

Activity Report 2011

Platform on the Right to Education

The NGO platform, comprising now 23 members, kept up with its defined objectives, in close collaboration with the Special Rapporteur, Mr Kishore Singh, who presented his first annual report to the Council in June.

Meetings : 11 March 2011, 7 June 2011

Human rights Council

16th Regular Session – 28 February-25 March 2011:

- Written statement and oral statement on Preventing the phenomenon of children living and/or working on the street, prepared and read by AGP 23 and co-signed by the platform.

17th Regular session – 30 May-17 June 2011

- Written statement and oral statement related to the Special Rapporteur's annual report on « The promotion of equality of opportunity in education », prepared and read by OIDEL and co-signed by the platform.

- Negotiation and follow-up on HRC resolution 8/4 on the right to education sponsored by Portugal – Raquel Tavares. We were glad that most of our propositions were included, such as: civil-society as partner to help with the work of the SR and the need to deepen the analysis of the different kinds of education: formal, informal, non-formal.

- Side-event: “Equality of opportunity in education: Special focus on children’s rights” on 7 June, co-organized by the platform, moderated by the Permanent Mission of Portugal. Speakers were: Mr K. Singh, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Ms B. Robinson (DCI), Ms C. Goggin (Quakers), Ms C. Mazzucato (Catholic University of Milan), Ms A. Ntignoi (IDAY International) and Ms A. Aula (ICCB).

18th Regular session – 12-30 September 2011

- Side-event on “Young Volunteers and Human Rights” held on 16 September, co-sponsored by the platform, moderated by Ms M-F Ize-Charrin, former Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (OHCHR). Speakers: HE Mr C. Guillermet, Ambassador of Costa-Rica, HE Mr F. Gonzalez, Ambassador of Paraguay, HE Ms L. Mirachian, Ambassador of Italy, Dr I. Lakatos, Ambassador of Hungary - Human rights, Ms E. Queirolo de Tealdi, Counselor of Uruguay, Ms L. Salazar, General Director VIDES International, Mr R. Espinosa, Chief NGO Liaison Office - UNOG, Mr J. Ferreira, New Humanity, representing the NGO Platform on the right to education.

Six Human Rights Defenders, coming from Italy, Spain, Hungary and Switzerland took also part in the discussions.

ECOSOC high-level segment – Annual Ministerial Review – Geneva - July 2011 Substantive annual session, on “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education”.

- Parallel event on 6 July 2011: “Right to education: key to the MDGs”, organized by the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN and the NGO Platform on the right to education in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Portugal and the Permanent Mission of Morocco and moderated by Mr G. Rosenthal, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the UN (New York). Speakers were respectively:

Ms. L. Dupuy Lasserre, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Uruguay, President of the Human Rights Council, Mr K. Singh, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr K. Diallo, Minister of early childhood, elementary and secondary education, Senegal, President of CONFEMEN and A. Fernandez, General Director of OIDEL, representing the NGO Platform on the right to education. 30 countries were represented among the large audience.

-M. D’Onofrio (IIMA/VIDES) intervened during the Plenary on the name of the Platform.

Other events or colloquia

- BICE International Congress on “The right to education of children estranged from their families and socially excluded” was held on 23 May 2011 in Paris at UNESCO headquarters. Members of the platform (OIDEL, IIMA) took part in an active way, as well as the Special Rapporteur.

- OIDEL: IPPE Project on *Parental involvement within the school*, which final presentation was held in Madrid in December 2011. This study, lead by a consortium of seven countries (Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom and Switzerland) was then enlarged to 15 countries in total, representing 82% of the European school population and circa 50% of the Swiss school population. The main objective was to create indicators on the participation of parents - that do not exist so far – in order to include them in the 12 indicators related to the measurement of a quality education. A colloquium, presenting the approach and pre-final results took place in Geneva in 13 September, at the Palais des Nations. Among the main achievements of the study, an Observatory of parents’ participation was created that can be consulted on line: www.parentsparticipation.eu

Training sessions

A seminar on *the right to education* was held on 4 April in Geneva, lead by Alfred Fernandez. More than 20 people attended this session that was divided into four main parts: International context, international norms on the right to education, contents of this right (4 characteristics) and eventually the rights-based approach.

UNESCO Chairs meeting: Bergamo (Italy) - March 2011

The purpose of this meeting was to know the priorities of the Special Rapporteur, Mr Singh, and explore opportunities for collaboration with UNESCO Chairs.

Clearly, cooperation between such Chairs and the Special Rapporteur is advisable for advancing the right to education and human rights education. It also appears important to work with civil society and especially the NGO Platform on the right to education that was recently established in Geneva.

Possible areas of collaboration that were discussed are the following:

1. Establishment of a coordinating structure of the Chairs with the Special Rapporteur
2. Reflection work / research on priority issue at the global level
3. Collaboration to promote training in Human Rights at University level through the rights-based approach
4. Articulate correctly the right to education and human rights education.

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