

## **53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education**

#### **Joint Statement on children's education**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Dominican Republic, Luxembourg, and a group of 64 other countries.

Everyone has the right to education: it is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of which we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other core human rights instruments. Regrettably, worldwide, 244 million children and young persons are not getting an education for social, economic and cultural reasons.<sup>1</sup>

The cost of education remains a significant barrier, disproportionately affecting children and adolescents from low-income families, girls, children with disabilities and school-age persons in vulnerable situations.

Conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated the global education crisis.

Furthermore, 4 out of 10 children and young persons do not complete secondary school and nearly half of all children of the world are not enrolled in pre-primary education.<sup>2</sup> A vast majority of countries have not achieved gender parity in secondary education.<sup>3</sup>

Education is a human right and plays a crucial role in the fight against inequality and for the consolidation of sustainable development. Today, we call on all Member States to guarantee access to free, quality, and inclusive education for all children from pre-school through secondary school, and ensure its adequate funding.

We support efforts to strengthen the right to education, including the explicit right to full free secondary and at least one year of free pre-primary education.

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO, "244M children won't start the new school year (UNESCO)," updated April 2023, <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/244m-children-wont-start-new-school-year-unesco>

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, "A World Ready to Learn: Global Report on Pre-Primary Education," April 2019, <https://www.unicef.org/reports/a-world-ready-to-learn-2019>

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, "Girls' Education: Gender equality in education benefits every child," <https://www.unicef.org/education/girls-education>

**Alphabetical list of coponents:**

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Argentina
4. Armenia
5. Australia
6. Austria
7. Azerbaijan
8. Bahamas
9. Belgium
10. Benin
11. Bolivia
12. Brazil
13. Bulgaria
14. Chile
15. Colombia
16. Costa Rica
17. Croatia
18. Cyprus
19. Czech Republic
20. Denmark
21. Dominican Republic
22. Estonia
23. Finland
24. France
25. Gambia
26. Georgia
27. Germany
28. Greece
29. Guatemala
30. Hungary
31. Ireland
32. Israël
33. Italy
34. Kazakhstan
35. Kyrgyzstan
36. Latvia
37. Lebanon
38. Liechtenstein
39. Lithuania
40. Luxembourg
41. Madagascar
42. Malaysia
43. Malta
44. Marshall Islands

45. Moldova
46. Monaco
47. Mongolia
48. Montenegro
49. Nepal
50. Netherlands
51. North Macedonia
52. Panama
53. Paraguay
54. Peru
55. Poland
56. Portugal
57. Qatar
58. Republic of Congo
59. Republic of Korea
60. Romania
61. San Marino
62. Serbia
63. Sierra Leone
64. Slovakia
65. Slovenia
66. Spain
67. State of Palestine
68. Sweden
69. Thailand
70. Timor Leste
71. Türkiye
72. Uruguay
73. Zambia