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Final Report



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**SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (IGC)
OF THE «MANAGEMENT OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS» PROGRAMME (MOST)
(UNESCO, Paris, 3 to 7 July 1995)**

FINAL REPORT

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I. Opening Session

1. The second session of the Intergovernmental Council of the MOST Programme was held at UNESCO, Paris, from 3 to 7 July 1995. The session was opened by Mr Mohamed El-Gawhary, President of the IGC. A drafting committee, composed of the Delegates of Colombia, Ghana, Philippines and Sweden, as well as the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council was established in order to contribute to the drafting of the report and the recommendations.

2. Thirty of the Council's 33 members, forty-two delegations from Member States which are not members of the Council, one delegation from a country with observer status, 24 representatives of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, 3 representatives of national research organisations, 2 representatives of United Nations bodies and 17 experts attended the session (List of participants - Annex VI).

Address by the Director-General of UNESCO

3. The Director-General of UNESCO welcomed the participants, reasserting UNESCO's full support to MOST and the satisfactory development of MOST activities.

The MOST Programme can provide new insights for public policy: on how societies can foster more peaceful methods of coping with emerging conflicts; on furthering social cohesion; on fashioning non-violent mechanisms of bringing about change. In so doing, it can contribute to the creation of a favourable environment for the promotion of equity, social justice and democratic governance. MOST must delve into the roots of the problems we face - for example, poverty and rural emigration. Today's era is characterised by the claims of various national, cultural, ethnic and political entities to greater recognition and more responsive government. At the same time, rapid urbanisation, especially in the larger countries of the developing world, has created entirely new and demanding problems of governance, such as coping with demographic growth, planning the delivery of basic services and infrastructure, lessening the potential for conflict and fostering a climate of social cohesion: The MOST Programme areas correctly focus attention on these issues,

The urgency of these questions was underlined by the recent World Summit for Social Development which called for fresh approaches in tackling the complex and interrelated problems of poverty and population growth which are an obstacle for developing countries achieving the goal of sustainable development. There can be little hope for genuine growth in these countries unless it is self-sustained in the sense of being based on the development of endogenous capacities rooted in the unique identity and creativity of each people and culture. There is much the rich nations can and must do to assist the poorer ones but the central function of international development assistance is an enabling one - helping the developing countries to help themselves.

The Director-General recalled that in March of last year, during the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of MOST, he had expressed satisfaction at the establishment of an international social science programme similar to the international programmes in the natural sciences that have been functioning in UNESCO for many years. Today, he commended the Member States for perceiving the value of the programme and for supporting it from the outset. A number of countries have already provided invaluable financial and other support to MOST. The Director-General expressed his appreciation to these countries and noted the

growing numbers of Member States setting up national MOST Liaison Committees to foster activities related to MOST. He ended by stating that « our task, your task is to build on this support and involvement ».

Keynote address on - « Social Transformations » by Neil J. Smelser

4. The keynote address on « Social Transformations » was delivered by Neil J. Smelser. His main theme was that the long-term social transformations that can be identified are mostly unplanned results of the accumulation of multiple short-term reactions and adaptations to immediate problems/situations. He also identified four major post World War II transformations: 1) The continuing revolution in economic growth; 2) The continuing democratic revolution; 3) The revolution in solidarity and identity - the resurgence of sub-national groups and movements, based on region, religion, race, ethnicity, language, gender and life-style; and, 4) The environmental revolution. These four elements can no longer be addressed adequately at the level of the nation-state and require coherent and co-ordinated regional and global action. The representatives of Bulgaria, Egypt, Germany and India, as well as the Secretary-General of the International Social Science Council, the observer from Iran and two members of the MOST Scientific Steering Committee took part in the ensuing discussion. The basic problem of the manageability of the transformations at the macro level was discussed and two types of transformation were noted: a spontaneous market-type transformation and a transformation steered from above by political power. The need of the search for new paradigms was stressed although it was also mentioned that the paradigm shift can only be gradual.

5. In the ensuing discussion, attention was drawn to the importance of the process of post-World War II decolonization, and the growing participation of the new nation-states in the international community. Examples were also shown of planned, long-term solutions. Finally, the commitment to rising economic standards and the growing democratic aspirations were defined as essential driving forces for future changes.

II. Joint Meeting of Scientific Steering Committee and Intergovernmental Council - Presentation of Report by the Chairperson of the SSC and discussion

6. The first afternoon session was a joint meeting between the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) and the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). The President of the IGC provided succinct information about the activities of the SSC and introduced its members. The Chairperson of the SSC presented the work of the Committee, complementing and referring to the written report, and summarizing the discussions and decisions of the recent meeting of the Committee.

She noted that in their work, the SSC was committed to the following principles: scientific excellence and quality; gender equity and equality of opportunity among all social groups; policy relevance; promotion of MOST in the international scientific community; institutional and intellectual capacity building. The Committee recognised its responsibilities to the requirements of the programme, to the expectations of the scientific community, including those who submit projects, and to UNESCO.

The Chairperson briefly mentioned the outcome of the regional meetings already held and the planned conferences and announced the four newly accepted projects. She explained

that through such regional and thematic meetings, as well as the work undertaken in the framework of the accepted projects (see below, para. 12), progress was made in mapping out the three themes of MOST: « Multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies », « Cities as arenas of accelerated social transformations » and « Coping locally and regionally with economic, technological and environmental transformations ». She then defined the two immediate challenges facing MOST: 1) generating adequate funds for the programme, and 2) establishing linkages between researchers and policy-makers. In the subsequent dialogue between the IGC and the SSC, one member of the latter body noted the necessity for MOST to be innovative, have its own identity, and be open to different scientific perspectives. The programme must be well focused, while avoiding a too narrow or scattered definition.

III. *The MOST Secretariat Activity Report*

7. In the second morning session the Executive Secretary of MOST presented the report of the activities of the Programme that have been undertaken since the First Interim Session of the Intergovernmental Council in March 1994. The implementation of the activities during this first operational year of MOST was conducted under the policy guidance and the recommendations of the IGC, adopted at its First Session. The Secretariat worked in close co-operation with the SSC which is responsible for the scientific aspects of the Programme. The SSC held its first meeting in Paris, in June 1994, its second at Helwan University, Cairo (Egypt) in December 1994 and its third meeting at UNESCO Paris on 29 and 30 June 1995 the Committee met conjointly with the IGC on 3 July 1995.

8. In this initial phase of MOST, a top priority recommendation, made by the IGC at its first meeting, was the organization of regional conferences to a) present MOST in each region and mobilise the research communities and authorities concerned; b) formulate and integrate in the programme, the policy and research issues and priorities of each region in all three MOST themes; and c) be the starting point of one or two two major MOST projects or other initiatives, co-ordinated by specialists from the region.

The Secretariat subsequently organised three regional and two sub-regional conferences:

Sub-Regional Conference for Central Asian countries, Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), 25-27 October 1994;

Regional Conference for Asia, Bangkok (Thailand), 21-25 November 1994;

Regional Conference for Latin America, Buenos Aires (Argentina), 28-31 March 1995;

Sub-Regional Conference for Pacific Countries, Sydney (Australia), 28-29 April 1995;

Regional Conference for Central and Eastern Europe, Budapest (Hungary), 29-31 May 1995.

Two other regional conferences and one sub-regional conference will take place after the second session of the IGC. These are:

Regional Conference for Africa in Dakar (Senegal) in autumn 1995;

Regional Conference for the Arab States Region, in Tunis (Tunisia), planned early 1996;

Sub-Regional meeting for the English-speaking Caribbean Countries, planned early 1996.

9. The meetings already held benefited from the support of the Member States concerned. The major result is that the Programme can better reflect the views and priorities of the various regions as viewed by both scientists and policy-makers. The mapping out of the Programmers

three thematic areas, as well as the central concept of social transformations has been better defined. These meetings have also enabled MOST to progress towards building one or two major international research projects, in each region. Such progress in the field of policy planning and research will continue to be a main challenge for the Programme.

10. A basic programme activity is the organisation of a series of international thematic meetings to map out continuously the MOST research themes. Two such meetings took place in the early stages of MOST, one on multi-ethnic issues in Ottawa (Canada) in December 1993 and a second one on 'Cities' in Vienna (Austria) in February 1994. In 1995, in relation to the United Nations World Summit for Social Development, a symposium entitled «From Social Exclusion to Social Cohesion: Towards a Policy Agenda», was held in Roskilde (Denmark), 2-4 March 1995. On 30-31 March 1995, a meeting was held on the theme « coping locally and regionally with translational, economic, technological and environmental phenomena », with special focus on the problems of the Arctic Region, in Tromsøe, Norway.

11. Several other thematic meetings are being planned, mainly on the initiative of Member States:

- September 1995 - « Coping locally with changes introduced by the processes of globalisation » - organised by France, to be held in Paris;
- December 1995- « Social Sciences Methodologies, Decision-making and Governance » to be held in Ankara, Turkey;
- Early 1996- « Local initiatives against inequality, poverty and discrimination » - organised by the Netherlands and FLACSO Costa Rica, to be held in Costa Rica;
- June 1996- « Democracy and Citizenship in the 21st Century City)) -to be organised in Istanbul (Turkey), in conjunction with the UN HABITAT II conference.
- 1996-1997- (i) « Theory, conceptualisation and practical aspects of social transformations, as the central unifying thrust of MOST »;
- (ii) « Globalisation », building on the above mentioned meetings organised in Norway, France and Costa Rica.

12. Since the establishment of the Programme, some 82 project proposals from all regions have been sent to the Secretariat and reviewed. A majority of these were not retained for reasons either of scientific calibre or for non-conformity to the criteria described in the MOST Guidelines for Project Submission. Eight of them have been accepted and attributed the MOST label by the SSC. The projects that have been accepted are:

- HOST: A historical comparative approach toward national industrialisation: Argentina, Bolivia, Thailand, Vietnam, Madagascar, Benin, Algeria and Turkey;
- City words: France, China, Canada, UK, USA, India, Pakistan, Italy, Japan, Russia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico.
- Socially sustainable cities: building a knowledge base for urban management in the twenty-first century; Canada, El Salvador, Costa Rica (FLACSO), Kenya
- MOST traveling Summer School, organizing training courses for young researchers and decision-makers in different regions (Italy);
- Research, comparative studies and monitoring of ethnicity and conflicts in post-Soviet states: Russian Federation, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, USA.
- Multicultural and multiethnic societies: terminological and conceptual clarification: France, Chili, Canada, Switzerland, USA, UK, Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary, Tunisia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia, Moldavia, Romania, Senegal, South Africa.

-New migrations and growing ethno-cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific Region:

Social and political issues: Australia, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Fiji, Singapore, China, South Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong

-Industrial growth in small and medium towns and their vertical integration with national and international production systems: India, France, Netherlands.

13. A Clearing House is being set up by the Secretariat, in co-operation with the *Centre de recherches en sciences infométriques (CNRS)* and the interdisciplinary *PIR-Villes* Research Programme (France), to facilitate the exchange of information about the programme. Its main functions will be to provide access to the basic data and recommendations of MOST projects, and to promote co-operation in collective research projects. The establishment and operation of the Clearing House relies heavily on the new electronic networks which can provide quick and relatively inexpensive access to world-wide information sources. An important obstacle in this respect could be the lack of appropriate access to electronic facilities. MOST will therefore also maintain the policy of diffusing information in printed form,

The first phase of the Clearing House will have five to seven urban research institutes combining scientific information on priority issues in the management of social change in growing cities. Institutes in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Lebanon and South Africa have been invited to participate in the pilot phase of the project.

IV. Discussion

14. Representatives of the following Member States took part in the discussion on the reports of the SSC and the Secretariat of MOST: Switzerland, Madagascar, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, France, Sweden, Ghana, India, Chile, Cameroon, Egypt, Bulgaria, Zimbabwe, Japan, Mexico and the observer from Slovenia. Interventions were also made by Mr. D. Lamba, and Mr A. Kuklinski, members of the SSC, Mr. P. Wignaraja, from the United Nations University, Mr. L. Kosinski, Secretary- General of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), and the representatives of the International Peace Research Association, the World Federation for Mental Health, and the German Central Archive for Empirical Research. For comprehensive purposes, interventions have been grouped under the key themes that arose during the discussions.

Identity and specific contribution of MOST

15. This discussion concentrated on the fundamental issue of the core identity and specificity of MOST. It was stressed that the Programme must have an underlying philosophy, a unique profile and a global vision. A future-oriented medium-term strategy for the programme would be welcome. MOST must develop serious empirical studies but avoid futile empiricism. The programme is designed for promoting projects that transcend national boundaries thereby being regional or global in scale, The scientific calibre of projects is a necessary requirement for project evaluation, but additional criteria could be taken into account. MOST is to foster excellence in social science research, as well as to create the conditions for attracting adequate public and private funding for its activities. The distinctive feature of MOST is the Programmers emphasis on international research and policy relevance, based on ethical responsibility and social commitment. The strength of the programme is its focus on the unifying themes of global sustainable development, management of transformations and social integration. It is thus able to avoid compartmentalisation of research

by bringing together fragmented approaches and perspectives. The important role of the economic sciences was recalled in this context

16. The main contribution of MOST is that it facilitates international comparative long-term research and shapes new scientific paradigms. A number of representatives of Member States noted that the Clearing House is an important component of MOST. It was observed that the use of Internet will facilitate information flow, and network building. However, serious constraints exist with regard to lack of standardisation in the way information is defined and entered, as well as lack of access to appropriate infrastructure and cost. It was observed that researchers from developing countries should be provided the opportunity to take the lead in implementing MOST projects. The Council insisted on the importance of holding the regional conferences for Africa and the Arab States, and the sub-regional conference for the English speaking Caribbean at the scheduled dates, in order to meet this objective. Further regional and sub-regional conferences could be organised in the future.

17. MOST is meant to promote inter-regional co-operation particularly by helping researchers from developing countries become partners in large international projects, providing a mechanism for international information exchange, knowledge transfer, and training for younger scholars. Several suggestions were made with reference to training: the creation of regional MOST awards for outstanding doctoral theses in the programmers research areas; and opportunities for collaboration with the UNESCO fellowship programme in order to establish UNESCO-MOST mobility grants for young scholars, as well as UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN arrangements relating to MOST. The MOST project on the Traveling Summer school was welcomed and it was suggested that the establishment of regional MOST Summer schools could be explored.

Organisational Issues

18. The Council commended the work undertaken by the SSC and the Secretariat and acknowledged their dedication. It also expressed appreciation for the convening of a joint meeting of the SSC and the IGC. It was observed, however, that the specific responsibilities and mutual relations of the SSC, the Secretariat, the IGC and the National Liaison Committees should be further articulated and clarified. The independence of the SSC was a condition supported and commended by the IGC and other Member States.

19. Given the limited resources of the Programme, it was recommended that the Secretariat and the SSC quicken the process of assessing the proposals and that the SSC might hold each year one longer meeting instead of the current two shorter meetings. It was emphasised that the Secretariat should make clearly known and firmly apply both evaluation criteria and submission deadlines so as to facilitate the SSC evaluation and avoid delays. The relevance of gender equity was also discussed. Various views were expressed concerning the role of the National Liaison Committees, seen as information sources, preliminary screening mechanisms for projects to be submitted to MOST and promoters of MOST activities.

20. Several participants and the SSC members stressed the need for reinforcing an interface between researchers on the one hand, and both funding agencies and policy makers, on the other. Two major incentives for participating in MOST scientific projects were defined: first, MOST is an opportunity for establishing international scientific co-operation, and, second, it should provide access to new sources of finding. MOST should also serve as an instrument for facilitating interaction between policy-making and research, helping policy-makers communicate their questions to the scientific community and drawing upon the results of their

work. Some countries expressed interest in organizing activities in support of this idea, while others offered the assistance of their scientific community in the evaluation of project proposals. The International Social Science Council also offered MOST the services of their professional associations in information exchange, evaluation of proposals, and in facilitating a global interdisciplinary theoretical reflection on the main themes of MOST.

21. A number of delegates underlined the improvement introduced in the « Project Submission Guidelines ». Requests were made to the Committee for more detailed information on the criteria of both acceptance and rejection of the projects submitted with a view to assisting national networks and institutions in future project formulation. It also was requested that information be provided on projects by region, country, institution and theme. This will be compiled following completion of all regional meetings in early 1996.

Social Sciences and MOST in UNESCO

22. There was a consensus that the social sciences are a vital and independent area of study, with their own scientific agenda and that their role in UNESCO must be strengthened. In this respect, concern was expressed by a number of Member States about the proposed integrated presentation of Social and Human Sciences programmes together with the Natural Sciences programmes in the Draft programme and budget for 1996-1997 (28 C/5). Reference was made to 146 EX/Decision 4.2, paragraphs 26, 27, 28, 37, 38, and 39.

23. Collaboration with other programmes and Sectors within UNESCO and other United Nations agencies as well as other international organisations, particularly with the European Union was urged and considered necessary so as to avoid duplication and create synergism. However, this should not undermine the identity and visibility of social sciences. There was consensus that MOST should play an important role with respect to the preparation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences, e.g. those on social development, sustainable development, population, women and cities.

National Initiatives

24. Several countries reported on national initiatives for disseminating information and seeking support for the programme. Italy, for example, announced an upcoming meeting 'Conference of Rectors of all Italian Universities'. It was underscored that the multiplication of such national initiatives and the establishment of regional and international linkages between them was important,

Regions and Regional Conferences

25. The regional conferences were considered a successful vehicle for creating awareness of the Programme within the social scientific community, for the integration of different national networks into larger research schemes of small national initiatives, and for the preparation of international or inter-regional projects. Given the obvious value of the regional conferences, concern was expressed by numerous Member States that the African and Arab States regional Conference had not yet been held due to lack of funding and it was hoped that it could take place before the General Conference.

V. *Keynote address on « Poverty Eradication »: Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by P. Wignaraja and Discussion*

26. In the third session, Mr. P. Wignaraja presented the main elements of the eradication of the worst forms of poverty through policy research. This research avoids conventional single-discipline analysis and endorses a holistic and interdisciplinary approach, which evolved from the experience of the « success cases » of South Asia. These cases show that the poor should not be only passive recipients of help, but that they can become themselves the agents of growth. The poor would benefit directly from an increase in food production; decentralised labour-intensive industrialisation; creation of a solid foundation for human and social development through primary health care and primary education; and an encouragement of their participation in development through vigorous social mobilisation processes. The presentation ended with a convincing explanation of the potential for a New Social Contract between the State and the Poor. The poor need to be empowered so that they could assert their right to resources that will realise their potential creativity. This approach, bringing together, interdisciplinarity, policy relevance and social commitment and participation could serve as a good paradigm for MOST research.

27. The following representatives participated in the ensuing discussions: Bulgaria, Columbia, France, Germany, Netherlands, Thailand, and Togo, together with Austria and Spain as observers, and one IGO and two experts.

All the speakers praised the presentation, pointing to the ethical and social commitment and practical significance of the research. The mobilizing strategy reintegrating formerly excluded people back into production and social life was especially appreciated. Parallel initiatives aiming at educating people by involving them in economic and civic activities and building social solidarity networks were reported from Latin America. A series of European research projects on poverty was also recalled. One of the side effects of the globalization of economy is the vicious circle of poverty, making the rich richer, and the poor, poorer. It was stressed that material poverty is linked with other inequalities, such as access to education and other basic services and with conflict and social instability. Hence pro-poor planning and participatory research which mobilises the creative energy of the poor becomes an investment in development. The concern with the social distribution of inequality was considered to be one of the main topics of MOST. Germany, the Netherlands, Colombia and Togo recommended that an advisory committee be established on this new conception. France stressed the importance of building on existing programmes and experiences. The existence of an interdisciplinary research programme on poverty (CROP) was also noted by the representative of the IS SC.

VI. *Funding and National MOST Liaison Committees*

28. The final afternoon session began with the presentation of the part of the Secretariat report concerning funding strategies.

29. The core finding of MOST, under the regular budget of UNESCO, provides for meetings of the governing bodies, for publications and promotional material, for substantive activities - development of research projects, thematic papers, workshops, and the evolution of the MOST Clearing House, as well as for support of the activities of the Secretariat.

From the core MOST budget, the financial support given to international research projects can only be seed money, for the project preparation phase (the first 12 months). By the time the project is ready for the operational stages, networks from several countries have been established and need to be maintained for the duration of the project (3 to 5 years). The budgets required exceed the financial capabilities of the regular MOST budget. Certain projects, involving some 10 or 12 networks from different countries and regions, require budgets of several hundred thousand dollars per year, over several years.

This core budget was \$300,000 a year in the 1994-1995 period; the 1996-1997 programme budget proposed to the General Conference (Draft 28 C/5) is about \$500,000 a year. It is necessary to underscore that the credibility of MOST would be severely weakened if the Programme were not in a position to support the type of large-scale international policy-relevant research projects which constitute its major objective and specific niche, and this in all regions of the world.

30. The programme has begun to receive some extra-budgetary finding: Canada, in 1992-1993 granted CAN \$50,000 to the programme; Germany provided in 1994 a Funds-in-Trust of \$191,500 for the development of an international project. Japan has also provided \$60,000 in Funds-in-Trust. Several other member states have made or pledged to make significant contributions to MOST meetings and activities. It is now, however, vital for the success of the programme to seek broad and steady finding schemes and procedures.

Beyond immediate reasons, such as the current austerity measures in many Member States, there are certain structural constraints: social science research has been, and still largely is, nationally oriented and national research finding reflects this situation. MOST was created to foster international research but the long established research finding policies and prevailing institutional regulations and traditions are such that support for international research remains inadequate. This problem needs to be confronted, and it entails the fact that solutions need to be sought in UNESCO and the Member States as well as internationally.

31. The Secretariat proposed three ways of dealing with the problem of fund raising:

(i) To ask Governments of Member States to consider the possibility of including in the annual research budget, a provision for the support of MOST-related activities in the country. In industrial countries, the same procedure may be considered in the budget of the development co-operation ministry or agency so that support be provided to research networks from developing countries participating in MOST projects.

(ii) To establish a MOST Special Account at UNESCO: this would be a voluntary contributions account, for MOST activities, similar to those that exist in other fields.

(iii) To earmark funds for MOST activities from the Participation programme budget allocated the social sciences in the draft 28 C/5.

32. The representatives of Colombia, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, France, Sweden, Chile, Mexico, Germany, Zimbabwe, Egypt and one observer took part in the ensuing discussion. It is important to underscore that this discussion was anchored in the concern expressed for insufficient amount of resources allocated to the social science programme in general and to MOST in particular. It was strongly recommended that this situation be improved, There was a strong consensus that the amount allotted to the MOST Programme, both in the current and the upcoming biennium as proposed in the draft 28 C\5 was far from

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being adequate, either to meet the basic requirements of the programme, or respond to the expectations in the Member States as well the international scientific community. This could negatively affect the credibility of the whole undertaking. An additional sum of \$500,000 should be added to the MOST budget as proposed in the draft 28 C/5.

33. It was observed that there must be different flexible fund-raising strategies requiring ingenuity and creativity. The discussion concentrated on three proposals presented by the Secretariat. The second one - establishing a MOST Special Account at UNESCO - was approved. Certain procedural difficulties that exist in some Member States were mentioned regarding the first proposal (see point (i) above): There is a basic contradiction between the mainly national system of research finding and the international nature of MOST projects, The latter must be preserved at all costs, Individual Member States have their own financial regulations which do not correspond to the finding of international projects, Developing countries are also faced with the difficulty of meeting national priorities with very limited means. Proposals were made to fire international links of national projects that exist on the main themes of MOST. The regional conferences were considered a good forum for composing and putting together such different national modules.

Finding an adequate system of national finding of genuine international scientific projects is undoubtedly the greatest challenge but would also be a very important contribution of the Programme to the development of social sciences and policy-making.

34. A sum of \$1,000,000 should be earmarked for MOST from the Participation programme funds allotted to the Major Programme II and administered along the same rules as the World Decade for Cultural Development, Activity in seeking additional funding sources like Development Banks, private foundations, and other UN agencies was requested of the Secretariat and of the responsible Divisions within UNESCO, Finally, as a short term coping strategy for the programme, it was suggested that available resources be redirected toward supporting the research projects.

35. In its last session, the Council debated and adopted by consensus the report, the recommendations (Annex I) and the Resolutions (Annex H). It mandated the Secretariat to prepare a shorter report of the MOST IGC to the General Conference at its 28th session (Article 10 of the Statutes), on the basis of the Council's reports of its First (7-10 March 1994) and Second (3-7 July 1995) Sessions.

36. The Third Session of the IGC will take place in 1997, before the 29th session of the General Conference. It was recommended that the next session not exceed four days.

ANNEX I

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Intergovernmental Council of the MOST Programme, which met in Paris from 3 to 7 July, 1995, at its Second Session,

Recalling Resolution 5.2., adopted by the General Conference at its 27th Session, the Statutes of the Programme and the documents SHS-94/Conf. 202/1 to 202/11, and the deliberations of the Council;

Also recalling 146 EX/Decision 4.2, paragraphs 26, 27, 28, 37, 38, and 39,

Recognizing the successful launching and promotion of the MOST Programme;

Stressing the necessity to develop the social science programme of UNESCO;

Mindful of the experience obtained by the MOST Secretariat, the Intergovernmental Council and the Scientific Steering Committee,

Adopts the following recommendations:

1. The efforts to develop and focus the conceptual framework of the MOST Programme, its methodological and organisational approaches within the existing financial constraints should be continued. Attention is to be given to further specification of the criteria for evaluating of project proposals by the Scientific Steering Committee.
2. The Member States are invited to establish MOST National Liaison Committees, where this has not yet been done. National Liaison Committees, other national and international scientific networks are to be mobilised in order to facilitate the preparation of truly comparative and policy-relevant research projects. Regional and sub-regional meetings of MOST National Liaison Committees should be organised.
3. Further regional and sub-regional meetings fostering the preparation of project proposals are to be organised in particular in the regions where they have not yet taken place. The participation of members of the IGC, SSC, funding agencies, decision-makers, representatives of other regions in these meetings is to be encouraged.
4. The promoters of national and bi-lateral projects on the MOST topics are to be asked to combine their efforts in developing larger projects, by integrating their projects into existing larger projects. The Secretariat is requested to help the teams to find proper partners, particularly for launching inter-regional South-South projects.
5. The MOST Secretariat has to set strict deadlines for submitting project proposals to the meetings of the Scientific Steering Committee, After each of its meetings the SSC should report to the IGC the list of the projects submitted and approved by themes and countries.
6. MOST is to make a special effort to strengthen social scientific networks in countries where they are not sufficiently developed. Attention is to be paid to the training of social

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scientists, in particular from priority groups such as young researchers, women researchers, and researchers from the least developed and transition countries, by organizing special courses or integrating them in research projects.

7. The co-operation of the MOST Programme with other programmes of UNESCO, other UN agencies and international organisations is to be strengthened,

8. The MOST Programme should play an important role in the implementation of the major United Nations Conferences and Summits on sustainable development, population, human habitat, and especially the World Summit for Social Development, in as far as the fight against social exclusion and the eradication of poverty are concerned (including the 146 EX Decision 5.2.5).

9. The Director-General is invited to mobilise the relevant units of the Secretariat and particularly BER to raise adequate extra-budgetary resources for the MOST Programme from public and private as well as from national, regional and international funding agencies.

10. The Member States are invited to include the research on management of social transformations among their priority research areas and to consider the possibility of allocating adequate resources for the support of MOST-related research. In industrialized countries the same procedure may be considered in the development co-operation budget in order that support be provided to research networks from developing countries participating in MOST projects.

11. A Special Account for MOST is to be established at UNESCO, to be replenished by voluntary contributions for MOST activities.

12. The General Conference, at its 28th Session, is invited to allocate the MOST Programme adequate additional funds as indicated in paragraph 33 of the report, to be transferred from the Reserve Fund for Draft Resolutions.

13. It is recommended to the General Conference at its 28th Session that it decides to earmark funds, as indicated in paragraph 34 of the report, specifically for MOST-related activities from the Participation Programme funds allocated to the Major Programme II in the draft 28 C/5 (para. 02503), so that the Member States can introduce requests concerning the activities they wish to undertake in relation to the MOST Programme.

14. Capacity building should continue to be a high priority for the MOST Programme. After making assessments, the clearing house functions of the MOST Programme in developing regions are to be strengthened by utilising electronic communications.

15. Possibilities for establishing MOST postgraduate studies, MOST fellowships and MOST scientific awards are to be explored, Co-operation should be encouraged and strengthened between MOST activities and UNESCO chairs in social sciences and sustainable development.

16. *The International Social Science Journal*, the *MOST Newsletter*, the electronic clearing house of Internet, publications of the MOST Programme and UNESCO, and other information channels are to be used for increasing the visibility of the activities of MOST.

ANNEX II

RESOLUTIONS ADDRESSED FOR ADOPTION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO AT ITS 28TH SESSION

Resolution No. 1

The Intergovernmental Council of the « Management of Social Transformations» (MOST) Programme:

Recalling 146 EX/Decision 4.2, paragraph 26 and 27

Considering the important role that the social and human sciences are called to play in the Member States in the understanding and coping with social and economic issues;

Stressing the importance of the interdisciplinary role of the social and human sciences in UNESCO

Recommends to the General Conference that the identity, autonomy and visibility of the social science programme of UNESCO be strengthened and the budgetary resources allocated to it, and especially to the MOST Programme be increased.

Resolution No. 2

The Intergovernmental Council of the « Management of Social Transformations » (MOST) Programme:

Recalling Resolution 5.2 adopted by the General Conference at its 27th session;

Stressing the fact that the formulation of relevant policies for coping with the current social transformations in the world can be enhanced by a sound social scientific knowledge base;

Considering the very important role that the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme is called to play in this field and the successful launching and promotion of the Programme;

Recognising that the resources currently attributed to the MOST Programme, in the draft Programme and Budget for 1996-1997 (28 C/5, Major Programme II) are far from being adequate for activities proposed by Member States;

Recommends to the General Conference, at its 28th session, to affect to the MOST Programme adequate additional funds to be transferred from the Reserve Fund for Draft Resolutions.

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Resolution No. 3

The Intergovernmental Council of the « Management of Social Transformations » (MOST) Programme:

Recalling Resolution 5.2 adopted by the General Conference at its 27th session;

Stressing the fact that the formulation of relevant policies for coping with the current social transformations in the world can be enhanced by a sound social scientific knowledge base;

Considering the very important role that the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme is called to play in this field and the successful launching and promotion of the Programme;

Recognising that the development of the MOST Programme requires the active participation and support of the Member States;

Recommends to the General Conference, at its 28th session, the establishment in UNESCO of a MOST Special Account, to be replenished by voluntary contributions towards MOST activities.

Resolution No. 4

The Intergovernmental Council of the « Management of Social Transformations » (MOST) Programme:

Recalling Resolution 5.2 adopted by the General Conference at its 27th session;

Stressing the fact that the formulation of relevant policies for coping with the current social transformations in the world can be enhanced by a sound social scientific knowledge base;

Considering the very important role that the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme is called to play in this field and the successful launching and promotion of the Programme;

Recognising that the objectives of the MOST Programme can only be attained through the multiplication of activities initiated by the Member States and particularly the MOST National Liaison Committees;

Recommends to the General Conference, at its 28th session that it decides to earmark an adequate sum specifically for MOST-related activities from the Participation Programme finds allocated to the Major Programme II in the draft 28 C/5 (para. 02503), so that the Member States introduce requests concerning the activities they wish to undertake in relation to the MOST Programme.

ANNEX III

**ADDRESS BY MR FEDERICO MAYOR, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
at the opening of the Second Session of the
Intergovernmental Council of MOST -3 July 1995**

Mr President,

Distinguished members of the Intergovernmental Council,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is was in March last year that we were gathered together here to launch the new UNESCO programme on the Management of Social Transformations which the General Conference had approved at its 27th Session in November 1993.

I am pleased to welcome you again to UNESCO House for this second session of the Intergovernmental Council of MOST.

In the short period that the MOST programme has been in existence, it has received strong support from many Member States of the Organization and the scientific community at large. I believe the reason for this is to be found in the growing awareness of the need for better sharing of knowledge in order to cope with the vast problems and challenges that confront the international community today.

UNESCO's international programme on the Management of Social Transformations is designed to provide a mechanism for fostering comparative, multi-cultural and trans-disciplinary research on a range of important contemporary issues with a particular focus in three areas: "management of multi-ethnic and multi-cultural societies"; "cities as arenas of social transformations", and "interactions between local and global forces".

The MOST programme seeks to promote analyses that are policy-relevant. Additionally, it seeks to ensure that the results of such work are disseminated to a wide range of end-users including key decision-makers, relevant communities and social groups.

The MOST programme can provide new insights for public policy: on how societies can foster more peaceful methods of coping with emerging conflicts; on furthering social cohesion; on fashioning non-violent mechanisms for bringing about change, In so doing, it can contribute to the creation of a favourable environment for the promotion of equity and social justice, democratic governance, and a culture of peace.

The justifications which led the General Conference to establish the MOST programme become stronger by the day. The increased interconnectedness of the world economy, integration of financial markets and impact of new technologies pose serious challenges for all nations. The situation is particularly acute for the less-industrialised countries of the world, who must compete in the global market-place according to the prevailing "rules of the game". The social sciences at UNESCO and elsewhere have an important role to play in helping societies to cope with, adapt to, or manage, the transformations brought about by the quickening pace of globalisation.

Globalisation is a phenomenon with a particularly critical impact on all countries, But what are the differential effects of this process on the societies and economies of the different countries and regions of the world? The social sciences at UNESCO and the MOST programme in particular can help unravel some of the complex issues involved, thus assisting different societies in discovering their own “comparative advantage” in the ever changing world situation.

The MOST programmers theme “*Coping locally and regionally with economic, technological and environmental transformations*” is meant to focus attention on a whole range of policy questions: What, for example, is the social impact of economic restructuring? What are the effects of globalisation on industrial competitiveness and on sustainable growth? What are the human resources implications? What is the role of universities and specialised research centres given the importance of “research and development” (R&D) as key elements in innovation in industry and in other areas? Last but not least, what are the challenges and threats associated with the social transformations arising from increased globalisation? How might such challenges influence relations among nation-states?

I want to insist on the need not only to analyse existing situations but also to anticipate. In a period of such widespread and fundamental change this is essential. We also need to be conscious that the need is not only for diagnosis but for correct and timely treatment, particularly in such areas as urban transport that require very imaginative solutions. Such solutions could be linked to measures to effect the transition from war industries to peace industries - and in the case of transport could involve the development of aqua-routes.

The Club of Lisbon has recently reflected very pertinently on the limits to competitiveness. We need to remember the many recent warnings about the scale and spread of electronic financial flows beyond the reach of national and perhaps international control. We face saturated markets without the creation of new ones because of a lack of a global strategy. At the same time many conflicts have their origin in social inequalities that are not only international, but also social inequalities within nations.

On cultural issues, transfrontier approaches are the only way of arriving at appropriate solutions.

At the same time, it is important that questions of biological and cultural diversity are addressed with tailor-made solutions instead of the ready-made solutions that are so often and inadequately applied.

If we today still find ourselves confronted by the whole range of problems, it is because new solutions have not been found or because old solutions have not been applied.

We today see more clearly than ever the limits to political decision-making at the national level. It is also clear that many decisions —I am today thinking particularly of those that can have an impact on the environment at the global level —cannot be taken without thorough consultations with the scientific community. Today the nations must take into account that they are deciding on issues that have a global impact and the responsibility is a global one.

Our greatest need at the present moment is a better sharing of all kinds of resources, not least the sharing of work time so as to create a new relationship between employment and leisure.

While we strive to grapple with the emerging new realities, we must also attempt to address age-old challenges. In all countries now, there is renewed pressure to find innovative and more lasting solutions to the fundamental social and economic problems which afflict all societies to varying degrees: how to generate more productive employment; how to raise incomes and alleviate poverty; how to foster social integration and counter marginalisation and social exclusion; how to improve the living conditions in urban and rural areas

The management of social transformations must go to the roots of the problems we face — for example, poverty and rural emigration. And when I talk of society I include civil and military society which must be part of a joint response to the problems of our time. MOST must also be concerned with nation-building, which is a new modality of action for UNESCO — helping in the emergence of new nations with the participation of lawyers, judges, engineers and economists.

Our era is particularly characterized by the claims of various national, cultural, ethnic and political entities to greater recognition and more responsive government. At the same time, rapid urbanisation, especially in the larger countries of the developing world, has created entirely new and demanding problems of governance, such as coping with demographic growth, planning the delivery of basic services and infrastructure, lessening the potential for conflict, and fostering a climate of social cohesion. Two other thematic areas of the MOST programme, “Management of change in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies” and “Cities as arenas of accelerated social transformations” focus attention on these particular issues.

The urgency of all these questions was underlined by the recent World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. The Summit called for fresh approaches in tackling the complex and interrelated problems of poverty and population growth which stand in the way of developing countries achieving the goal of sustainable development. In my contribution to these deliberations, I reiterated that there can be little hope for genuine growth in these countries unless it is self-sustained in the sense of being based on the development of endogenous capacities rooted in the unique identity and creativity of each people and culture. There is much that the rich nations can and must do to help the poorer ones — such as the liberalisation of world markets, alleviation of the debt burden, increased developed assistance and greater funding for programme of social development. But the central function of international development assistance is an enabling one — helping the developing countries to help themselves. This is so well summed up in English in the word “empowerment”.

Crucial in this respect is the transfer and sharing of knowledge: knowledge on how to eliminate the greatest obstacle to development — illiteracy; knowledge of how to improve education systems in an age where the key issues are intelligence, creativity and adaptability; knowledge needed to protect the environment and master the phenomenon of population growth; knowledge to grant everybody access to science and technology while stemming brain drain; knowledge to strengthen communication capacities and facilitate the circulation of information; knowledge to foster mutual respect and tolerance, democratic participation and awareness of human rights.

Capacity-building in the areas of social transformation to which I have referred is one of the main concerns of your programme. The strategy that the programme has adopted places a strong emphasis on collaborative endeavour: on involving concerned scholars and institutions, policy makers and representatives of society. This approach is intended to facilitate the consideration of alternative perspectives and world views in responding to different needs or priorities or in forging public policy in relevant domains.

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Regional consultations, technical meetings and specialised networks of researchers constitute an important part of this strategy. Several thematic meetings organized in the past year have covered a number of important subjects, such as policy approaches towards countering social exclusion and engendering social cohesion. Regional meetings have been held for Central Asian countries (in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in October 1994), for South and South-east Asia (in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 1994), for Latin America (in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 1995), for the Pacific countries (in Sydney, Australia, in April 1995), and for Central and Eastern Europe (in Budapest, Hungary, in May 1995). The regional meetings for Sub-Saharan African countries and for the Arab States are planned later this year. The meeting for the English-speaking Caribbean States is scheduled for early next year.

An important part of the MOST programme is its "clearing-house" function. This element of the programme is intended to facilitate institutional co-operation and capacity-building through training, the sharing of documentation and materials, and networking. The programme has completed a feasibility study which has provided some ideas on how the MOST Clearing-house might be networked and electronically-linked with four or five major urban research centres during an experimental phase. Two international urban research networks (PIR-VILLES and CERESI) have agreed to contribute to a project, in which four or five urban study institutes will be interconnected in order to give wide access to their scientific information. Participating institutions will be selected from different countries on the PIR-VILLES network,

Having said all this, MOST, and this must be very important in your deliberations, must not have any model or frame other than the principles embodied in UNESCO's Constitution — justice, freedom, equality and solidarity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

When I addressed this Intergovernmental Council at its first session in March last year, I expressed my satisfaction at the establishment of an international social science programme, similar to the international programmes in the natural sciences already functioning in UNESCO for many years, I commended the Member States for perceiving the value of the programme and for supporting it from the outset, I wish to do so again today.

The true measure of the value that Member States attach to this programme must be their participation in it, as well as the resources that they allocate to it. A number of countries have already provided invaluable financial and other support to MOST. I wish to express my deep appreciation to all of them for this. I wish also to note the growing number of countries that are setting up National MOST Liaison Committees to foster activity related to the programme. Such an interest is the foremost asset of MOST. As a global organization, UNESCO derives essential sustenance from its roots in national cultural and scientific communities,

Our task, your task, is to build on this support and involvement. I do not doubt that this question will beat the top of your agenda at this meeting.

Mr. President,

We are at a crucial turning point of multiple transitions and few certainties. We must invent or rediscover — returning to essentials — an important part of our future. Our common future is our greatest wealth, still intact, to be shared better than we have done in the past. It is a future in which we must, above all, honour our promise of 50 years ago, when, in the United Nations Charter, we the people resolved to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. This, indeed, is the only real transition: from a prevailing culture of war, to a culture of peace, of dialogue, of justice, of real freedom, to a culture of genuine democracy,

Thank you.

ANNEX IV

KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

by Neil J. Smelser, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences

Mr. President,
Madam Assistant Director-General,
Members of the Intergovernmental Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a special honour for me to appear before you today, and to develop a few ideas on your most important topic of social transformations. The honour is all the greater, knowing that I am speaking in the shadow of my fellow sociologist and friend, Alain Touraine, who addressed you on this occasion and on this topic one year ago. He is a very difficult act to follow, and I hope I am up to the task.

I read over Professor Touraine's remarks before beginning to prepare my own. I must say that his message was very alarming and, by my reading, very pessimistic. He spoke of "the end of the mobilizing State", and "a prodigious increase in anomie"; he asserted that "institutions of all types are falling apart", and that we live in a world "on the brink of world-wide civil war". He traced these circumstances to the weakening of political controls and the new triumph of individualism in culture and politics. I can only say that, after reading his diagnosis, I am thankful to be here today and to know that we have survived for one more year in a world that we still recognize.

To be less flippant, I should say that my remarks today will be less alarmist — but only relatively so — than Professor Touraine's. I will agree with some of the changes he posited. However, my views will be less dramatic in that I will stress more the processes of shifting, coping, and adaptation on the part of national states — rather than their outright eclipse. As a result, my message will be less pessimistic than his, but by no means optimistic, either.

What I want to do is to give you my views on how vast transformations of the sort that Professor Touraine identified come about. My idea is that they develop out of nations' individual and collective, relatively short-term reactions to their immediate economic and political environments, without very much consideration of their long-term consequences. The longer-term transformations — even revolutions — are most often the unanticipated accumulations of the precipitates of these shorter-term reactions. To put my argument in its most simplified form, the cosmic arises from the hum-drum. Reactions to events, situations, and crises, discrete in themselves, accumulate in unexpected ways to constitute global changes in the environments of nations. This is not as dramatic a theory as you might want to hear, but I hope to convince you that it is a realistic one.

To illustrate this point of view in a short time will not be easy, and my case will necessarily be developed inadequately. I will proceed by three states: to sketch some pulsations of history that have confronted Western Europe and the United States since World War II; to illustrate how economic and national actors have reacted to this changing panorama; and then, to sketch the most central of these world transformations that have emerged from the process.

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Irregular Periodicity Since World War II

If we look at the contemporary history of the world on a year-by-year basis, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the world moves in fits and starts, in cycles if not phases, with crises and impending crises, and in short-term adaptive efforts on the part of actors to deal with these shorter-term situational challenges. In fact, the story of world economic, political, and social strategies is best read as a parade of adaptations which are not especially oriented to the long run.

To put some flesh on this perspective, let me review some five identifiable cycles that have evidently affected both Europe and North America — and, wily-nilly, the rest of the world. The phases are simultaneously economic, political, military, and cultural in character, and can be summarized as follows:

. The aftermath of World War II, 1945-51. While the United States, Japan, and Britain were economically taxed by the War, their economic infrastructures were relatively unaffected when compared with the cases of Germany, France, Italy, and Russia. As a result, the recovery of the former in these years was smoother than the latter. Much of Europe emerged from this phase when the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine took hold and when the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union became a reality in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The “equilibrium” that emerged in the very early 1950s was, in the largest part, the outcome of strategic, self-interested efforts on the part of the United States to save Western Europe from what it perceived as Soviet designs and to strengthen it economically, and the parallel efforts on the part of the Soviet Union to maximize its political and military advantages in the area.

● Growth and welfare, early 1950s to late 1960s. With variations in timing, this phase was characterized by steady and reasonably rapid economic growth, near-fill employment, rising real wages and standards of consumption; government intervention through monetary and fiscal policies; the development of welfare systems and some socialist experiments (especially in Britain); relative political stability on the domestic fronts; and the domination of the American dollar and the American economy. Only in Italy and France did the militant left remain a significant force,

● A confused transition, 1969-73. This marked an abrupt slowing of economic growth, initially in the United States, but shortly thereafter in Europe; the collapse of the Breton Woods system, and the introduction of greater instability in the international monetary system; the action by the OPEC countries in abruptly raising the price of oil, which created a shock to the energy system of the entire world and underscored the fact that the American economy, while still the dominant force in the world system, was vulnerable.

● Slowdown, 1970s and 1980s. This longish phase produced slowed rates of economic growth with “stagflation”, stagnation of the rise of real incomes, and a long-term regressive movement in the distribution of incomes. Throughout Europe the showing of growth also meant a slowing of the development of progressive-redistributional-welfare policies, and an augmentation of class- and status-protection politics, including the strengthening of the right, notably in the United States and

Britain, but also in continental Europe. America's control of the market further weakened, both through the acceleration of unification in Europe, the growing power of Japan, and the emergence of the Asian "gang of four", The American share of the world's economic activity, standing at 45 per cent of the world's total in the immediate post-war period to approximately 25 per cent as of 1990.

. The final phase, marked by the end of communism and the economic empire, is little comprehended in its entirety as yet. It has been marked by an increasing economic interdependence in the world, but at the same time by at least the temporary exodus of the former Soviet Union as an economic force. German unification promised a new phase of bold German activity and domination in Eastern Europe, soured somewhat, however, by the high cost of unification and the development of economic/political uncertainties in the new Germany. The economic fortunes of the United States have been further shaken by a prolonged recession, as have Japan's,

Running along with these economic-political transitions — sometimes in parallel, sometimes in counterpoint — was a drama of international military and political developments. After a period of initial uncertainty about the international alignment of countries like Greece and Turkey (and perhaps even Italy and France, with the strong surge of communist sentiments after the war), the world settled into a long period of relative but unhappy stability associated with the cold war, the consolidation of NATO and the Warsaw pact, I mentioned relative stability, but we should not forget the explosiveness of the anti-Western hysteria in the Soviet Union and the anti-Communist hysteria in the United States, each backed by the menace of a nuclear holocaust; and we should not forget the ambivalence in both Western Europe and Eastern Europe about their affiliation with the American-dominated continuous confrontation with the East. The 1980s, of course, were marked by the rapid acceleration of the arms race by the Americans, which, it can be argued, was one of the main forces that led to the collapse of the Soviet system, That arms race was an extravagant but barely affordable phase for the Americans but proved to be a disaster for the Soviet economy.

With the Soviet military and political collapse, the century is ending in a military situation that is slightly reminiscent of the immediate post-war period, with the United States the major nuclear superpower, but with the proliferation issue unstable. Also, continuing ambivalence toward military adventurism — bred by the Vietnam disaster — still prevails in the United States. More generally, the end of the military/political threat from the Soviet bloc has constituted both a tremendous relief and a kind of political crisis for Western Europe and the United States, now confronted with a situation of uncertainty and diminished motivation for collectively co-ordinated military/political action *and* economic action.

One could trace a *cultural* thread to this symphony as well, with the cultural calm of the 1950s and early 1960s giving rise to a great turbulence by the events of the late 1960s, and the seemingly chaotic multiplication of cultural movements — the "new social movements" based on sub-national ethnic, gender, region, life-style, and other groups, Notable also was the intellectual and political discrediting of Marxism, more in Eastern than in Western Europe, and more in Western Europe than the United States,

So much for a thumbnail sketch of the complicated pulsations of economics, politics, and culture affecting Western Europe and the United States since World War II. If time permitted, I would go deeper, and trace out year-by-year and month-by-month vicissitudes. But I want to make the following, most general point about them. *The trends have resulted*

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from the actions of nations and groups of nations, and they have constituted the situational context for the further actions of nations. At the same time, they have resulted in translational trends, some of which were not anticipated because the result from the accumulation of results of discretely-taken actions of hundreds of only partially connected actors.

How are national actions taken, and what are their likely collective consequences? I answer this question only by illustration, but I believe that you will be able to appreciate the general import of my argument,

Illustration N°1: Changes in world economic patterns. There has been a general increase in the pattern of international economic interdependence during the past three decades, revealing a thirty-fold increase in volume of world trade. The same decades have seen a remarkable redistribution of economic activity throughout the world. One of the main mechanisms — appearing visibly as early as the late 1970s — was the shifting of physical capital abroad from countries like West Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The immediate occasion was the picture of relatively slow growth and low returns on capital in these countries — associated with the stagflation and economic slowdown of the advanced countries and with the promise of cheap labour costs and other factors that offset increased transportation and other costs. This accelerating development had at least two ranges of consequences:

. A hastening of the movement of industrial production to “non-developed” countries. By now the richest countries in the world are no longer the industrial ones, and the leaders in manufacturing export are Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Brazil, and Mexico. Manufacturing has surpassed agriculture as the major economic sector in many Third World countries.

. An increase of domestic economic disruptions in some of the developing countries — unemployment, shifts in male and female employment, the undermining of trade union power, pressure toward regression of the distribution of income, and the reconfiguration of whole towns and regions. These kinds of repercussions, of course, constitute important changes in the *internal* political environments of those countries, and pose serious adaptive problems for their governments.

Illustration N°2: European unity. Two of the developments that strengthened the disposition of member countries of the European Union to move forward with common monetary and other policies in the 1980s, were (a) their cognizance of diminished economic growth and higher unemployment in their own countries, and (b) a familiarity with the economic reality that the percentage of their gross national product reflected in exports to one another was already increasing dramatically. The strengthening of the European Union was an outcome of a converging consensus on the part of these commonly-affected countries. Once strengthened, however, the European Union becomes a new and more significant part of the environment of the member nations, and not always to the liking of all of them.

Illustration N°3: The world-wide spread of television, including coverage by satellite, virtually undermines the capacity of any nation to keep secret its sources of domestic political instability (uprising in Tiananmen Square, exodus of East Germans, political massacre in Romania, starvation and civil strife in Somalia). The possibilities of instantaneous coverage creates two problems for nations: (1) to bring the affected nation immediately into the court of

world — or, perhaps better, world press — opinion, and (2) to provide potential and political “ammunition” for aspiring groups in all countries exposed to the media coverage, likely complicating political problems in those countries,

Several qualifying points on these kinds of illustrations are in order: (1) Some — but a decreasing number — nations remain relatively insulated from changing trends, threats, and opportunities on the world scene; (2) external situations and events are always “filtered” through the distinctive histories of nations affects; for example, the reception of new immigrant groups in the United States in the 1970s and 1980s was a qualitatively different kind of experience in that country than was the reception of immigrants into Britain, Scandinavia, and Germany, The United States had already had one-and-one-half centuries of receiving and assimilating masses of foreign immigrants, and had geared many of its institutions to this process, whereas the European countries mentioned had experienced a degree of ethnic homogeneity — and a lack of experience in assimilating ethnic outsiders.

World-wide Transformations

From this eternal process of thousands of multiple and interactive adaptations — economic agents, nations and groups of nations taking actions, other agents and nations reacting, new structures being formed, new international environments being created, there arise very general trends that constitute the great world transformations of our time. I will identify ***four*** such transformations, which I consider to be the most important in our contemporary world. Even more interesting are some ***relationships among the four transformations***. To list them briefly:

The Continuing Revolution in Economic Growth: Merely because the impetus to economic growth has been with us for two centuries does not mean that it is not still one of the most profound forces in the contemporary world. All appear to aspire to it — the developed economic powers to protect their position, the newly-industrialized countries to catch up, the Third World countries to break from their economic entrapment, and the world’s economic and political leaders to preserve their positions of stability and profit. The aegis for its resurgence have been the increasing dominance of ***market-based international capitalism***, and the eclipse if not collapse of alternatives to that dominance — traditionalism, communism, socialism, and imaginative Third World alternatives.

The Continuing Democratic Revolution: Also centuries old, the democratic impulse has accelerated since the mid-1970s, affecting dozens of nations throughout the world, constituting one of the major forces contributing to the collapse of the Eastern socialist bloc and threatening the regime in China. The revolution has been only partially successful, with evidences of failures in civil society and backsliding into authoritarianism. However, this has not diminished the force of the democratic impulse, and nothing seems to be visible on the horizon that will slow its progress.

The Revolution in Solidarity and Identity: This is an integrative revolution, the reassertion of sub-national ***groups and movements*** — and movements — groups based on region, religion, race, ethnicity, language, gender, and life-styles, and movements pressing for rights of those groups or advocating causes such as peace or anti-nuclear policies. This group impulse appears throughout the world. It has come to compete with ***social class*** as a focus of organization and loyalty, and these groups and movements frequently represent themselves as solidary forces opposed to the nation-state.

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The Environmental Revolution: This revolution has a double aspect, The first involves the destruction of the natural world in which we live; the second involves the mobilization of consciousness, efforts, and policies designed to stem that destruction of some kind of “sustainable” equilibrium between humanity’s domination of the natural world and its tendency to spoil, exhaust, or destroy it.

I have argued that there is at least one continuity in all these movements — namely to give a high premium to *human agency*, and in this respect my view is close to, but somewhat different from, Alain Touraine’s emphasis on individuation. At the same time the four trends, taken together, manifest some notable contradictions as well:

- One long-standing and familiar contradiction: the tendency for the victorious surge of international capitalism to perpetuate if not worsen extreme inequality among classes and groups within nations and extreme inequality among nations. Though Marx is now out of vogue throughout much of the world, this aspect of Marxist thought *should not* be out of vogue,
- The victory of the international impulse is not complete. To take one example, national-based capital now sometimes finds itself in alliance with national-based labour to constitute a political force against the internationalization of production, To choose another example, many of the former socialist countries formally embrace wage labour, the market system, and consumerism, but still favour socialist-type guarantees that reduce the risks and inequalities that have always accompanied market capitalism.
- The first three revolutions undermine the nation-state in various ways, National leaders have less control over the economies and the distribution of wealth within it, because they cannot and do not control the strategies and consequences of international capitalism. The impulse toward political democracy is inevitably accompanied by rising and less manageable expectations on the part of the citizenry aspiring to or experiencing it. And sub-national cultural movements compete for loyalty with the state and often place “non-negotiable” demands on the state.
- All of the first three trends — and the contradictions they create — point in directions that run contrary to the environmental survival of the human race in the long run, and conspire to make the environmental revolution the weakest of the four.

Such are some of the great transformations of our time, and, as such, they promise to continue as the great determining forces of the future. I hope I have been able to shed some light on the origins of such transformations, I hope, also, that you will appreciate the fact that I have avoided such simplified assertions as “the death of the nation-state”, and “the tribalization of the world”. Such phrases make good headline copy, but they fail, I believe, to capture the complex and multi-level processes that are shaping the great transformations that the world is experiencing. I should add, as a final thought that we clearly require this kind of detailed and concrete understanding of the processes underlying the grand world revolutions if we are to control them and avert the potentially disastrous consequences of their contradictions.

ANNEX V

AGENDA AND TIME-TABLE

Monday, 3 July

- 9:00 Meeting of the Bureau
- 10:00 Opening session
- Welcome by the Director-General
Welcome by the President of the IGC
Adoption of the Agenda
Establishment of a Drafting Group
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11:15 Keynote address - 'Social Transformations' by Professor Neil Smelser
- Discussion
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 *Joint session of the Scientific Steering Committee and the Intergovernmental Council of MOST, presentation of the Report of the SSC, discussion on the thematic development*
- 16:15 Coffee break
- 16:45-18:00 Continuation of the discussion
- 18:30 Reception

Tuesday, 4 July

- 9:00 Meeting of the Bureau
- 10:00 Report by the MOST Secretariat
- Overview of activities
Planned activities
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 Regional research and policy issues
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Continuation of the discussion
- 16:15 Coffee break
- 16:45-18:00 Capacity building and Clearing House functions of MOST

Wednesday, 5 July

- 9:00 Meeting of the Bureau

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- 10:00 Follow-up of the Social Summit - Policy research towards the eradication of poverty, by Dr Ponna Wignaraja
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:30 Follow-up of the Social Summit - Discussion
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Funding strategy; Participation programme
- 16:15 Coffee break
- 16:45-18:00 National Liaison Committees - Activities in Member States, associated programmes and projects

Thursday, 6 July

- 10:00-13:00 Meeting of the Bureau and Drafting Group
- 13:00-18:00 No plenary meeting

Friday, 7 July

- 9:00 Meeting of the Bureau
- 10:00 Discussion of draft report and recommendations
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:30 Closing session
- Adoption of report to the General Conference
Adoption of recommendations
- 13:00 Closure of the meeting.

ANNEX/ANNEXE/ANEXO VI

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/LISTE DES PARTICIPANT/LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

**I. Members of the Intergovernmental Council for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST)
Programme / Membres du Conseil intergouvernemental du Programme « Gestion des transformations sociales » (MOST) / / Miembros del Consejo Intergubernamental del Programa « Gestión de las Transformaciones Sociales » (MOST)**

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4. International Non-Governmental Organizations / Organisations internationales non gouvernementales / Organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales

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