



General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 June 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-sixth session

18 June–12 July 2024

Agenda item 3

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

Written statement* submitted by ArabEuropean Forum for Dialogue and Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 May 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Need to Promote the Right to Education for All

We would like to convey our profound gratitude for the remarkable endeavors pursued by your esteemed Council within the framework of fostering adherence by States to all rights enshrined in international human rights conventions. We deeply appreciate your Council's commitment to ensuring the universal guarantee of rights and freedoms without discrimination, underscoring the significance of your ongoing efforts to safeguard these rights in perpetuity, thereby preventing any compromise that may impede or curtail the unfettered enjoyment thereof.

As the global pursuit of the right to education emerges as a paramount challenge in upholding international obligations to safeguard and advance human rights, the United Nations has identified the provision of quality education as a pivotal objective within its Sustainable Development Agenda. This call underscores the imperative for nations to redouble their efforts in fulfilling their commitments within the framework of the UN's sustainable development agenda. Moreover, it urges states to enact effective and efficient measures to address the challenges and risks anticipated in the promotion of human rights in the forthcoming years. The realization of these objectives is firmly rooted in the principles articulated in the United Nations Charter for the Future, towards which concerted global endeavors are directed.

We acknowledge the significance of your esteemed Council's pursuit in attaining the targeted outcomes of organizing the Future Summit and securing states' commitment to execute its resolutions and outputs, particularly their steadfast dedication to fulfill the primary requisites outlined in the Future Charter. This commitment is pivotal in advancing the right to education and ensuring that human societies partake in the enjoyment of their fundamental rights, notably the right to quality education, a cornerstone of the fourth objective of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We extend our appreciation for the endeavors of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the efforts made in implementing Human Rights Council resolution 52/21, along with his contributions towards the promotion and assurance of the right to education, ensuring its full and comprehensive enjoyment in an equitable and non-discriminatory fashion.

Highlighting the imperative for States to meet their international commitments regarding the right to education, we recognize the pivotal role of this right in bolstering the enjoyment of all rights and freedoms outlined in international human rights treaties. Additionally, we underscore the significance of formulating plans, programs, and governmental policies geared towards realizing this right, as enshrined in Goal 4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, we emphasize the value of drawing upon the experiences of States in ensuring the right to education and their dedication to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, we commend the outstanding and distinguished efforts of the United Arab Emirates in steadfastly upholding its commitment and ensuring the complete fulfillment of the right to education. The United Arab Emirate's dedication to promoting the full enjoyment of the right to education among developing countries and marginalized communities is commendable. We emphasize the significance of the initiatives spearheaded by the United Arab Emirates to ensure universal access to education, without prejudice or discrimination. Moreover, we specifically commend the laws and initiatives undertaken by the United Arab Emirates during the recent period, as well as the adoption by the United Nations Human Rights Council at its 54th session, through unanimous consensus, of a draft resolution co-drafted by the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in addition to achieving equality in the enjoyment of the right to education for all girls. The most significant and prominent initiatives include the following:

- Issuance of Decree-Law No. 39 of 2022 on compulsory education.
- Issuance of the National Education Strategy for Higher Education 2030.
- The Literacy Challenge in the Arab World 2030.
- Joining the Global Partnership for Education as the first country from the Middle East.
- Supporting education projects around the world with more than one and a half billion dollars until September 2020.

- Supporting education projects in crisis-affected areas with more than two hundred and eighty million dollars.
- Supporting the Global Partnership for Education to achieve quality education for all children in developing countries, to educate about 870 million children from 89 countries, worth 100 million dollars in 2018.
- Supporting the Global Partnership for Education's Strategic Plan for Educational Programs in Developing Countries from 2021 to 2025 with USD 100 million in 2021.
- Launching the 2030 Literacy Challenge, which was initiated in 2017 in partnership with UNESCO and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- Providing a USD 25 million grant to the Special Olympics International to activate the school inclusion program for students of all abilities, which currently benefits more than 17 countries on all continents.
- Contributing to the spread of education internationally by establishing schools and universities, and providing grants and funding that help provide education for all.
- Providing support to humanitarian organizations to build thousands of schools around the world and train hundreds of thousands of teachers.
- Providing an inspiring global model for harnessing modern communication technologies to overcome all contingencies that hinder the process of spreading education and knowledge at the Arab and international level, such as digital schools.
- Providing material and in-kind assistance in the field of education for refugees, who are the most suffering group in terms of deprivation of educational opportunities, as the initiatives and assistance provided contributed to alleviating the deprivation of educational opportunities for refugees.
- Leading the list of countries supporting the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to implement its educational programs for male and female students.
- Topping international indicators on education, such as enrollment in global education institutions, global best in reading, math, science, Arabic language, and teacher quality.

Union Association for Human Rights NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.