MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE COSTA RICA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS | GOBIERNO DE COSTA RICA

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

unesco APCEIU Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding

Centre Under the auspices of UNESCO

University for Peace

BAN KI-MOON Foundation

Unlearning Intolerance: Global Citizenship Education and SDG 16

15:00-16:30 | Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Conference Room 8, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

Nearly a decade has passed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. However, the world still remains confronted with a myriad of intricate global challenges, including warfare, escalating inequalities, climate change, sustained poverty, constrained growth, forced migration and socio- political unrest. In this era marked by enduring tensions, there exists an imperative for education that fosters compassion, empathy, sympathy and understanding among individuals from all corners of the globe. This necessity particularly pronounces considering that a significant portion of the challenges we presently encounter originates from a dearth of comprehension among individuals from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.

While traditional education, focused on improving literacy and facilitating the transmission of knowledge and skills from one generation to the next, remain vital, there is a growing need for transformative education such as Global Citizenship Education (GCED), which nurtures shared values and respect for diversity. GCED is crucial for fostering inclusive, peaceful, and just societies worldwide. It equips individuals with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to understand and address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, discrimination, and conflict. By promoting values of respect, empathy, tolerance, and cooperation, GCED contributes significantly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16): “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

Furthermore, GCED fosters critical thinking, media literacy, intercultural understanding, empowering individuals to challenge prejudices and stereotypes, which are often root causes of discrimination and violence. By promoting a culture of dialogue and collaboration, GCED lays the foundation for SDG 16 and the Unlearning Intolerance series.

The Unlearning Intolerance series was launched by the United Nations in 2004 to examine means of preventing manifestations of intolerance and violent extremism along with promoting respect and understanding among people. It represents an opportunity to discuss how intolerance - wherever it exists and for whatever reason – can be unlearned through education, inclusion and example. As the Unlearning Intolerance series commemorates its 20th anniversary, the University for Peace and Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding under the auspices of UNESCO (APCEIU) is privileged to endorse and collaborate on the seminar, with a focus on the theme ‘Unlearning Intolerance: Global Citizenship Education and SDG 16’.

This event will highlight key dimensions of GCED and ‘Unlearning Intolerance,’ aimed at enhancing awareness of and addressing various social issues that University for Peace and APCEIU prioritize for the achievement of a peaceful and sustainable society. The event will serve as a timely opportunity to raise awareness of GCED and its connection to SDG 16.

Co-organizers

- Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations
- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
- The University for Peace (UPEACE)
- Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding under the auspices of UNESCO (APCEIU)

Co-sponsor

- Ban Ki-moon Foundation

Programme

Time	Programme Details
15:00-15:15 ('15)	**<u>Opening Session</u>** - **Ambassador Sangjin Kim**, *Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations* - **Ms Kate Landon**, *Executive Director, Ban Ki-moon Foundation* - **Mr Ramu Damodaran**, *Permanent Observer of the University for Peace to the United Nations*
15:15-16:12 ('57)	**<u>Interactive Panel</u>** Moderator - **Mr Liberato C. Bautista,** *President of CoNGO* Panelists - **Ms Felisa Tibbitts**, *Chair in Human Rights Education in the Department of Law, Economics and Governance and UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Higher Education, Utrecht University* - **Ms Laura Engel**, *Professor, International Education and International Affairs and UNESCO Co-Chair in International Education for Development, George Washington University* - **Ms Annemarie Hou**, *Executive Director, UN Office for Partnership*
16:12-16:27 ('15)	**Interaction with the Audience**
16:27-16:30 ('3)	**<u>Closing Session</u>**

	- **Mr Hyun Mook Lim**, *Director of APCEIU*