



August 25, 2017

**United Nations statement re: the so-called “Open University of Humanity, Health, Science & Peace”**

To Whomsoever This May Concern

I am sharing with you the response from the United Nations’ Office of Legal Affairs at the UN Headquarters in New York regarding the so-called “Open University of Humanity, Health, Science & Peace” which apparently operates in Bangkok and possibly other locations. Our colleagues at the Office of Legal Affairs have gone through a range of materials available online about this entity, and have issued this statement:

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This Office has been informed about the activities of the “Open University of Humanity, Health, Science & Peace” (OUHHSP), an organization which appears to be registered in Singapore and operating in Bangkok, Thailand.

We understand that OUHHSP, including its personnel, has been representing through its online presence in different social media, such as Facebook and YouTube, that it is associated with and approved or endorsed by the United Nations. More specifically, we note that this entity often refers to itself as the “UN Open University” and that it is using the emblem of the United Nations, as well as that of the World Health Organization and possibly other UN entities as its logo.

Please note that the use of the name, including any abbreviation thereof, and the emblem of the United Nations is reserved for the official purposes of the Organization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 92(I) of 7 December 1946. Furthermore, that resolution expressly prohibits the use of the United Nations name and emblem in any other way without the express authorization of the Secretary-General. Article 6ter of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (the “Convention”), revised in Stockholm in 1967, provides trademark protection in respect of the names and emblems of international organizations and requires States party to the Convention “to prohibit by appropriate measures the use, without authorization by competent authorities” of the emblems and names of international organizations.

**We wish to clarify that the United Nations, including its Funds and Programmes and other subsidiary organs, is in no way affiliated with OUHHSP and has no involvement with its activities, including online educational programs, seminars or other events. We further wish to underscore, that OUHHSP is using the name and emblem of the United Nations without authorization and fraudulently.**

Additionally, we understand that at least two persons directly linked with the activities of OUHHSP, a Mr. Gion Gounet and a Mr. Edgar B. Eleguen, have been using the titles “UN Goodwill Ambassador for Visual Arts” and “UN Ambassador,” respectively. We wish to clarify that neither of these two individuals or any other entities who may be associated with the OUHHSP is employed by, affiliated with, or endorsed by the United Nations, including its Funds and Programmes and other subsidiary organs.

Please note that the United Nations has already taken action vis-à-vis Mr. Gounet concerning his unauthorized use of the United Nations name and emblem since December 2010, when the Organization demanded that Mr. Gounet immediately cease and desist from making any false representations about his identity using the name of the Organization.

This request was also communicated to the Government of the Philippines, through the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York, since it appears that he was based in the Philippines at that time.

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