12, ACDEG] through the development and implementation of activities to promote good governance, sound administration, democratic values, and the strengthening of political institutions and civil society organizations (IADC Art 27).
6. **Further calls** upon states to ensure that special attention shall be given to the development of programs and activities for the education of children, youth, people with disabilities, and social groups with special needs (ACDEG) as a means of ensuring the continuance of democratic values, including liberty and social justice (IADC Art 27).
7. **Requests** States to report their progress in this regard to the Assembly and the appropriate specialized Agencies, Funds and Programs no later than June 2010; and
8. **Resolves** to review progress toward implementation of the present Resolution at its 64th Session.