



EUROPEAN UNION  
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office  
and other international organisations in Geneva

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
29th session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the**

**Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr Kishore Singh**

**And the Independent Expert on international solidarity, Ms. Virginia Dandan**

**Geneva, 18 June 2015**

**EU intervention**

Mr. President,

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr. Kishore Singh, for the elaboration and presentation of his report to the Human Rights Council, and reiterate our support to this important mandate.

We note that the report rightfully stresses that the primary responsibility for ensuring the right to education on a non-discriminatory basis rests with States and cannot be transferred to private actors even if these are in some cases the primary education providers.

Mr. President,

Discussions around the post-2015 education agenda, are approaching their conclusion. Could you please share with us your insights on the progress achieved so far and how you expect this agenda to evolve?

Finally, the European Union and its Member States regrets that students, educators and schools continue to be targeted by vicious attacks, and that names such as Peshawar and Garissa are now associated with senseless tragedies. Can you please tell us whether you have considered taking any initiatives in this regard?

Thank you.

*Turning on to the Independent Expert on International Solidarity*

Mr. President,

The EU and its Member States would like to thank Ms. Virginia Dandan for the presentation of her report to the Human Rights Council, including the summary of her activities undertaken in accordance with her mandate.

We share the understanding that international solidarity is an important moral principle and a political commitment. As the world's biggest contributor in terms of official development assistance, the EU and its Member States demonstrate our commitment to international solidarity on a daily basis, and we will continue to do so in the future.

The report presented by the Independent Expert does not dispel the conceptual doubts as to whether the principle of international solidarity can meaningfully be translated into the language of human rights standards. At a recent regional consultation on the "draft declaration" convened by the IE – which was poorly attended –, several legal experts and civil society organisations seemed to share our concern that the concept of international solidarity does not meet either the requirements of a legal concept, or of a human right. Its content is too vague, the right holders and duty bearers are not clearly identified, and the rights and duties themselves are not clear. We maintain that formalising international solidarity as a human right would constitute a rhetorical move without any legal content and would therefore be meaningless for people on the ground.

The Independent Expert is aware that States from across regions have been reluctant for some time to engage. Could Ms Virginia Dandan indicate possible ways to change the planned course of action given the lack of traction particularly for the "draft declaration"?

Thank you.