Human Rights Now and in the Future

Celebrating Human Rights Day
Tuesday, December 10, 2024

––––––

The Union for Human Rights Association in the United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with the Human Rights Council, held an event to celebrate Human Rights Day. The event discussed several issues and initiatives related to the protection and promotion of human rights globally. Below are the main points raised during the meeting:

Main Points Discussed During the Meeting:

1. **The Need for New Visions and Innovative Mechanisms** in countries' efforts to protect human rights through:
   - **Legislation**: Concerning issues such as discrimination, women's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and migrant labor.
   - **Establishment of institutions, bodies, and committees** dedicated to human rights.
   - **International Cooperation**: Through collaboration with the United Nations and its agencies, and joining the nine core international human rights conventions.
   - **Empowerment of Priority Groups**: Some countries have developed various strategies for this purpose.
   - **Technology**: The integration of technology to enhance and protect human rights by facilitating access to information and statistics, and establishing systems to monitor violations, protect privacy, and secure personal data.

Presentation of the Successful Experience of the United Arab Emirates:

- **Diversity and Protection of Human Rights**: The UAE has fostered diversity through legislative activities, national mechanisms, policies, and strategies to protect and promote human rights.
- **Gender Equality**: The UAE ranks 7th globally and 1st regionally for gender equality.
- **Labor Disputes**: The UAE ranks 1st globally for having the lowest incidence of labor disputes.

Recommendations:

1. **Internal Analysis of Future Challenges in Human Rights**:
   - These include digital rights, artificial intelligence, and the environment, with the expectation of a new category emerging: "climate refugees" as a result of future environmental challenges.
2. **Corporate Social Responsibility**:
   - Major companies should respect human rights principles as outlined in the Global Digital Compact (GDC), which was adopted on September 22, 2024. The GDC sets guidelines for corporations and imposes obligations on states.

3. **Developing a Plan to Address Future Aspirations**:
   - o This includes involving civil society organizations in developing future policies.
4. **Fair Environmental Policies**:
   - o The need to adopt fair environmental policies, including green initiatives such as those implemented in the UAE, like investment in renewable energy, including the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park.
5. **Global Population Challenges**:
   - o With the global population continuously increasing, it is expected to reach 10 billion by 2080. Therefore, the number of organizations must be increased to keep up with this demographic growth, enabling them to identify priorities and assist existing organizations in enhancing their operational capacity.
6. **Teacher Development**:
   - o There should be an emphasis on developing and training teachers as a primary tool for integrating human rights concepts into the educational system by embedding these concepts into subjects such as history, geography, science, and social studies, among others.

Conclusion:

The event provided an opportunity to discuss several important issues related to the enhancement and protection of human rights in the future. It emphasized the importance of international cooperation and continuous development in legislation and implementation mechanisms. The UAE has proven to be an important model in this area through its successful strategies and initiatives. The recommendations underscored the need for swift action to address future challenges.