



Statement of Position by Mrs. Mukta D. Tomar, Minister before adoption of
draft resolution A/59/L.65 on
'World Programme for Human Rights Education'
July 14, 2005

Mr. President,

I take the floor to make a statement of position before adoption of the draft resolution on 'World Programme for Human Rights Education' contained in document A/59/L.65.

My delegation wishes to thank the main sponsor, Australia, for their efforts in presenting the resolution. The resolution will ensure that the work started in the first decade on human rights education will gather further momentum in the second decade.

The debate in the General Assembly on December 10, 2004 on 'Human Rights Education' clearly brought out the importance that Member States have increasingly attached to this aspect of the promotion of human rights. In India, the idea of human rights is embodied in the Constitution which was adopted in 1950, soon after India's independence. The Constitution promotes and protects the human

rights of the people of India. Thus far, human rights education has been integrated into diverse subjects at different stages of education through India's education policy. A National Action Plan for Human Rights Education was drawn up in cooperation with the National Human Rights Commission and is under implementation. India is fully committed to promoting human rights education, and has taken several measures towards this.

Mr. President,

In accordance with Operative Paragraph 1 of L.65, the General Assembly will today proceed to adopt the revised *Draft Plan of action for the first phase (2005-2007) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education* as contained in the Secretary-General's report A/59/525/Rev.1.

The Draft Plan provides for the setting up of a United Nations

inter-agency Coordination Committee composed of representatives from OHCHR, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and other relevant international agencies, including the World Bank. In our view, a prior inter-governmental agreement on details of the role, functioning and mandate of this Committee is required, and we would have preferred to discuss this aspect further in the 60th session of the General Assembly. Since that was not possible, we wish to make clear our understanding that we do not envisage or accept any "monitoring" or "evaluating" mandate of a UN inter-agency Coordination Committee, particularly with reference to paragraphs 49 and 51 of the Draft Plan of action.

We are also concerned that neither the draft resolution nor the Draft Plan of Action provides for any additional funding for its implementation, particularly in developing countries. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had noted that resource constraints and institutional inadequacies may impede the immediate realisation of the objectives set out. Strengthened international cooperation for poverty eradication remains a key ingredient to promotion and protection of human rights, and to promoting human rights education.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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