CONNECTING STATES · PROTECTING EDUCATION

State-led Implementation Network on the Safe Schools Declaration

2021
Network launched in Abuja, Nigeria

123*
States have endorsed the Declaration

27*
States engaged in Network activities

55*
States with appointed focal points

What is the Implementation Network?

The **Implementation Network** promotes cooperation and peer-to-peer exchange of experiences and good practice between States that have endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration, to support effective implementation of its commitments. The Network was launched by the Government of Norway in October 2021, during the Fourth International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration held in Abuja, Nigeria.

What is the Safe Schools Declaration?

The **Safe Schools Declaration** is an inter-governmental political commitment dedicated to protecting education in armed conflict. It outlines a set of commitments to strengthen the protection of education from attack and restrict the use of schools and universities for military purposes. Since it was opened for countries to endorse in May 2015, **123 States** have joined the Declaration. By endorsing the Declaration, States are also endorsing the ***Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict***.

What are the activities of the Implementation Network?

The Network promotes various activities focused on sharing good practice in implementing the Safe Schools Declaration between endorsing States. These activities include webinars on relevant topics related to protecting education in armed conflict, international trainings, and regional workshops, as well as bilateral and multilateral exchanges on implementing the Declaration. Examples of good practice are available in the **Resource Bank** on implementing the Declaration.

The Network today

Since its launch in 2021, the Implementation Network has directly supported **27 States**, for example through trainings for defence and security stakeholders in Somalia and technical support on policies and roadmaps to the Sahel SSD Platform, Nigeria and Cameroon. Today, **55 States** have appointed focal points to the Network, forming a growing community of government officials who exchange experience on protecting education in armed conflict.

Who can participate?

The Implementation Network aims to facilitate contact between endorsing States, serving as a platform to connect experts in different countries. All endorsing States are invited to join the Implementation Network by nominating focal points from the Ministries of Education, Defence, Foreign Affairs, Justice, and other ministries that play a role in implementing the Declaration.

How does the Network function?

The activities of the Network are supported by a digital collaborative platform for coordinating and sharing information and resources. The platform is accessible to endorsing States and a few other invited actors, such as technical experts who can provide guidance on implementing the Safe Schools Declaration. Through the platform, the Network aims to facilitate meaningful engagement between States in a private forum.

What is expected of participants?

Participants are invited to engage actively in the activities of the Network, such as webinars and trainings. They are encouraged to share their experience implementing the Declaration, and invited to post on the digital platform, disseminate relevant documents, pose questions to others, and generate discussion. Suggestions and proposals for new activities and initiatives to be organised as part of the Network are welcomed.

Contact

If you wish to receive more information, express your interest in being part of the Implementation Network, or share the contact details of the nominated focal points from the relevant ministries in your country, please send an email to Mr. Johnny Gerges, the Implementation Network Coordinator.

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Contact GCPEA to join the State-led Implementation Network now