

Information note on the seminar on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

A. Background

- Through its resolution 6/10, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council to elaborate a draft UN Declaration on human rights education and training.
- At its 10th session, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 10/28 in which it asked the Advisory Committee to present its draft Declaration at its session in March 2010.
- The Platform for Human Rights Education and Training, composed of Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Slovenia and Switzerland, has decided to organise an expert seminar to assist the Advisory Committee in the process of elaboration of the Declaration.

B. Goal of the seminar:

- The goal of the expert seminar is to deepen reflection on elements that should be included in the draft Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, which will be a non-binding international instrument that shall fill existing gaps and reinforce national implementation and international cooperation on human rights education and training.
- The seminar is intended to help the Advisory Committee in gathering possible elements for the draft Declaration.
- The seminar shall neither be a negotiation nor a drafting exercise, or an exchange of national experiences.

C. Date and location: 16 and 17 July 2009, Marrakech, Morocco.

D. Programme of the seminar:

- The seminar will be chaired by a Morocco senior official. On behalf of the Platform, he will officially open the seminar. The President of the Human Rights Council and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights will be invited to the seminar.
- After the opening session, a plenary session will be held on the objectives of the seminar and of the draft Declaration.
- The seminar will be held in the form of interactive workshops on particular identified topics correspondent to each of the possible sections of the draft Declaration:

* Workshop 1: Principles and general vision of the Declaration.

* Workshop 2: Responsibility of States.

* Workshop 3: Roles of different stakeholders.

* Workshop 4: Role of the UN system/mechanisms.

- A round table will be organised to deal with the question of diversity and complementarities of sectoral approaches to human rights education and training.
- The workshops will be moderated by members of the Platform. Members of the Drafting Group of the Advisory Committee will act as Rapporteurs of the workshops.
- Each workshop will be introduced by three to four presentations (10-15 minutes each) after which the floor will be opened for discussion.

- Interventions of participants should be as precise and short as possible, and should focus on important elements which should be included in the draft declaration.
- The Rapporteurs of each workshop will report to the plenary at the closing session.

E. Working languages: Arabic, English and French.

F. Participants:

- The seminar will bring together experts of different perspectives, namely delegates from Permanent Missions in Geneva, international experts, researchers and representatives of civil society.
- State representatives :
 - Members of the Platform on Human Rights Education and Training.
 - Co-sponsors of resolution 10/28 of the Human Rights Council who have also responded to the questionnaire sent by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on this topic.
 - Coordinators of different regional groups.
- Experts:
 - Members of the Drafting Group of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee
 - Relevant Special Rapporteurs and members of human rights treaty-bodies
 - Officials from units in the OHCHR
 - Representatives of relevant UN agencies, and regional and international organisations
 - Academics, representatives of NGOs, and national human rights institutions