

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
(COMESA)**

**AND**

**THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**

**UNESCO Headquarters  
Paris, 30 September 2005**



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
(COMESA)**

**AND**

**THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (hereinafter referred to as COMESA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as UNESCO),

Considering that COMESA was established in order, *inter alia*, to give effect to the desire of its Member states for economic, cultural, political and social integration in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Treaty establishing the COMESA, to promote peace, stability and security in the COMESA region, and to foster joint efforts in the region to secure the integration of its States and its peoples,

Considering, that UNESCO has a constitutional mission to advance, through the educational, the scientific, and the cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of humankind for which the United Nations was established and which its Charter proclaims,

Desirous of coordinating their respective efforts in pursuit of the goals which are shared between them, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty of COMESA and the Constitution of UNESCO,

Having regard to 172 EX/Decision 46, adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 172<sup>nd</sup> session,

Having regard to the Treaty of COMESA on its Article 181 which stipulates that COMESA shall accord special importance to cooperation with the United Nations system,

Have agreed as follows:



## **Article I**

### **Cooperation**

1. UNESCO and COMESA shall establish between them mutual cooperation ties through the bodies competent for that purpose.
2. Such cooperation shall encompass any matter pertaining to the field of education, science, culture and communication concerning such similar tasks and activities as both organizations may pursue.

## **Article II**

### **Consultation**

1. The competent bodies of both organizations shall consult each other regularly on all matters mentioned in Article I which are of common interest.
2. When circumstances so require, both organizations shall hold special consultations in order to determine the most appropriate means of optimizing the effectiveness of their respective activities in fields of common interest.
3. COMESA shall inform UNESCO of any of its programme activities which may be of interest to the Member States of UNESCO. COMESA shall study any proposal submitted to it by UNESCO in such areas with a view to coordinating efforts between the two organizations.
4. UNESCO shall inform COMESA of any of its programme activities which may be of interest to the Member States of COMESA. UNESCO shall study any proposal submitted to it by COMESA in such areas with a view to coordinating efforts between the two organizations.

## **Article III**

### **Reciprocal Representation**

1. UNESCO may invite COMESA to attend as observer the General Conference of UNESCO and meetings of the Executive Board whenever matters of common interest are discussed.
2. COMESA may invite UNESCO to attend as observer the Policy Organs Meetings and the Summit of the Heads of State and Government whenever matters of common interest are discussed.



3. Appropriate arrangements shall be made by agreement between the Secretary-General of COMESA and the Director-General of UNESCO to ensure the reciprocal representation of COMESA and UNESCO at other meetings convened under their respective auspices and which deal with matters of interests to the other organizations.

#### **Article IV**

##### **Joint COMESA/UNESCO commissions**

1. COMESA and UNESCO may refer to a joint commission any matter of common interest which may be deemed appropriate for reference thereto.
2. Any joint commission of this kind shall be composed of representatives appointed by both organizations, individually, the number to be appointed by each being determined by agreement between them.
3. The joint commission shall meet every two years and whenever deemed appropriate or necessary by both organizations. The reports of the joint commission shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of COMESA and to the Director-General of UNESCO.

#### **Article V**

##### **Exchange of information and documents**

Subject to such measures as may be necessary to protect the confidentiality of particular documents, UNESCO and COMESA shall exchange information and documents on all matters recognized by both organizations as being of common interest.

#### **Article VI**

##### **Execution of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The Secretary-General of COMESA and the Director-General of UNESCO shall, for the purpose of executing this Memorandum of Understanding, enter into any such additional arrangements as may prove desirable, in the light of experience.

#### **Article VII**

##### **Review and termination**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual written consent of both parties.



2. Either of the parties may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months' written notice to the other party. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be without prejudice to the normal execution and completion of any projects or programmes under way.

### Article VIII

#### Entry into force

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon approval by the respective competent organs of both organizations and signature by the Secretary-General of COMESA and the Director-General of UNESCO.

This Memorandum of Understanding is produced in two original texts in the English language, both being equally authentic.

Done in Paris on 30 September 2005.

For the Common Market for Eastern  
and Southern Africa



Erastus J.O. Mwencha  
The Secretary-General

For the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization



Koïchiro Matsuura  
The Director-General