

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

**“Youth Voices  
against Racism”**

**INTERVIEW**

**P. F. Casini:  
“No democracy  
without partnership  
between men  
and women”**

**DOSSIER**

**Focus  
on Lebanon**



## Crisis [n.], from the Greek *Krisis* (decision)

When, in the midst of the financial crisis, communities around the world are asked to help financial institutions and stock market speculators, this is called “crisis management”.

But if, at the same time, a bank announces its profits have doubled, recording a capital gain of 2 billion Euros, how do you call this? Some say: “These are the adverse effects of uncontrolled globalization.” Others say: “We have lost our marbles” or: “How many times have you been warned!” And finally, others dare to say: “There are alternatives available.” UNESCO has been saying for a long time now that we must humanize globalization.

In the *Cambridge* dictionary, there are, in fact, several definitions for the word “crisis”. No fewer than a dozen meanings, which all contain the same idea: that of a situation that has reached an extremely difficult or dangerous point; a time of great disagreement, uncertainty or suffering. And it would not be exaggerating to say that the economic crisis, which has reigned since late 2008, has never been felt with more brutal force from North to South. A brutality of awareness and a brutality of consequences.

The urgency is to react. Moreover, doesn't the word “crisis” come from the Greek *Krisis* which means “decision” and refers to the idea of a key moment, forcing us to adopt a specific governance to get out of the state of disorder?

So, given the impact of the global financial crisis, which social policies should be adopted? What action should be taken? There is no miracle solution for 2009. Everyone knows this. It is now a question of breaking down the imaginary. 2009 requires us to be creative. The crisis is also an opportunity. But is “another world possible”, as the World Social Forum claims, the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of which, held in January, in Belem (Brazil), was a great success, bringing together some 133,000 participants, including five Heads of State?

According to the representative of one of the main NGOs involved: “The alternatives proposed can only be implemented in the real world once they have been integrated by the political world. The major obstacle is obviously that these global alternatives involve the overall agreement of all UN Member States.” If there is one positive aspect to the crisis, it is this evidence which is shared by more and more people that we cannot escape from a state of crisis alone. Should it be regretted?

Decomartmentalizing the worlds of science, policy and civil society; linking the proposals that arise with the strategies implemented: these are the challenges, and they are also what UNESCO, through its Social and Human Sciences programme, endeavours to carry out every day, and can be read throughout this issue, to perhaps convince ourselves that hope remains in what the poet Paul Eluard wrote: “There is another world. It is within this one.” ¶



**Pierre Sané**  
Assistant Director-General  
of UNESCO for Social  
and Human Sciences

## Ethics of Science

Ethics is about acting morally and considering risk ..... 3

Ethics of science: mobilization in Africa ..... 4

Ethics and Bioethics: universal concepts? ..... 5

## Human Rights

“Youth Voices against Racism”: from the football field to the European Parliament ..... 6

“Durban II”: UNESCO makes a first assessment ..... 7

Coalition of Canadian cities: Edmonton and Windsor in action ..... 9

Closure of the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ..... 10

**Pier Ferdinando Casini: “No democracy without partnership between men and women”** ..... 12

Meetings in Kenya on violence towards women ..... 14

Caucasian women are invited to become involved in politics ..... 15

Debates on the concept of human security in Cairo and Tashkent ..... 16

## Social Transformations

Forums of Ministers of Development: The crisis on the agenda ..... 17

Africa adopts a social policy framework ..... 18

Market(s), society(ies), and future of mankind ..... 19

Intermediate Towns: a new unesco Chair in Spain ..... 20

Let's give cities a human face! ..... 21

## Dossier



© Jaume d'Urgell i Riera

**Focus on Lebanon** ..... 22-28

Social and Human Sciences within National Commissions for UNESCO.

**Publications** ..... 29

**Readers' forum** ..... 30

**Calendar** ..... 32



To protect the environment, *shsvIEWS* is printed on 80% recycled paper.

*shsvIEWS* is a quarterly newsletter that provides information on the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in the field of social and human sciences. It is also printed in French, and is available in electronic form in Russian and occasionally in Spanish. All language versions are downloadable from the website of the Sector for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO ([www.unesco.org/shs](http://www.unesco.org/shs)).

Articles may be reproduced provided they are accompanied by the words “Reprinted from *shsvIEWS*”, along with the date, number and, where applicable, the name of the author of the article.

© UNESCO, 2009. ISSN 1819-9712.  
Circulation: 10 000 copies

revised edition

**Publication Director:** Pierre Sané  
**Editor in chief:** Cathy Bruno-Capvert  
**Deputy Editor in chief:** Nfaly «Vieux» Savané

**Editorial Board:**  
Mimouna Abderrahmane, Khaled Abu-Hijleh; Elise Auvachez; Kristina Balalovska; Coraline Bardinat; Nicolas Baya-Laffite; Diana Body-Lawson; Saada El Sabri; Kornelia Guse; Imteyaz Khodabux; Vincent Maugis; Maroussia Mbaye; Antoine Pécoud; Malik Samassekou; Chiara Sponzilli and Konstantinos Tararas.

**Iconography and website:** Petra Van Vucht Tijssen  
**English edition:** Carmel Rochet  
**Russian edition:** Alla Ampar

**Graphic design and layout:** Atelier Takavoir  
**Printer:** OTT Imprimeurs, 2009

**Circulation and subscription:** Diana Lawson Body,  
[shs@unesco.org](mailto:shs@unesco.org), tel.: +33 1 45 68 37 81.

Corporate address : UNESCO-SHS/EO/CIP  
15, rue Miollis – 75015 Paris, France.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Ethics is about acting morally and considering risk

Given the rapid change in scientific and technical knowledge, Alain Poupidou, incoming President of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), outlines his priorities and stresses the vital role of ethics of science and technology in informing the choices made by policy-makers at various levels.

## What role can ethics play in response to scientific and technological developments that carry both threats and potential benefits?

Due to the rapid development of knowledge, ethics must ensure a balanced and objective assessment of the risks associated with the results of technological breakthroughs. Ethics needs a multidisciplinary approach, which necessarily involves not only scientists and technicians but also specialists in social and human sciences. The aim is to bring together their concerns through a shared ethical perspective. At the same time, the general public needs impartial and clear explanations, taking into account the different approaches related to cultural identities. In this way, ethics, regarded as a moral perspective on action and as an approach to risk, can enlighten elected representatives and policy-makers at various levels.

## What are the priority areas of work of COMEST in the coming years?

In discussion with the UNESCO Director-General, we have developed a detailed programme of work, involving preparation of the 2009 Ordinary Session; establishment of working methods on the basis of proposals submitted by COMEST members; a priority focus on environmental ethics, emphasizing the social implications of climate change, which will be the subject of a report in 2009; practical content for science ethics through implementation of the 1974 Recommendations on the Status of Scientific Researchers, which will also be the subject of a report in 2009; implementation of recommendations on the ethics of nanotechnology; and, finally, work on information ethics in conjunction with the specialized committees of UNESCO.

We will also continue to monitor and support the development of the ethics of energy policy, ethics education, access to fresh water, proportionate application of the precautionary principle, and ethics of space. We are aware that, because of the globalization of trade and acceleration of knowledge, we live in a rapidly changing world. We therefore also expect to face new challenges that are still difficult to imagine today.

© C. Shirley/FAO



The consequences of climate change are among the priorities of COMEST.



Alain Poupidou  
President of COMEST

© Michel Ravassard/UNESCO

## Your term ends in 2011: what indicators will you rely on to check whether ethics has played its role effectively?

Four indicators seem to me fundamental. First, the personal involvement of members of COMEST, the quality of reports produced, as well as their availability, which the interest shown by the Director-General of UNESCO will bear witness to. Secondly, effective implementation of a code of conduct for researchers on a voluntary basis, of which measurable progress in the teaching of ethics of science and technology at all levels is an essential component.

Another important indicator is optimal management of databases on ethics in particular through the Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs). Finally, ethics of science and technology will not have played its full role in the absence of a new regulatory framework and crisis management capacities. These include the development of foresight indicators and of tools based on impartial and independent thinking, to put ethics at the centre of technological risk management.

Two pitfalls must be avoided: over-regulation, which derives from sometimes unfounded worries, and laxity, which leads to abuses of trust that are unacceptable in democratic societies. ¶

Interview by John Crowley

UNESCO PROGRAMME

# Ethics of science: mobilization in Africa



On the road between Saint-Louis and Dakar, Senegal.

A workshop bringing together academics and experts in ethics education from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo was held from 3 to 5 December 2008 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).

Under the patronage of President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, in collaboration with the Commission of Cote d'Ivoire for UNESCO and the University of Bouaké, a workshop, initiated within the framework of UNESCO's programme on Ethics Education in Sciences, was held in the capital of Cote d'Ivoire, in early December 2008.

The participants from 8 of the 15 member countries of the Economic Community of African States (ECOWAS) assessed the current ethics education programmes in universities in their countries. They also extensively discussed ways of strengthening sub-regional cooperation to ensure better consideration of issues related to ethics and bioethics in the public policies of their countries.

The presentation of a curriculum on ethics at the Bachelor, Master's and PhD levels was an opportunity for discussion and exchange of successful expe-

riences around fundamental questions: At what level of the curriculum should bioethics in medical schools and other schools be introduced? How should the multidisciplinary approach in all schools be better articulated? How should political and academic bodies be made more aware of ethics, and students' associations be mobilized in this sense?

Another important debate focused on the need to give more importance to African culture in teaching modules and research activities, beyond the ethical values conveyed by international instruments. Finally, current issues were also raised and especially waste management, each recalling the scandal of the spill of toxic waste from a tanker chartered by a multinational in August 2006 in Abidjan.

## Establishment of a UNESCO Chair

At the end of the workshop, several recommendations were made:

- strengthening sub-regional cooperation in the education of bioethics and scientific, technological and environmental ethics, in collaboration with UNESCO;
- the establishment of a UNESCO Chair at the University of Bouaké;
- the setting up of a network of experts to promote the exchange of information and expertise between ECOWAS countries;
- training of trainers and raising awareness of state institutions responsible for training;
- the sharing of educational resources through ICT;
- the publishing and distribution of journals in bioethics and ethics;
- raising awareness among politicians, academics and the general public;
- ensuring the independence of national ethics committees.

Showing a real enthusiasm for the Ethics Education Programme of UNESCO, the participants also recommended the strengthening of universities and their gradual integration into vocational and technical education, to train citizens to be respectful of human dignity, human rights, fundamental freedom and the environment. ¶

For more information, please contact: Christophe Dikenou, [kc.dikenou@unesco.org](mailto:kc.dikenou@unesco.org), tel.: +221 33 849 23 04

## Support for the installation of four African Bioethics Committees

Four training workshops on the working methods of bioethics committees will be held in Africa during the first half of 2009. They will be held in Togo on 28 and 29 January, in Ghana, from 29 to 31 January, in Madagascar from 12 to 14 February and, finally, in Guinea, from 6 to 8 April.

Organized under the Assisting Bioethics Committees (ABC) project, launched in 2006 by UNESCO, they aim to help the newly-established committees develop their own working methods and procedures. The aim of these workshops is, in fact, to clarify the role and mission of each committee, to develop straight-forward working methods, to draft rules of procedure and to develop policies for record management, public information and networking. The experiences and best practices of committees already in operation will also be shared. ¶

For more information, please contact: Henk Ten Have, [h.tenhave@unesco.org](mailto:h.tenhave@unesco.org) tel.: + 33 1 45 68 38 14

## "Redbioetica": Congress in Córdoba

More than 300 people from several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the Redbioetica network of UNESCO, held from 12 to 14 November 2008, in Córdoba (Argentina).

Organized by the UNESCO Office in Montevideo and the Department of Bioethics of the Ministry of Health of Córdoba, this conference was an opportunity to review the application in the region of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted by UNESCO in 2005. Made up of 9 round tables, conferences and presentations of independent research projects, the congress brought together, for the first time, all of the UNESCO Chairs in Bioethics in Latin America, to discuss how to strengthen their relations with "Redbioetica" and the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO. ¶

For more information, please contact: Julio Carranza, [j.carranza@unesco.org](mailto:j.carranza@unesco.org), tel.: + 598 2 413 20 75 Website: [www.redbioeticaunesco.org.mx](http://www.redbioeticaunesco.org.mx)

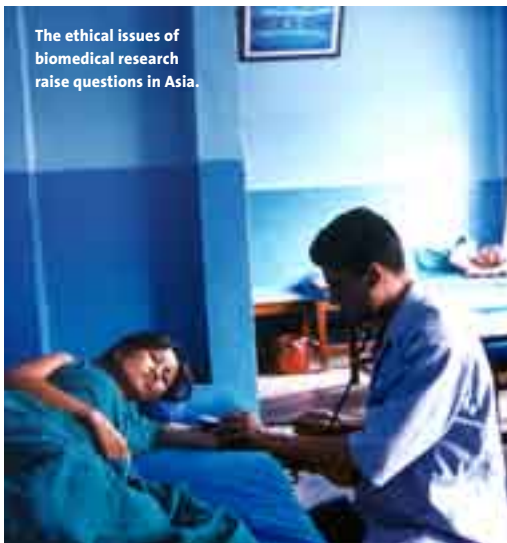
# Ethics and Bioethics: universal concepts?

Two events on ethics and bioethics in Asia and the Pacific, organized within the framework of the commemoration of 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, were an opportunity for researchers to question the universal dimension of these issues and advocate for the establishment of intergenerational and intercultural dialogue.

From 3 to 7 November 2008, the 3<sup>rd</sup> UNESCO Asia-Pacific School of Ethics and Bioethics and the 9<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference on “Bioethics in Asia: a Healthy and Productive Life in Harmony with Nature” were held in Bangkok (Thailand).

These events, organized in collaboration with the Asian Bioethics Association, the Indonesian National Bioethics Commission and the *Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga* were held as part of the commemoration of 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

They provided an opportunity for many academics, mostly Asian, to consider the relationship between universalism and particularism, and in particular on how people and nations with different cultural backgrounds can adopt a text considered by them as “Eurocentric.”



The ethical issues of biomedical research raise questions in Asia.

## Case studies

Comparisons between the different cultural approaches were raised and enriched by examining the issues of bioethics, for example, for Islam. Analysis and detailed case studies on ethical issues in biomedical research – such as the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Bioethics and organ trade – were presented. The example was given of entire villages being involved in such trade without benefitting from the sale.

Detailed discussions also took place on the ethical issues raised by emerging technologies, such as nano and neuro-technologies, as well as on issues relating to human cloning and international governance.

Researchers and students were encouraged to present their research in these areas, while decision-makers were, in turn, invited to reflect on how they envisage the application of research in the implementation and evaluation of public policies.

## An anthropocentric vision

Some of the conclusions of these debates highlighted the need to further study the application of the protection of universal human rights among different cultures, taking into consideration the needs of all generations to live in a healthy environment.

A call to clarify how to balance human rights with environmental ethics was launched, given the tendency to focus on an anthropocentric or egocentric vision of the world.

Hundreds of academics, students and policy-makers from different walks of life called for the establishment of an intergenerational and intercultural dialogue relating to research results in bioethics.

Issues relating to the sharing of knowledge were also discussed, particularly by the Indonesian Minister of Health, who stressed the need to share, without any limit, public health information, particularly in relation to Avian influenza. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Darryl Macer, [d.macer@unesco.org](mailto:d.macer@unesco.org), tel.: + 66 2391 0577, ext. 147

## TOOLS

Four new volumes in the series *Perspectives on Ethics of Science and Technology in Asia and the Pacific* have just been published by the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, each compiling several articles of which the majority were selected during two round tables on bioethics, held in 2005 and 2007 in the region.



*Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Medical Ethics* includes 16 papers on informed consent, ethics committees, communication, organ transplants, traditional medicines and sex selection.  
ISBN 978-92-9223-219-1

*Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Bioethics and Biotechnology* consists of 17 papers on various issues such as the release and development of GMOs, stem cells and cloning, privacy and biobanking.  
ISBN 978-92-9223-220-7



*Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Bioethics Education* includes 33 papers on the state of ethics teaching in universities, the objectives of such teaching and the evaluation and assessment in terms of levels, specialities and situations.  
ISBN 978-92-9223-221-4

*Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Environmental Ethics* is a collection of 13 papers on topics such as water ethics, philosophy, sustainability, semantics, and animal rights.  
ISBN 978-92-9223-218-4 ¶

To download these books (English only):  
[www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=publications](http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=publications)

HUMAN RIGHTS

# “Youth Voices against Racism”: from the football field to the European Parliament

## 10 recommendations

- .....  
Include a non-discrimination clause in the contracts signed by athletes.  
.....
- .....  
Establish prizes for team/club/city where the fans' and players' have racism-free attitudes.  
.....
- .....  
Dissemination of flyers against racism in stadiums.  
.....
- .....  
Print anti-racism slogans on drinks sold in the stadiums.  
.....
- .....  
Use commercial sports' articles to transmit anti-racism messages.  
.....
- .....  
Install giant screens at public sporting events, encouraging supporters to celebrate the event together.  
.....
- .....  
Enforce strict sanctions for teams whose players are responsible for racist incidents.  
.....
- .....  
Launch awareness campaigns in the media, schools etc, and initiate activities with famous athletes.  
.....
- .....  
Organize public multicultural events.  
.....
- .....  
Take measures to enable people from ethnic, religious or other minorities, to practice the sport of their choice.  
.....

After the presentation to the European Parliament of ten recommendations for youth against racism in sport, the “Youth Voices against Racism” project should be even more visible on the occasion of the World Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on 21 March 2009.

Launched in June 2008 by UNESCO, the FC Barcelona and the European Coalition of Cities against Racism, in partnership with the European Parliament, the “Youth Voices against Racism” project encourages young people to fight against all forms of discrimination, by investing themselves solidly in actions carried out by their municipalities and by participating in the development of local public policies.

For several weeks, this initiative has seen an increase in exchange in schools, sports associations, youth councils, or through on-line discussion forums, to gather proposals promoting tolerance, mutual respect and solidarity through sport.

A delegation of five youths, aged 15 to 18, went, on 6 November, to Brussels (Belgium), to submit to Jan Figel, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, ten recommendations resulting from these consultations, one of which one is to include a membership clause for non-discriminatory practices and behaviour in the recruitment contracts for athletes.

### A clause in the contracts of sportsmen

This key event is just the first stage in implementing a project that seems to be acquiring considerable momentum.

Serguei Lazarev, Head of UNESCO’s programme for the fight against discrimination and racism, is very pleased, in the wake of the initiative of the European Parliament, that the President of the FC Barcelona, also Vice-President of the European Association of Football Clubs, has announced his intention to bring to the attention of the latter – numbering 103 members – the recommendation on the implementation of the clause concerning the contracts of players.

“The work that is being done to make this recommendation of youth widespread across Europe is extremely positive,” he says, announcing the preparation of an event

You were a member of the youth delegation that visited the European Parliament. How do you act against racism in your own city?

SELIN KAYHAN, Botkyrka (Sweden)

“In my town, there are, for example, forums where people can discuss with politicians and come up with solutions. In our schools, the municipality organizes sports’ tournaments in which young people from different backgrounds can participate. Botkyrka widely uses sports to bring people together. Broadly speaking, I think, in order to combat racism on the sports fields, it would be best to control the banners that fans bring with them into stadiums. Prizes could also be awarded to the best fans”.

which should give more visibility to this project, on the occasion of World Day against Racism in 2009. UNESCO is working, in effect, together with the Barca, to organize, in Barcelona, a major event before the match between the Catalan team and Malaga, on 22 March 2009.

For the former international footballer, Lilian Thuram, who hung up his football boots in June 2008, and chose to do more in the fight against racism by participating, in particular, in this project, it is necessary to “confront youth on issues of racism, so they are equipped earlier to fight against it”. The former defender believes that there is urgency to break the silence in the fight against racism and says: “I love coming into contact with youth to find out their views on racism. Like many adults in our society, they believe in the reality of races. For them there are the yellow, black, and white races. For fun I tell them that there is a green race!”

Referring to a meeting held with youth football clubs in Brussels on the same day as the initiative at the European Parliament, he said to the question ‘What are the qualities of each race?’ they replied ‘The black race runs and dances well, and the yellow race is intelligent, good in mathematics.’ They have a way of approaching the topic and set ideas on what is specific to each race. They tend to classify people and how they function according to the colour of their skin. ➔



© D.R.

## CONFERENCE

# “Durban II”: UNESCO makes a first assessment

From 20 to 24 April 2009, a major conference will be held in Geneva (Switzerland) to review the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted in 2001 in Durban (South Africa), following the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance.

Held in Durban in 2001, the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference against Racism was a key event in the fight against all forms of discrimination. At the beginning of a new millennium, in a post-apartheid South Africa, it was an opportunity to highlight how xenophobia, racism and intolerance are scourges which are far from being eradicated.

Under the aegis of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, which played the role of Secretariat General of the Conference, a joint declaration and an action plan for 219 items was adopted. The latter was alarmed at “the emergence and persistence of more subtle forms of discrimination”, and urged all actors on the international scene to build a more equitable international order.

One by one, the Durban Plan of Action pointed out the challenges: the recognition of the contribution of migrants to the economic and cultural development of their host countries as well as their countries of origin, equality of rights between men and women, as well as the implementation of public policies supported by reliable statistical data.

The plan stated, very explicitly, the entity most likely to respond to these challenges, among states, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and UN agencies. Less than 10 years later, its implementation will be reviewed from 20 to 24 April 2009, at a conference to be held in Geneva (Switzerland), where UNESCO’s contribution to its implementation will be examined.

Durban had indeed offered the Organization an opportunity to renew and strengthen its fight against discrimination and exclusion, prompting Member States to adopt, in September 2003, a new integrated strategy to fight against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, which, ever since, has been a guide for all the projects developed on this subject.

By identifying – among other priority themes – the development of scientific research and reflection (including

**JULIA DUBIEL, Nuremberg (Germany)**

“For me, racism is expressed not only in sports but also in everyday life. And even if the influence of a town hall on attitudes is limited, it can conduct campaigns, or work with local sports clubs to fight racism. In fact, I believe that there is no miracle solution. We must use the values of sport, such as team spirit, as well as the influence of athletes on the fans. This may have an impact on the atmosphere in the stadiums. Racist behaviour should be penalized more severely, both for the fans and the athletes. More support should be given to sports clubs in their actions, for example through the creation of prizes for those with exemplary behaviour”.

➔ They do not realize that these are concepts that were invented during a specific historical period, including colonization and slavery”.

Thuram added: “The first thing to do is to deconstruct the concept of race because there is only one human species: homo sapiens”.

“The fight against prejudice and all forms of discrimination is at the heart of the partnership that UNESCO has established with the European Coalition of Cities against Racism and the FC Barcelona,” as Sergei Lazarev insists, recalling that “UNESCO has decided to concentrate its efforts on working with municipalities, as they have, in particular, football teams that have an impact on young people and that can relay the message to be passed around”. Thanks to the commitment of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism in this project, no fewer than 82 cities in 17 countries are now involved. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Kornelia Guse or Konstantinos Tararas, [youthvoicesagainstracism@unesco.org](mailto:youthvoicesagainstracism@unesco.org)

## Delegation

Several well-known figures accompanied the young people who brought the 10 recommendations for youth against racism in sport to the European Parliament. Those who were present were: Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Joan Laporta, President of the FC Barcelona, Emine Bozkurt, Euro MP (Netherlands), Hans Hesselmann, Mayor of Nuremberg (Germany) and President of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism, as well as Lilian Thuram, a former international footballer of French nationality. ¶

contemporary forms of racism and discrimination), the development of educational materials, the preservation of the diversity of multicultural societies, and the definition of statistical indicators to measure racism and discrimination, this new strategy clearly recognized the complexity of a fight that must be carried out at different levels.

In charge of the fight against racism at UNESCO, the Sector for Social and Human Sciences – of which one of the priorities is also to strengthen the link between social science research and policy-making – therefore decided to launch, in 2004, an appeal to cities around the world for the establishment of regional coalitions against racism and discrimination.

Taking into account the broadening of the competency of local authorities and their ability to act in the field, this initiative aimed at establishing a network of cities interested in sharing experiences to improve their public policies in the fight against racism.

### “10 Point Action Plan”

Thus, between 2004 and 2008, 6 regional coalitions were established – each of them having its own “10 Point Action Plan” to respond to forms of discrimination specific to each region – and one International Coalition saw the day.

Through this network, new partnerships, at the local and regional levels, were formed, for instance, between the European Coalition and the FC Barcelona Foundation.

A series of studies has also been launched to help, in particular, to define indicators to combat racism more effectively, using local public policies. Research topics, such as discrimination related to HIV/AIDS, are receiving special attention and the participation of young people, both in the research and action, is encouraged. ¶

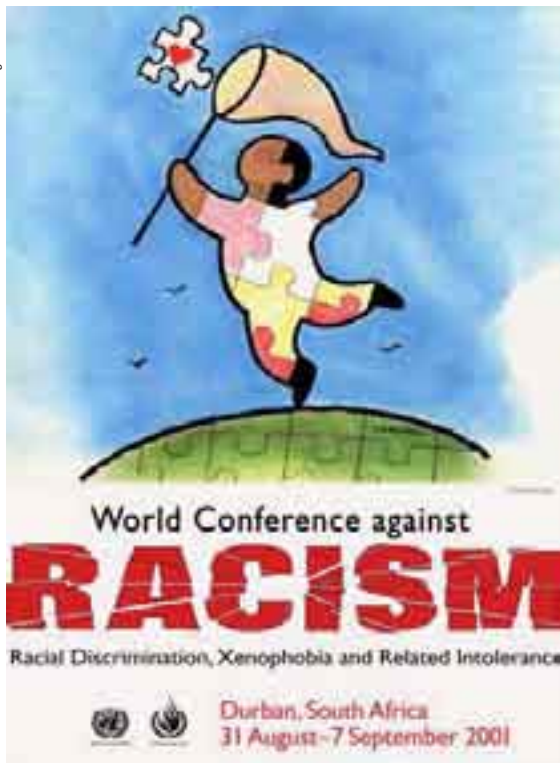
For more information, please contact:  
Serguei Lazarev, [s.lazarev@unesco.org](mailto:s.lazarev@unesco.org), tel.: +33 1 45 68 38 29

## Latin America

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Conference of the Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities against Racism was held from 17 to 19 November 2008, in Santo André (Brazil). From several countries in the region, national and municipal officials, academics, other stakeholders and various interest groups discussed in a series of panels, the main issues and current problems in combating racism, especially in urban areas. The major event of the conference was the presentation of the programme activities of the Coalition for the period 2008–2009, by the city of Montevideo, “leader” of the network. Articulating individual, bilateral and regional initiatives, this programme will implement the 10 points of the Action Plan, adopted by the municipalities who were founders of the coalition in 2006. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Marcello Scarone Azzi, [m.scarone@unesco.org](mailto:m.scarone@unesco.org), tel.: +33 1 45 68 41 96

© All Rights reserved



At the heart of UNESCO’s mandate, the promotion of human rights, equality between men and women, and the dialogue of cultures and civilizations are, in fact, reflected in all programmes of the Organization and have been since the outset.

### Reliable statistical data

But if, since Durban, new approaches to integrate the teaching of human rights and intercultural education in all education systems, for example, have been implemented by the Education Sector, or if projects such as “The Slave Route” developed by the Culture Sector since 1994, continue, it is perhaps in the domain of social and human sciences that UNESCO has been able to respond in a highly innovative manner to the call made at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference against Racism.

The latter strongly urged States to adopt and implement social development policies based on reliable statistical data (item No. 176), insisting, on numerous occasions, on the urgency and the need to define and develop plans of action against racism at all levels.

You were a member of the youth delegation that visited the European Parliament. How do you act against racism in your own city?

AMAN MELLES, Botkyra (Sweden)

“Racism is a very complex issue. We have managed to make progress but there is still much work to do. I hope that one day people will be judged by the way they act and not on their physical appearance. Fighting racism on the sports field is not easy at all. Racist behaviour is a widespread problem. The harsh consequences of abuse can prevent it. Along with the other youths, we agreed on a list of recommendations. We proposed to include an anti-racist clause in the contracts for athletes and the president of the FC Barcelona supported us. Collective punishment for the teams in which some players have shown inappropriate behavior can also be effective.”



© D.R.



## REGIONAL NETWORKS

# Coalition of Canadian cities: Edmonton and Windsor in action

The dynamism of signatories to the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities united against Racism and Discrimination is being illustrated by the highly participative process through which the “Racism free Edmonton Action Plan” was elaborated as well as an intergenerational Festival organized under the promising theme “Windsor United!”

In late 2008, the City Council of the City of Edmonton, the capital of the Canadian province of Alberta, approved its Action Plan against Racism along with funding to support its implementation after a public forum process.

The “Racism-Free Edmonton” Committee, which was formed when the municipality considered the possibility of joining the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination, represents various sectors including education, policing, housing, Aboriginal communities, NGOs and other government departments. This Committee oversaw a public forum process in order to take into account the viewpoint of citizens, particularly those most impacted by racism.

Centered around 6 key areas – education, employment, police, housing, media and youth – the Action Plan calls for raising public awareness, close monitoring of racism, as well as better coordination of the local public response to acts of hatred.

Over the next three years, the most senior government representatives involved in these key areas of intervention will form a governing body to foster a sense of belonging in the city and to oversee working groups that will implement the Action Plan.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO invited a representative from the city to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum (see p. 21), held in Nanjing (China) in late 2008, where he shared the experience of Edmonton in the development of its Action Plan against Racism and presented the advancement of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination.

Meanwhile, in the Canadian province of Ontario, the City of Windsor, which joined the Coalition of Municipalities in

2006, also confirmed its determination to combat racism by organizing for the third consecutive year, a weekend on the theme “Windsor together!”

Thanks to the cooperation between the City, the Race and Ethnocultural Relations Committee, and the Youth for UNESCO Working Committee a diversity concert and a rally were organized on 17 and 18 October 2008.

Through two days of celebration, of artistic expression and reflection, the intention of the organizers was to invite the young people of Windsor and Essex County to play a greater part in community life, taking advantage of their large numbers to inform them on the efforts of the Coalition, to raise awareness of the problems of racism and discrimination and favour new cooperation to live together better.

This event, which has brought together about 600 young people and their families since its initial launch in 2006, was an opportunity for them to share their creativity and to establish contacts with local organizations involved in combating racism.

In February 2009, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art Gallery Night will take place in Windsor and should provide a new opportunity to share views and opinions for a multicultural society, by exhibiting their artwork, sculptures and photos, or projecting short films. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Kornelia Guse, [k.guse@unesco.org](mailto:k.guse@unesco.org), tel.: +33 1 45 68 44 62

### AMELIE GERICKE, Erlangen (Germany)

“In my city, there is a political party that is against foreigners. The government of Bavaria plans to launch a campaign to ban it. Our City Council is also trying to inform and sensitize the public to avoid the mistakes of the past. This is the most important in my opinion. But, to combat racism on sports fields, the solution is to be more severe. Penalties should be imposed, not only for the players who are responsible for racist acts, but for the whole team. Fans should be removed from the stadium if they commit such acts. This is the only way to be taken seriously.”



© D.K.

## Africa

After the announcement of its creation during the Africities Summit held in Nairobi (Kenya) in September 2006, the Coalition of African Cities against Racism and Discrimination will hold its first General Assembly in the city of Durban (South Africa), in March 2009. The choice to initiate action in this sub-region, where infrastructure and interest in the Coalition are the strongest, should achieve positive results quickly in order to extend the work to the rest of the continent. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Marcello Scarone Azzi,  
[m.scarone@unesco.org](mailto:m.scarone@unesco.org),  
tel.: +33 1 45 68 41 96



View of Windsor.

CAMPAIGN



# Closure of the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

After 14 months of decentralized events, the UNESCO campaign for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ends in February 2009 with the establishment of the International Centre for the Advancement of Human Rights in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

Launched on 10 December 2007, from the Organization's Headquarters in Paris, the UNESCO campaign to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is to be completed in mid-February 2009, by the signing of an agreement establishing an international centre for the promotion of human rights, which will open its doors in 2010 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

For more than a year, the commemoration has mobilized all UNESCO sectors, offices and networks with the aim to increase the number of events on all continents to promote the rights recognized by the Declaration and to examine their effectiveness on the widest possible audience.

The gamble paid off. Most debates and events were decentralized. Youth were involved. But even if this campaign aimed to spread the activities over a period of 14 months, nothing could prevent the month of December 2008 from being a special month, and 10 December – World Human Rights Day – a unique date.

### The urgency for action


At UNESCO Headquarters, it is 3 p.m., when on Tuesday 10 December 2008 – 60 years to the day after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – the Director-General, Koïchiro Matsuura, is on the podium of Room I to award the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize to promote a culture of human rights to the French Ambassador Stéphane Hessel.

By his side: Janusz Symonides, President of the jury; Rama Yade, French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Human Rights; Iñaki Azkuna, Mayor of Bilbao, and Pierre Sané, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences.

The room is full. The tension is high. Far from inviting them to turn their gaze to the past, the winner, who was one of the drafters of the text, speaks of the world today: of those rights that should already be translated into reality. The

honourable mention of the UNESCO/Bilbao prize went to the International Movement ATD Quart Monde and with it the thousands of anonymous individuals who are fighting poverty on a daily basis in the field. ATD Quart Monde symbolizes the urgency to take action, which is what Stéphane Hessel claims.

The Director-General of UNESCO stresses, while speaking of the winners: "They represent different faces of our message for justice and dignity for all".

A few minutes earlier, Pierre Sané, welcoming the Declaration as "the first universal instrument that recognizes the inherent dignity" 




## 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference in Cairo: between rhetoric and reality of human rights

UNESCO and the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights, chaired by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, co-organized on 1 and 2 December 2008, the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference in Cairo (Egypt) on the theme "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 60 years later between rhetoric and reality".

Gathering together national human rights institutions, NGOs and experts involved in the promotion of democracy and human rights from the African and Arab region, the meeting was punctuated by 6 working sessions and was the occasion for Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, to put forward the case for the establishment of an Forum of Arab-African Dialogue for Democracy and Human Rights which would facilitate a better mutual understanding between the countries of both regions.

Representatives of national institutions for human rights, NGOs and Arab and African parliaments also seized the opportunity during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference to take stock of the achievements of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the perspective of the challenges that both Africa and the Arab States are facing.

Organized as part of the activities to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration, the meeting was chaired by Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt, and was opened by

the interventions of the Secretary-General of *La Francophonie*, the President of the Executive Board of UNESCO, the President of the Pan-African Parliament, the Speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, as well as those of representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the African Union and the International Labour Organization. 

For more information, please contact: Mouflida Goucha, [m.goucha@unesco.org](mailto:m.goucha@unesco.org), or Vladimir Volodine, [v.volodine@unesco.org](mailto:v.volodine@unesco.org)



Detail of a fresco by young Moroccans in Rabat for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration.



© UNESCO Rabat © Zena Mellimaida

## Meeting in Rabat on cultural rights in the Maghreb and Egypt

Experts on cultural rights met on 18 and 19 December 2008 in Rabat (Morocco), in the framework of the Arab Research-Policy Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ARADESC) to share results of several studies carried out in recent months on the state of human rights in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

The review of these studies – which are scheduled to be published in 2009 – has enabled the drawing up of a progress report of cultural rights in the Maghreb and Egypt, the identification of different conceptual approaches and the measurement of the implementation of laws, policies and practices, while highlighting the obstacles in the accomplishment of these rights.

In this case, particular emphasis was given to the observation of the right to education, intellectual property, information, along with cultural and linguistic diversity, participation in cultural life, religious freedom, the use of national languages in justice, as well as identity and the use of first names.

At the end of the meeting, recommendations were made to emphasize, among other things, cultural diversity as an important factor for peace and stability and the need to harmonize political discourse, laws and practices for the better protection and enjoyment of cultural rights. The meeting was organized by the UNESCO Office in Rabat and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), in partnership with the Observatory of Diversity and Cultural Rights (Freiburg, Germany) and the Arab Institute of Human Rights (Tunis, Tunisia). In addition to the panelists, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, as well as representatives from national human rights institutions, NGOs, UNESCO Chairs, various universities and research centres from the region attended the meeting. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
**Souria Saad Zoy**, [soy-s.saad@unesco.org.ma](mailto:soy-s.saad@unesco.org.ma),  
 tel.: +212 37 67 03 72-4  
 Website: [www.unesco.ma/aradesc](http://www.unesco.ma/aradesc)

of all members of the family and their equal and inalienable rights”, had already discussed this “message”, stressing: “Poverty destroys dignity and extreme poverty destroys human rights. “Fourteen months to convince them of this truth is not enough, and neither are 60 years to realize those rights.

In another room in the same building, the work of a roundtable, entitled “Towards the implementation of human rights education” was suspended for a few hours so that participants could be present at the ceremony. Representatives of the Ministers of Education of UNESCO Member States, researchers and academics from around the world were listening. They resumed the debates the following day.

### Key partners

Also present at UNESCO Headquarters on 10 December 2008 were: 25 delegations of UNESCO Clubs in Europe and North America, who attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, organized by the French Federation from 10 to 13 December. For these key partners of UNESCO in the field, this meeting was to be an opportunity to redefine their priorities and to highlight the need to deepen their knowledge of the structure and programmes of the Organization in the field of human rights and cultural diversity. But for 600 young leaders and members of French clubs, the holding of the congress, following the awarding of the UNESCO/Bilbao prize, also gave them an opportunity to debate on European citizenship in the presence of Stéphane Hessel.

Two days later, the African UNESCO Clubs met in Bamako (Mali) for a regional seminar, inaugurated by the Head of State of Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré. More than 800 participants from over 30 countries in Africa examined the

methods of contribution of these bodies to the promotion of human rights and adopted a 3-year plan of action.

In fact, all through the month of December, the topic was human rights and action. The numerous events organized during this “anniversary month” by National Commissions for UNESCO and the Delegations of Member States to the Organization, also contributed to stimulate thinking around the 4 main rights in the areas of competence of UNESCO: the right to education (Article 26), the right to take part in cultural life (Article 27), the right to freedom of expression (Article 19) and the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits (Article 27).

At Headquarters, December began with a Round Table held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which was marked by lively exchanges on the relationship between human rights, universality and cultural diversity.

On 8 December, the screening of a documentary of the French director Aubin Hellot dedicated to René Cassin made a heartfelt tribute to the architects of the Universal Declaration, and an exhibition of the photographer Jacqueline Roche welcomed, until the day after the UNESCO/Bilbao prize-giving ceremony, visitors with 30 portraits of French sports stars, each illustrating an article of this founding text. ¶

Coraline Bardinat

For more information, please see:  
[www.unesco.org/shs/humanrights/udhr\\_60anniversary](http://www.unesco.org/shs/humanrights/udhr_60anniversary)



© UNESCO Rabat

# Pier Ferdinando Casini: “No democracy without partnership between men and women”

For Women’s Day 2009, *SHSviews* is publishing an interview with Pier Ferdinando Casini, which took place just before his term came to an end as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in October 2008. Asked to explain the role played in promoting human rights by this organization which brings together more than 150 parliaments around the world, he stressed that the participation of women in political life is changing political priorities in the world and asserts a strong belief that: “There can be no democracy without a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of public policies”.

INTERVIEW



© IUP / F. Gabt

## What are the main objectives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union?

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is an international organization of parliaments, and now numbers 145 parliaments among its members. It promotes peace, dialogue and democracy, and seeks to strengthen the parliamentary institution.

It has played a key role in the development of democratic principles of governance and in establishing international standards for free and fair elections, in multi-party systems.

The expertise of its members enables it to provide advice and technical support to countries undergoing political transition or in post-conflict situations. In recent years, the IPU has played an active role in the establishment of parliamentary systems of more than 50 countries, including Afghanistan, Albania, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Uruguay.

**“Rwanda is now the country with the largest number of women in Parliament, with 56.3% of women MPs, ahead of Sweden with 47%.”**

## What kind of action has the IPU led to defend and promote human rights?

They are of several kinds. First, the IPU assists parliamentarians – a community of more than 40000 people – to represent their constituents. In 1976, it created the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians, whose mission is to investigate complaints of violation of their rights. Since then, the Committee has reviewed over 500 cases in over a hundred countries and has often found a satisfactory solution.

A Standing Committee of the IPU also exists, which is dedicated to the study of issues relating to democracy and human rights. Its recommendations involve parliamentary follow-up to consolidate and strengthen the respect for fundamental freedoms in national legislation.

To enable national parliaments to be more effective in human rights issues, the IPU also organizes, since 2004, an annual meeting of members of parliamentary bodies dealing with human rights. It also launched a project for parliamentarians from the countries of Francophone Africa to assist them in their work on the implementation of the recommendations of UN treaties on human rights to adopt new laws or amend existing laws. ➔



## Pier Ferdinando Casini:

Aged 54, Pier Ferdinando Casini was President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from October 2005 to October 2008, when he was replaced by Theo-Ben Gurirab, current Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia.

Bachelor of Law, author of several essays on international politics, Italian parliamentary life, and the European constitution, Mr Casini has been regularly re-elected member of the Italian parliament since 1983. During his various national mandates, he was a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Commissions and was the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on Terrorism in Italy. In 2001, he was also elected President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

### ➡ How does this organization help us to connect national and international debates?

The IPU holds two meetings per year, which are, for parliamentarians coming from all regions of the world, a unique space allowing them to compare their experiences and address the major current topics of general interest. They are also an opportunity for delegations from parliaments, members of the IPU, to hold bilateral meetings, and thus enhance parliamentary diplomacy.

For example, at the Assembly held in April 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa, more than 1 200 delegates discussed the fight against poverty, the balance between national security and individual freedom, State policies, and foreign aid, including issues relating to migrant workers, human trafficking, xenophobia and human rights.

Throughout the year we also organize conferences, regional meetings and seminars in different parts of the world. A parliamentary conference was held in 2007 in partnership with the European Parliament on the World Trade Organization (WTO). The same year, a parliamentary meeting was also held in Manila to discuss HIV/AIDS.

### Has the IPU had the opportunity to draw upon studies conducted by scientists?

Of course. The Assembly held in Cape Town, for example, saw the launch of a major report, produced in partnership with many organizations. This publication has been the opportunity to bring together world experts on health, political leaders and parliamentarians worldwide to discuss the urgent need to accelerate measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in terms of reduction of maternal and infant mortality.

Entitled *Tracking Progress in Maternal, Newborn & Child Survival*, this report reveals, indeed, that only a fraction of the 68 developing countries – which account for 97% of the cases of maternal and infant mortality in the world – has made sufficient progress to ensure essential health care that save the lives of women, infants and children.

Following the debate, a strong commitment was made by legislators, representatives of organizations such as UNICEF and WHO, as well as by doctors and journalists of *The Lancet*, for the campaign “Countdown to 2015”.

With regard to IPU, this commitment will not go unheeded, since an assessment of what has been done in 2008 at the national level to combat maternal and infant mortality will be presented at the next IPU Assembly, which will be held from 5 to 10 April 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

But this is just one of the many examples of collaboration between experts and parliamentarians working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

### Does the IPU publish numerous reports and studies itself? Through these publications, are you trying to influence national policy strategies?

The publication of books useful in policy-making is indeed an important activity of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In terms of statistics on women in parliaments, the IPU has become the reference. The promotion of increased participation of women in politics is one of the programmes that gives high visibility to our organization.

For the IPU, there could indeed be no democracy without a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of public policies. We know, indeed, that even if more and more women hold high political posts, more than 80% of those elected in the world are men.

A very recent study by the IPU, entitled *Equality in politics: a survey of women and men in parliaments*, shows that women’s participation in politics is changing political priorities in the world. The presence of women in parliament is beginning to be felt and is redefining political projects.

The IPU therefore follows not only the advancement of women in politics around the world, but in addition, sets up seminars for candidates, men and women, during elections held in developing countries and emerging democracies promoting gender equality. A seminar of this kind has been conducted in Rwanda, and this has borne fruit, since Rwanda is now the country with the largest number of women in Parliament, with 56.3% of women MPs, ahead of Sweden with 47%.

### What kind of relationship do you have with UNESCO?

The IPU and UNESCO signed a cooperation agreement in 1997. In 2003, as part of this partnership, we launched a parliamentary network and jointly published a *Guide to Parliamentary Practice* to assist the UNESCO Secretariat, as well as its networks, to better understand the functioning of national parliaments. The IPU has given UNESCO and its National Commissions a unique insight on parliaments which should make collaboration between the Organization and its Member States more efficient.

Interview by Nfaly « Vieux » Savané

.....  
\* *Guide – Parliamentary Practice*  
24 pp., UNESCO/IPU, 2003  
ISBN 92-9142-174-X  
Downloadable in Arabic, English or French  
or Arabic at the following address:  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org>

GREAT LAKES REGION OF AFRICA

# Meetings in Kenya on violence towards women



© UNESCO

## Lauren Child named UNESCO Artist for Peace

On 12 December 2008, the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, designated Lauren Child UNESCO Artist for Peace at a ceremony attended by the President of the General Conference of the Organization and the Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to UNESCO.

Recognizing the contribution of this famous British author in the development of children through education and art, he stressed that UNESCO was in need of talent of this kind, which represents “a unique opportunity to speak directly to children in a language that means something to them and with a sense of imagination that corresponds to theirs”.

Lauren Child has, for her part, declared that she is “honoured to work with UNESCO”, whose “programmes are changing the lives of children throughout the world”. She is, in fact, already very involved in the UNESCO programme for the Education of Children in Need, to which, over the next three years, she will donate all royalties and publisher profits from the sale of her book *That Pesky Rat*. Lauren Child also contributes in the selection of projects of this programme to benefit children in greatest need. ¶

For more information, please see: [www.unesco.org/shs/childreninneed](http://www.unesco.org/shs/childreninneed)

At the initiative of the Sector for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, two important meetings on women in the African Great Lakes region will be held in Mombasa (Kenya), in early April 2009. A month after International Women’s Day, they will highlight the urgency to act against violence towards women.

Both dedicated to the strategies put in place to combat violence against women in the African Great Lakes region, these meetings will be held from 5 to 9 April 2009, in Mombasa (Kenya).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of Ministers for Women’s Affairs of the Great Lakes will examine the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at a first Ministerial Meeting, held in Kinshasa (DRC) in July 2008.

It should, inter alia, enable to measure the progress of the project to establish a Centre for Research and Documentation for Women in this region, which as we already know, should

function as a “head of network” in Kinshasa, covering all countries of the Great Lakes, by promoting the linkage of all the “associated bodies” at the national level.

The main partners involved in this project – who are, in addition to UNESCO and the governments of the countries concerned: the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank – will be present in Mombasa, where the results of the national consultations conducted over 6 months to identify areas and priorities of the future centre will be communicated.

In fact, all the participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of Ministers for Women’s Affairs of the Great Lakes could attend another event held at the same time.

### Breaking the wall of connivance

At the initiative of the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO, researchers and policy-makers are invited to discuss, on the sidelines of the Forum, the results of 13 studies that bring to light the various forms of violence suffered by women in the region, by trying to provide recognition and a legal response to the atrocities committed, and to break the wall of silence and connivance which often contribute to ensure impunity for their abusers.

Providing a unique opportunity to transform scientific recommendations into policy actions, the “dialogue” is an approach developed by the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO to guide the research results towards public policy formulation which, in this case, would strengthen the rights of women.

In the Great Lakes region, there are tens of thousands of women who suffer unbearable abuse. But, as everywhere, women are today the primary victims of violence as well as poverty.

According to the United Nations Development Fund for Women, 1 in 3 women in the world was, is or will be beaten, abused or raped at least once in her lifetime. For themselves and for the societies in which they live, the consequences are manifold, profound and devastating. Indeed, such violence is a major obstacle to achieving gender equality, peace and development.



© ONU Photo / Martine Perret

At the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of the Organization, UNESCO Member States called for stronger action on behalf of women and children living in conflict and post-conflict situations.

More recently, the United Nations Security Council focused on the specific case of armed conflict, by adopting in 2008, Resolution No. 1820, in which it condemns rape and all forms of sexual violence as “a war crime”, a “crime against humanity” and states that “effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts of sexual violence can significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security”. ¶

For more information, please contact: Chifa Tekaya, [c.tekaya@unesco.org](mailto:c.tekaya@unesco.org), tel.: + 33 1 45 68 47 20

# Caucasian women are invited to become involved in politics



The role of women in preventing interethnic conflicts was highlighted.



## From Mongolia to Qatar, UNESCO defends women's rights

Among the many events organized by UNESCO to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, several were devoted to highlighting the rights of women.

"Domestic violence and AIDS" was thus the theme of a conference organized in Mongolia, on 1 December by the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, as part of a broad campaign against violence towards women and girls.

Conducted throughout the country from 25 November to 10 December 2008, this campaign has helped increase awareness among the Mongolian people through the distribution of leaflets informing them on domestic violence, postcards urging the government to engage in the fight against such violence, or white ribbons to encourage men to condemn such behaviour.

Elsewhere, as in Qatar, UNESCO, in partnership with the Foundation for the Protection of Children and Women organized, on 21 and 22 December 2008, a workshop on "The International Conventions for the Eradication of Violence and Discrimination against Women & Child's Rights and their Reflection on the Qatari Legislations".

At the end of two days of intense debate, experts and representatives from civil society and public institutions agreed on a set of recommendations on the implementation of those rights, their dissemination by the organizations concerned, and the harmonization of national legislation taking into consideration international criteria. The creation of educational tools for schools and universities, the establishment of networks for information exchange and the creation of specific training programmes were also called for. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
**Mona Abdel Sattar**, Doha Office,  
[m.abdel-sattar@unesco.org](mailto:m.abdel-sattar@unesco.org),  
 tel.: 974 4113290 – 4113293, ext. 22  
**Darryl Macer**, Bangkok Office,  
[d.macer@unesco.org](mailto:d.macer@unesco.org),  
 tel.: + 66 2391 0577, ext. 147

The Derbent Centre for Socio-Psychological Rehabilitation and the Culture of Peace and the Caucasian Network for Civic Education of Women and Children, held on 10 and 11 November 2008, a sub-regional conference on women's political participation in the Caucasus, attended by the Russian tennis champion Vera Zvonareva.

A conference aiming at strengthening the position of Caucasian women in public life was held in November last year, in Derbent, Republic of Dagestan (Russian Federation).

In a region where women tend to be confined to "traditional" roles, the presence on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference of the Russian tennis champion Vera Zvonareva showed the opportunities for young women to succeed at the highest level in all fields.

For two days, the sixty participants at this meeting, from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Southern Federal District of Russia, did not say anything else. Together, they shared their experiences and best practices in their respective countries in terms of women's political participation, and made recommendations on the content, format and methodology necessary for social science research to be properly conducted on this subject.

### Promoting regional and interregional cooperation

These recommendations will be incorporated in proceedings of the symposium to be published in 2009, in the "Policy Paper Series" of the MOST programme

of UNESCO, which will include the main interventions of the participants in the conference.

Among them: the Mayor of Derbent, the Deputy Spokesman of the Parliament and the Minister of Physical Education and Sport of Dagestan, the Ombudsmen of the Republics of Dagestan and Azerbaijan, many representatives from the academic community, notably experts in gender equality, as well as representatives of NGOs, and members of the Caucasian Network for Civic Education for Women and Children, which is very active in the region.

With more than 20 organizations in 4 countries of the Caucasus, this network has been working for over 2 years to promote regional and interregional cooperation between Caucasian NGOs working in the fields of civic education and gender. It coordinates the material and human resources that would better strengthen women's movements in this region, which is one of the most heterogeneous from an ethnic point of view.

Through its activities, it aims, above all, to empower women in different spheres of social life and to strengthen, through them, good relationships between the people of the Caucasus to help prevent conflicts, international terrorism, discrimination, racism and xenophobia.

Created with the support of the UNESCO Office in Moscow, the Russian Commission for UNESCO and the city of Derbent, the network was officially launched in Paris (France) on 15 November 2006, during the prize-giving ceremony of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, awarded that year, to the city of Derbent. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
 Alla Ampar, [a.ampar@unesco.org](mailto:a.ampar@unesco.org), tel.: +7 49 56 37 28 75

PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

# Debates on the concept of human security in Cairo and Tashkent

As the year 2009 is to be ended by a major conference on peace and human security in Asia-Pacific, two meetings on the same concept of human security were held at the end of 2008: one in Cairo (Egypt), and the other in Tashkent (Uzbekistan).



A small group discussion at the workshop in Tashkent.

© unesco Bangkok

## A pilot course

A few weeks earlier, thousands of kilometers from Cairo, another important meeting was also an opportunity to discuss the concept of human security, but this time for the countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

On 21 and 22 November 2008, a training workshop on “Peace, Tolerance and Human Security for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific” had in fact brought together many academics, researchers and policy-makers in Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

Organized with the Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, the Uzbek Liaison Committee of UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, the Centre for Peace Education and Intercultural Understanding at the University for World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent, the International Institute for Central Asian Studies, and the Ruamrudee International School in Bangkok (Thailand), this meeting was, inter alia, the opportunity to discuss a draft publication on peace and human security in Asia and the Pacific, whose preparation is the subject of a pilot course at by the University of Tashkent.

Workshop participants were able to make several recommendations to further improve the design and content of the future publication, and decided to extend the experience of pilot courses to other universities in the region, as from the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the academic year 2008/2009. An evaluation report will then be drafted on these pilot courses, and will be submitted to the Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences of the UNESCO office in Bangkok and presented at the forthcoming regional conference on peace and human security in Asia and the Pacific to be held from 2 to 4 July 2009, in Kunming (China).

Since 2001, at the initiative of UNESCO, several conferences on this subject have already been held in Africa (2003), Asia (2005), and the Arab States (2005 and 2008). In China, an extensive survey of opinion on the effectiveness of public policies in this area was conducted in 2007, just after a workshop on this concept had been held with ASEAN, in Jakarta (Indonesia). ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Cairo Conference: **Moufida Goucha**,  
[m.goucha@unesco.org](mailto:m.goucha@unesco.org), tel.: +33 1 45 68 45 52  
Workshop Tashkent: **Sarinya Sophia**,  
[s.sophia@unesco.org](mailto:s.sophia@unesco.org), tel.: +66 23 91 05 50

To download the books and reports published by UNESCO on Human Security, please see: [www.unesco.org/shs/publications](http://www.unesco.org/shs/publications)

## Poverty: UNESCO advocates for human rights in Manama

An economic crisis, a food crisis: what is the role of the development agenda and the fight against poverty? “An approach to the eradication of poverty based on human rights” was the issue that was chosen by UNESCO for the round table it organized at the Crans Montana NGO Forum, held in Manama (Bahrain) from 1 to 3 December 2008. During this Forum, organized with UNIDO and the OPEC-OFID Fund, which groups together, inter alia, representatives of African governments, potential investors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and UN agencies, UNESCO established itself as “the” partner in the preparation of ethical cooperation based on human rights, gender equality and the fight against poverty, stressing the importance of putting these rights at the forefront of South-South cooperation. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
**Chifa Tekaya**, [c.tekaya@unesco.org](mailto:c.tekaya@unesco.org),  
tel.: +33 1 45 68 47 20

## And provides training courses in Africa

Established as an intellectual reference in the field of a human rights-based approach in the fight against poverty, UNESCO is increasingly called upon to support its Member States in drawing up the strategy papers for poverty reduction (PRSP), which link some of them with international donors. Thus, from 10 to 20 November 2008, at the invitation of the Ministry of Finance of Togo, UNESCO has, in partnership with UNICEF, provided training for 250 people on a human rights-based approach to rewrite the PRSP for this country. Divided into 4 thematic groups, the participants represented different segments of Togolese society (ministries, parliament, civil society, businesses and specific national programmes). In 2009: Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone will also benefit from this programme. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
**Chifa Tekaya**, [c.tekaya@unesco.org](mailto:c.tekaya@unesco.org),  
tel.: +33 1 45 68 47 20



THE MOST PROGRAMME

# Forums of Ministers of Development: The crisis on the agenda

After the Ministers of Social Development of Arab States had put Corporate Social Responsibility on the agenda of a forum organized in November 2008, under the most programme of UNESCO, their Latin American counterparts will discuss the impact of the global financial crisis at another forum to be held from 27 to 29 March 2009, in Caracas (Venezuela).

The first to be created at the initiative of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, the Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting from 27 to 29 March 2009 in Caracas (Venezuela). On the agenda will be the impact of the international financial crisis on social policies in Latin America, the challenges it poses, and especially the alternatives for every country in the region.

Among the participants: 15 ministers, the Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the President of the Intergovernmental Council of MOST, current Minister of Social Development of South Africa, Zola S. Skweyiya, as well as representatives of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO).

## Neoliberal model and the percolation theory

Together they discussed the consequences of the collapse of the financial markets on education, job creation, food and nutrition security, family welfare, gender equality and, in general, on all the social rights of the peoples of the region ... They pledged to do more at their last meeting held in May 2007, in Peru, in all these areas, whether vulnerable or threatened by the crisis. In a final declaration, they affirmed their belief and their willingness to "put the Millennium Development Goals and those of each country, as a reference for (their) public policies and actions to promote regional integration (...), by exceeding the revenue that had been proposed in the light of the neoliberal model and its 'percolation theory'".



## Partnership FLACSO/UNESCO

The Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), signed, on 7 November 2008, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), an agreement renewing the longstanding cooperation between the two organizations and their commitment to strengthening the sustainable development of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. FLACSO is already heavily involved in the Forum of Ministers of Social Development of the region and in the project "Rethinking Latin America" of UNESCO's MOST programme.



Sixteen Ministers of Social Development attended the Forum in Amman.

Meanwhile, the neoliberal model has more than proved its flaws. Undoubtedly, the ministers, researchers and civil society actors who will attend the Forum in Caracas, will point this out. Their aim will be to do more than simply acknowledge it, and collectively consider the alternatives and make recommendations to remedy the negative impact of the global crisis through better informed social policies.

Fueling policy-making by thinking, developing it by using the results of social science research and the experience of actors of civil society is their duty, one that they were the first to attempt under the leadership of UNESCO and that they are determined to continue, knowing it has already helped to strengthen social policies in Latin America.

The experience is also now a model around the world. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito (Ecuador) in 2001, no fewer than 6 other permanent spaces for dialogue between the worlds of science and social policies have indeed emerged: three in Africa, one in Asia and one in the Arab States. All share the same ambition: to work as international *think tanks*, under the auspices of a global programme which joins them in a network, and be useful to the social development of all countries in a region, by being a place for sharing knowledge, best practices and thinking.

Indeed, reality is omnipresent. True conditions are being increasingly taken into account and the proposals are becoming more and more precise. The financial crisis was thus already present in Amman (Jordan), which held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Arab

➔ States on 12 and 13 November 2008. In a region of the world with very strong economic disparities, the latter had, in effect, chosen to put on the agenda the responsibility of private enterprises in the social development of the region, when the latter began to worry about the impact of the crisis on their businesses.

### Role of the private sector

Under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Jordan, the meeting was attended by 16 Ministers from Arab States, business leaders, researchers and NGO representatives, who all stressed the importance of the responsibility of the private sector in environmental, economic and social protection.

At the end of days of intense debate, a Declaration was adopted that encourages, in particular, the Arab States to establish coordinating councils for social development which would be under the supervision of the appropriate ministry and involving all decision-makers including those from the private sector. Another proposal is the establishment of committees of technical experts to conduct research on policies relating

to corporate social responsibility and make the results accessible to all actors in society, to fuel their development projects.

All these recommendations were presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Summit of the Arab League Economic and Social Development, held in January 2009, in Kuwait. No doubt they have helped to enrich the discussion of Arab leaders who were meeting to discuss ways to improve their cooperation in reducing poverty, enhancing education, environmental protection, fighting against unemployment, and public health.

At the first Summit, the Minister of Finance of Kuwait revealed that, in four months, the international financial crisis had cost more than 3 billion Euros to the Arab States, not counting the loss of revenue caused by the collapse of oil prices. Today, 60% of projects in the region have simply been canceled or postponed. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Cecilie Golden, [c.golden@unesco.org](mailto:c.golden@unesco.org), tel.: +33 1 45 68 45 23  
MOST website: [www.unesco.org/shs/most](http://www.unesco.org/shs/most)

## PARTNERS

# Africa adopts a social policy framework

The First Conference of Ministers of Social Development of the African Union was held from 27 to 31 October 2008 in Windhoek (Namibia). On this occasion, a new social policy framework for Africa was adopted.

For the first time since the establishment of the African Union (AU), a conference brought together all African Ministers in charge of Social Development, in Windhoek (Namibia) from 27 to 31 October 2008.

Organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), the conference – the theme of which was “Towards a sustainable social development agenda for Africa” – enabled participants to agree on a “framework for social policy in Africa”, the main objective of which is to provide a policy structure to assist the 53 Member States of the AU in developing their national social policies and to promote the empowerment and development of their populations.

Not legally binding, this new framework sets out minimum standards for the efforts that African governments should make to address the challenges facing them, including the HIV/

AIDS pandemic, the management of migration, education, youth, and social protection.

Rejecting the idea that social development is subordinate to economic growth, the Ministers of AU member countries justified social development as a “goal in its own right”. The report adopted recognizes that “if economic growth is a necessary condition for social development, it is not exclusively or sufficiently able to address the challenges posed by the multi-faceted socio-economic and political forces, that together generate the continent’s social development challenges”.

At the end of the first conference, a common position on social integration was also adopted, to be presented at the 47<sup>th</sup> UN Commission on Social Development, to be held in New York in February 2009. The date and venue of the next conference have also been set: Khartoum (Sudan) in October 2010. Meanwhile, the Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union, Bience Gawanas, expressed the wish that the three Forums of Ministers of Social Development, created at the initiative of UNESCO, for Southern Africa (2004), West Africa (2006) and East Africa (2008), work in synergy with the AU. ¶

For more information, please see:  
[www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)



The text sets out minimum standards to meet the challenges facing Africa.

## Renewal of the Scientific Advisory Committee of MOST

After an international call for applications, 6 experts, each representing a region of the world, were appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, members of the Scientific Advisory Committee of MOST for 2008-2011. Operating as a permanent advisory body, the Committee is involved in the conceptualization of the MOST programme and ensures its scientific quality. Since the restructuring of this programme in 2003, it also guides the implementation of activities focused on the interface between knowledge and social policies. The experts appointed are:

- **Professor Nazli Choucri**  
Political scientist, Director of Research at the Department of Political Science, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA (Arab region)
- **Professor Luk van Langenhove**  
Psychologist, Director of the Centre for Comparative Studies on Regional Integration of the United Nations University (UNU-CRIS), Bruges, Belgium (North America and Western Europe region).
- **Professor Dr. Zdenka Mansfeldova**  
Sociologist, member of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Central and Eastern Europe region).
- **Professor Charly Gabriel Mbock**  
Anthropologist, Director of Research at the Ministry of Scientific and Technological Research of Cameroon (Africa Region).
- **Professor Masanori Naito**  
Geographer, Institute for the Study of Global Issues, Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, Japan (Asia and Pacific region).
- **Professor Lourdes Sola**  
Political scientist, Department of Political Science and Centre for Research on Public Policy, University of São Paulo, Brazil (Latin America and the Caribbean region).

H. E. Dr. S. Zola Skweyiya  
Minister of Social Development of South Africa, President of the most Intergovernmental Council, is an *ex-officio* member of this committee. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
**Christina von Fürstenberg**,  
c.von-furstenberg@unesco.org,  
tel.: +33 1 45 68 45 16

## SYMPOSIUM

# Market(s), society(ies), and future of mankind

Right in the midst of the global financial crisis, the Gabriel Péri and Rosa Luxembourg Foundations organized on 13 and 14 November 2008, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, a symposium on the theme of markets, which brought together some 250 participants from Germany, Brazil, China, Chile, USA, Italy, France and the UK.

Structured around three very current topics “Mercantile relations and societies in history”, “Markets and States, classes and cultures”, “Control and regulation of markets and overcoming their prevalence: which paths should be taken?” an international symposium, under the patronage of UNESCO, brought together, in late 2008, in Paris, more than 200 researchers, academics, politicians and trade unionists, from 8 different countries.

### Set-up solidarity-based exchanges

Organized by the Foundations Gabriel Péri and Rosa Luxembourg, with the support of the German and French Commissions for UNESCO, this meeting will lead to a publication, foreseen for the first half of 2009.

Most of the interventions will be published, including that of Maurice Décaillot, a recognized economist, who debated on “a future after market prevalence beyond the consumer society”. In response, he stated that “to pull out of the market” is not to abandon exchange and currency, but rather to establish a “true, mutual, solidarity-based exchange”, which “cannot be confused with a totally dissymmetrical market activity”.

The political scientist, Tony Andreani noted “the prospect of a new socialism” initiated by the financial crisis. Hence his call for “the re-creation of a socialist economy including nationalization” and involving participation of workers and users in management issues. The experience of the People’s Republic of China in the field of finance could serve as an illustration. In his presentation, Hairong Lai, on behalf of the Centre for Policy and Comparative Economy, focused on the radical changes made, “notably in the development of the banking sector and the stock market”. Hence, “Control and regulation of markets and overcoming their prevalence: which paths should be taken?”



Opening the debates of the symposium, Christina von Fürstenberg, Chief of UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, recalled that the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO could help to shed light on this quest, its mission being to “strengthen the links between research and policy-making”. She warned: “the rigorous social science we need should directly take into account the global roots of social problems as we move forward in the midst of great uncertainty, towards a new post-liberal world system”.

In response, Paul Boccara, a member of the committee sponsoring the symposium, called for “the possible breakthroughs of a new civilization of mankind with other values and humanism”. According to him, it is above all about “sharing resources, power, information and social creativity, against all social monopolies, with a view to attaining a civilization of intercreativity”. ¶

Nfaly «Vieux» Savané

For more information, including on the publication of the proceedings of the conference, please see: [www.gabrielperi.fr](http://www.gabrielperi.fr)

## RESEARCH

# “Intermediate” Towns: a new UNESCO Chair in Spain



© Mike e Madrieno/Flickr.

It will contemplate coordinating its activities with 8 other universities: *Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne* (Switzerland), the *Universidad de los Andes* (Venezuela), the *Universidad Centroamericana “José Simeón Cañas”* (El Salvador), the University of Ferrara (Italy), the *Universidad Nacional del Noroeste* (Argentina), the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Spain), El Mansura University (Egypt) and the *Universidad Pública de San Jose* (Costa Rica).

The UIA will also follow very closely the work of its programme, established as a result of one of its working groups, supported by MOST in 1997.

Still active, the working group on “intermediate” towns has already organized many activities such as exhibitions, and published books, which have largely contributed to the analysis and knowledge of “intermediate” towns in the world-wide urbanization process. The new UNESCO Chair created in Spain will benefit from this work, as well as from the network created by this group over the past 10 years. It is already planning to implement joint activities with over 100 “intermediate” towns around the world.

### An innovative theme

From the outset, the UNESCO MOST Programme has provided technical cooperation, considering it as one of the most innovative themes on “intermediate” cities, proposed by Josep M<sup>a</sup> Llop Torné, Head of the Chair.

The majority of the urban population lives today in towns of less than one million people, which play the role of territorial, scientific, political and social networks.

Through research, educational programmes and seminars, the Lleida Chair will focus on knowledge production relating to “intermediate” towns, with several objectives: the comparative study of the characteristics of medium-sized towns in the context of current processes of urbanization and the development of the latter; sharing, strengthening and transferring new knowledge useful in the development of public policies for several categories of the population (academics, technicians, professionals, policy-makers, local officials and citizens); and better articulation of cooperation between universities, local authorities and professionals. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Germán Solinis, [g.solinis@unesco.org](mailto:g.solinis@unesco.org), tel.: +33 1 45 68 38 37  
Josep M<sup>a</sup> Llop Torné, Head of the Chair of Lleida,  
[mllop@geosoc.udl.cat](mailto:mllop@geosoc.udl.cat)

A new UNESCO Chair associated with the MOST Programme of the Organization has been set up in Lleida (Spain) and will produce new knowledge on “intermediate” towns, where the majority of the world’s urban population now lives.

Attached to the Department of Sociology and Geography at the University of Lleida (Spain), the new UNESCO Chair “‘Intermediate’ towns, urbanization and development” began work on 15 December 2008 with a seminar bringing together partners and sponsors: the University and the Town Hall of Lleida (Spain), the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the MOST programme of UNESCO.

Strongly supported by the town of Lleida, the new UNESCO Chair has tremendous potential for development at the international level on all matters contemplated relating to the strengthening of municipal and regional policies based on knowledge and participation of local people.

## City Professionals: the most network in Quito

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the most network “City Professionals” was held from 12 to 15 November 2008 in Quito (Ecuador), and comprised two workshops on the presence of the university in society, and the development of research and graduate studies.

Two decisions were taken: the publication of the 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the book collection *City Professionals* on urban restructuring in Havana (Cuba) and the continuation of two projects, one on the urban landscape and the other on alternative education in built-up space and territorial organization. During the meeting, the network also organized round-table discussions on the Latin American city, the role of city professionals and technicians in urban policy-making, and on gender and urbanization within the context of the XVI<sup>th</sup> Pan-American Biennale of architecture also held in Quito from 17 to 20 November.

The network will next meet in November 2009, at the *Universidade Fluminense* in Niterói (Brazil). ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Solinis Germán, [g.solinis@unesco.org](mailto:g.solinis@unesco.org),  
tel.: +33 1 45 68 38 37

## Global radio marathon for migrants

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, UNESCO has joined forces with the December 18 Organization to organize a “global radio marathon”, on the occasion of International Migrants Day. Since 2000, this day has been an opportunity to promote the contribution of migrants to the development of their countries of destination and origin, to help them learn their rights and ensure that their voices are heard. With the support of UNESCO, the project *Radio 18-12*, each 18 December, undertakes a huge “marathon”, which, in 2008, involved even more organizations, radios and countries, after the first two already very successful attempts. On 18 December 2008, programmes highlighting the successes and difficulties encountered by migrants all over the world were broadcast by more than 170 stations in 47 countries. ¶

To listen to these programmes:  
[www.radio1812.net](http://www.radio1812.net)

# Let's give cities a human face!

Well before 2010 – the year of the Universal Exhibition in Shanghai (China) – participants at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum held in late 2008 in Nanjing (China) were called upon to act quickly and collectively for “harmonious urbanization”.

If, according to the famous French journalist Emile de Girardin, “To govern is to plan”, it is urgent to give cities a human face!

At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum, held from 3 to 6 November 2008, in Nanjing (China), this belief prevailed over any other. Participants at the international meeting, initiated by the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), were indeed fully aware of the need to act quickly and collectively to establish a more balanced territorial development.

This sense of urgency was all the more felt, since, by fixing the venue for a 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum in 2010 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), the Executive Director of UN-Habitat said that the phenomenon of growing urbanization of the planet is now coupled with another reality: that

of a global financial crisis, which will inevitably have consequences on human settlements.

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, wanting to appear reassuring, stated: “The United Nations will do whatever it can to ensure that the poor, the vulnerable, and particularly the one billion people living in urban slums around the world, do not become victims of the crisis”. Everyone knows that this is a constant battle and, most importantly, everyone’s business.

## Integrating all populations

From all over the world, students, social scientists, urban planners, architects, urban professionals, policy-makers, activists and representatives of UN agencies made the trip to China to discuss this issue together.

Three days of roundtables, conferences, training workshops and multiple side events were an opportunity to share experiences of innovative projects implemented in the field to support the integration of all populations in cities, and reflect on the challenges arising from rapid territorial urbanization, such as the overcrowding of cities, the impoverishment of citizens, or even the problem of access to drinking water and sanitation. These are all issues of concern to UNESCO, which was also present in Nanjing.



At the UNESCO booth, located in the central hall of the conference centre hosting the Forum, several films produced within its various programmes were broadcast, 12 landscape projects conducted within the framework of an international workshop organized by the UNESCO Chair on Environment and Landscape of the University of Montreal (Canada), were exposed, and more than 900 kg of documents distributed.

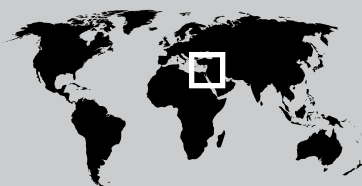
Taking advantage of the presence in China of a public particularly interested in its activities, UNESCO also hosted two workshops on the role of governments and local authorities in sustainable urban development: the first devoted to water management, and the second, to the revitalization of historic districts.

While 50% of the world’s population lives today in urban areas, UN-Habitat anticipates that, in the space of a generation, 2/3 of humanity will live in cities or megacities. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Brigitte Colin, [b.colin@unesco.org](mailto:b.colin@unesco.org), tel.: +33 1 45 68 37 54

# DOSSIER

© Benkromovan/flickr



Dossier compiled with:  
**Salwa Saniora Baassiri**, Secretary-  
General of the Lebanese Commission  
for UNESCO.

Original French edition:  
**Coraline Bardinat**,  
Sector for Social and Human Sciences  
of UNESCO

For more information, please contact:  
**Lebanese Commission for UNESCO**  
Ministry of Culture  
Hamra  
Beirut  
LEBANON

Email: [cnlu@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:cnlu@cyberia.net.lb)  
Tel.: +961 1 749 105  
Website: [www.lncu.org](http://www.lncu.org)



**Social and Human  
Sciences within  
National Commissions  
for UNESCO**

**Focus  
on Lebanon**

# 60 years of commitment towards peace and human rights

As we continue our trip around the world to see how social and human sciences are understood in the different UNESCO National Commissions, this time *SHSviews* goes to Lebanon where, in 1948, UNESCO Member States adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

# 1952

It is the year when the Lebanese women were given the right to vote.

The Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, which was one of the first National Commissions to be set up, celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, along with that of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recalling that is not simply a question of a date on a calendar. It is also a reminder that Lebanon, human rights and UNESCO are strongly connected.

An independent state since 1943, Lebanon was indeed one of the first 20 countries present at the creation of UNESCO, which it joined in 1946. Two years later, on 28 June 1948, it was once again among the first countries to set up its own National Commission. The same year, the country hosted the third session of the UNESCO General Conference. A UNESCO building was constructed in Beirut to house this important event.

The first Member States of UNESCO met there for almost a month, from November 17 to 11 December 1948, to examine, among other things, the request for admission of the provisional government of the State of Israel. More importantly, it was there, in Beirut, that on 11 December 1948, these same States adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which made UNESCO the first agency of the United Nations system to recognize these fundamental rights.

A true mosaic of cultures, Lebanon recognized the right to freedom of worship for its different religious communities as early as 1926 and guaranteed that “the personal status and religious interests of the population, to whatever religious sect they belong, [will be] respected” in Article 9 of its Constitution.

Considered as the smallest country of the Middle East, Lebanon has been enriched by the diversity of the people who passed through it and who settled there throughout its history. Thus, it officially has no less than 18 different religious faiths. It is also made richer by its conviction that education is essential. As a result, its 4 million inhabitants benefit from 2 812 public and private schools, almost 4000 technical and vocational schools, and 38 universities, the first of which was established in 1866.

In this context, the objective of the Lebanese National Commission to UNESCO is to make the missions of the Organization known as widely as possible on a national level in the fields of education, culture, science and communication. It also serves as the National Commission for the

Arab League Organization for Education, Culture and Sciences (ALECSO) since 1991, and as of 2002 as the National Commission for the Islamic Organization for Education Science and Culture (ISESCO).

The Lebanese Commission for UNESCO is an autonomous body which works in close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. It comprises a General Assembly, an Executive Board and a secretariat. It benefits from the expertise of specialists from both the private and the public sector – a unique situation in the Arab States – and advises governmental bodies on all matters linked to its field of expertise while ensuring the country’s active participation in UNESCO’s activities and programmes. As a result, it plays a fundamental role liaising between governmental bodies, the scientific community, the different Lebanese organizations, civil society and the Organization.

Its priorities are youth, “ethics”, intercultural dialogue, as well as sustainable development and education for all. For the last 60 years, it has never stopped redefining and adjusting these priorities, many of which are linked to UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences programme, in order to, as the Commission specifies itself, “respond to the social needs and transformations”. And these needs are just as numerous as the transformations in this country, which was created by overstepping cultural borders and where the conflicts of physical borders echo nevertheless.

## Byblos: International Centre for Human Sciences

The members of the Commission thus explained that “in 1990, after having been through hard times, it resumed its functions with a new enthusiasm”, specifying that “the difficult period followed on from the civil war which lasted 15 years. The Commission, like the whole of Lebanon, was severely attacked (offices, the library, etc.)”. Nevertheless, during this period, the Lebanese Commission for UNESCO never reneged on its fundamental values.

Moreover, it was in Byblos, on the Mediterranean coast, that, in 1999, UNESCO decided to build the International Centre for Human Sciences (ICHS) to contribute to the development of social and human sciences and to promote a culture of peace.

A true “network of networks”, the Commission collaborates with numerous partners on the national, regional and international levels, especially with civil society organizations and the other National Commissions and UNESCO networks. Its ambition is to make its actions more efficient through these multiple partnerships. It is responsible, among other things, for the Lebanese network of Associated Schools and UNESCO clubs and, in 2005, it participated in the creation of the Arab Federation of UNESCO Clubs, of which Lebanon assumes the Vice-Presidency for the Middle-East.

In 2008, during the celebrations for its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Secretary-General Salwa Saniora Baassiri, recalled that “the message of the Lebanese Commission is above all a message of peace, solidarity and human interaction, and its principles are, first and foremost, human rights, freedom of speech, the respect of diversity and the wish to establish communication to achieve consent and cooperation”. Human rights, UNESCO and Lebanon are all part of the same cause. ¶

Coraline Bardinat





How did you benefit from your participation in a project carried out in conjunction with the Lebanese Commission for UNESCO?

**JOHANNA HAWARI BOURGELY, Head of the “Centre Professionnel de Médiation” at St Joseph’s University in Beirut.**

“In October 2009, we took part in the creation of a ‘UNESCO Club’ in St Joseph’s University (USJ). It is made up of students of USJ and is a true forum for dialogue. Thanks to this structure, the young members of the club were able to involve themselves in cultural and social projects to help their country, and also learnt how to work as a team. With USJ’s ‘Operation 7<sup>th</sup> Day’ groups, for example, they took part in the creation of a book fund for the library in Cana, in the south of Lebanon, to help the association “Cana de Galilée”, a sports and culture club. They also organized conferences on dialogue and reconciliation for young people.”

**22,6%**

It is the percentage of unemployed Lebanese youth in 2004 (UNDP).

## Promote peace and democracy through genuine intercultural dialogue

The Lebanese Commission pays special attention to the promotion of intercultural dialogue in a country where more than 18 religious denominations and a growing number of different communities live together. No question, however, to reduce this dialogue to inter-community dialogue or dialogue between nationalities. The Commission considers this narrow vision would, indeed, conceal social, intergenerational and gender-based dialogue, resulting in confusion in the construction of identities.

Developing a broader approach to interculturality, it has developed with the UNESCO Office in Beirut, a guide for teachers from the public and private sectors, urging them to encourage their students aged 15 to 17 years to put intercultural dialogue into practice in their daily lives to promote cultural diversity and improve the quality of “living together”.

The Commission, which regularly organizes conferences, seminars and workshops on the subject, acts as “leader” of the Lebanese Network of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation.

Created in 2004 to promote dialogue between cultures, the Foundation brings together some 1,500 civil society organizations in 37 Arab and European countries, including 54 Lebanese organizations involved in education, the arts, cultural heritage, environment, youth, human rights and conflict resolution, as well as many libraries, publishers and research institutes across the country.

It is with this network, in 2008, that the Commission participated in the campaign “1001 Actions for Dialogue” launched by the Lindh Foundation to promote the dialogue of cultures in all countries of the Mediterranean during the European Year of Intercultural

Dialogue. In total, over 750 civil society organizations participated in artistic activities, debates and discussions on issues related to the coexistence of peoples and community issues.

Within the framework of this project, and on the occasion of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Lebanese Commission held, on 18 June 2008, a concert entitled “Music in Dialogue” which brought together, for the first time, the 250 musicians of the Lebanese Oriental Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra. ¶

For more information, please contact: [cnlu@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:cnlu@cyberia.net.lb)

Website of the Anna Lindh Foundation: [www.euromedalex.org](http://www.euromedalex.org)

# From local to international, the debate on the ethical challenges of scientific progress

**B**ioethics and the ethics of science and technology are among the priority areas of the Lebanese Commission for UNESCO which endeavours to intervene at all levels. At the national level, the Commission – which is a member of the Lebanese Advisory Committee on Bioethics – tries, in particular, to raise awareness of challenges related to ethics and bioethics by civil society, by increasing the space for dialogue.

In October 2001, it organized, with the UNESCO Beirut Office, an international symposium on “Ethics in Science and Technology”, attended by academics, lawyers, members of national ethics and bioethics committees, as well Lebanese officials working with UNESCO, the Economic and Social Council for West Africa (UN-ESCWA) and many journalists. In the presence of the President of the Republic of Lebanon, the meeting was

an opportunity to analyze the issues raised by scientific progress in fields as diverse as genetics, nuclear energy, ecology and information technology.

Also very active at the regional level, the Commission participated in the development of the Arab Committee for Ethics of Science and Technology, and its Secretary-General is currently the Vice-President. A forum for exchange and dialogue, this committee aims to facilitate cooperation between the Arab States, and to do this, organizes seminars on topics likely to be debated in the region, such as the one held in August 2003, on “assisted pregnancy techniques and their ethical dimension – the teaching of ethics in medical school”.

The Commission is also active at the international level, where it endeavours to share the Lebanese perspective on ethical

issues. Since October 2008, Lebanon is one of 36 UNESCO Member States which form part of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), while a Lebanese expert is a member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC). ¶

For more information, please contact: [cnlu@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:cnlu@cyberia.net.lb)

© CharlesFreder/flickr



© James D. Urquhart/flickr



# 65%

is the percentage of students enrolled in social, human and legal sciences in 2006, against 34% registered in branches of pure and applied science (Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education).

## 3 questions for... Waddah N. Nasr

With a Ph.D in philosophy and as a specialist of moral, social and political philosophy, Waddah N. Nasr is a member of many national, regional and international committees pertaining to education, ethics and bioethics. He has collaborated with the Commission for over 10 years and has been a member of its Committee for Education since March 2008.

### How do you contribute to the activities of the Lebanese National Commission?

I belong to its Committee for Education, which is made up of 6 members, most of whom are academics. We advise on how to plan its activities in which I also take part related to my field of expertise. There is a healthy balance between my university duties and my involvement in the Commission's projects. Indeed, working with the Commission allows academics to be connected to the outside world and to pass their knowledge onto communities in which they live. Furthermore, it is not always easy to influence policy-makers within the framework of my academic work, which

the Commission has the facility to do. Although it is officially linked to the Ministry of Culture, its affiliation with UNESCO, its activities, as well as the professionalism and integrity of its team allow it to have a certain amount of autonomy and a certain independence from government institutions.

### How does the Lebanese National Commission envisage social and human sciences in the framework of its activities?

Its activities are aimed at bringing concrete answers to what is going on in Lebanon, using, among other things, social and human sciences to do so. Thus, it encourages the creation of links between different ➔

# Encourage the autonomy of young people, the builders of the Lebanon of today and tomorrow

The Lebanese Commission for UNESCO gives prominence to young people in its projects, in particular by working with the networks of the Associated Schools and UNESCO Clubs in Lebanon. It also sets up many activities on the national, regional and international levels, with institutions, NGOs and other National Commissions such as those of Germany and Denmark.

What is its main goal? It wants to encourage the autonomy and involvement of Lebanese youths so that they can really be active in building their society. Along with the town council of Tripoli, in the north of Lebanon, and the Lebanese Association Masar, it has recently implemented a vast project called "Youth Act for Change", which has been renamed "Developmental Initiatives by Youth" (DibY).

From December 2007 to October 2008, 28 students followed a training course on concepts linked to development and came up with 4 projects for community intervention. In July 2008, these youths went to the south of Lebanon to discover the region and the daily life of a part of the Lebanese youth they

were unfamiliar with. The following month, these same students organized a training course on public health and road safety for 70 children aged 7 to 13. Within the framework of this same project, they also prepared, with the help of a nutritionist, a guide offering 12 suggestions on how to adopt healthy food habits during Ramadan, and distributed it to over 1500 families in Tripoli.

Another important part of the Commission's activities consists in encouraging cultural reconciliation among young people. In 2008, with the help of the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) and the Lebanese Ministries of Culture and of Education and Higher Education, it launched a project to improve the way young people see citizenship, diversity, dialogue, communication and community service, the first activity of which is a series of seminars. This project, which also aims at developing their aptitude to resolve personal conflicts and accept different opinions, has already benefited around 200 students in universities in Beirut and northern Lebanon who attended the first 2 seminars

that were organized in Tripoli in 2008. A third seminar should take place in March 2009 in Mount Lebanon.

This project's second activity was developed by the UNESCO Office in Beirut with financial backing from Norway and has already helped 300 youths aged 15 to 17 who are at school in 11 UNESCO Associated Schools. They spent four months working on their common cultural and historical heritage, their knowledge of religions, the image of the Other in audiovisual media, the rights and commitments of citizens, as well as the right to be different. With the help of artists, they then created plays, documentary films, dance shows, photographs and drawings relating to these topics which they will present on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at the UNESCO building in Beirut during the ceremony that will take place in the presence of the Lebanese Minister of Culture. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
cnu@cyberia.net.lb

Website for the DibY project (only in Arabic):  
www.dibylb.com

➔ communities so that they can learn to know each other. It believes that social and human sciences, which are the basis for everything, can have a real impact if they are disseminated through educational systems. But this requires teamwork and this is a point in which the Commission has shown itself to be highly useful and efficient.

## What are the main challenges in Lebanon to which social and human sciences can help find solutions?

Lebanon is a very sectarian society. It has adopted a democratic governing system but has not yet succeeded in developing a culture of democracy that is strong enough to preserve that system, for reasons inherent to the country but also because it is located in a region of conflicts. I think the country's future as a "community" – that is to say the Lebanese attempt at cohabitating

peacefully and sharing a common destiny – is threatened. It is obvious that the Lebanese system will only become stable with the strengthening of mutual respect and tolerance and once we have learned to preserve unity while at the same time celebrating diversity. Now social and human sciences, which are at the heart of the relevant policies, help us cultivate an essential respect for truth and obvious facts, and to develop the capacity to see others and ourselves in an objective manner. In my opinion, this aspect is not emphasized enough. Since they call for critical and independent reflection using scientific methods, they can play a role in the creation of responsible, rational people who will be harder to influence and who will be capable of making enlightened decisions. ¶

Interview by Coraline Bardinat



© All rights reserved

**“The social and human sciences, which are at the heart of the relevant policies, help us cultivate an essential respect for truth and obvious facts, and to develop the capacity to see others and ourselves in an objective manner.”**

# Promote human rights with the Associated Schools of UNESCO

The Lebanese Commission conducts important work in promoting collective thinking and action on human rights issues, including through the network of Associated Schools in order to foster the acquisition of these rights by young people.

Thus, following a workshop on human rights education organized in Beirut in 2001, with UNESCO and the Lebanese Association for Human Rights, it published a handbook entitled *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as conceived by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students of the Associated Schools of UNESCO*.

Published in English, Arabic and French, this tool reflects the ideas of students from 18 Lebanese Associated Schools of UNESCO,

who, assisted by their professors, explained and illustrated each of the 30 articles of the Declaration.

More recently, in 2006, it organized, together with UNICEF, a training workshop on the rights and duties of children, led by the “Arab Human Resources”. Fifty teachers from 19 Lebanese Associated Schools took part in order to convey these concepts to their students using a “child to child” approach, applied at the local, national and regional levels.

The Commission also regularly uses Celebration Days included in the global agenda to give more visibility to the struggle for human rights. Thus, on 10 December 2003, World Human Rights Day, it invited 600 people

to pay tribute to the work of the Lebanese lawyer, Laure Moghaizel, and to attend a seminar on “Human Rights and Civil Peace in Lebanon”.

At the latest World Philosophy Day, and as part of the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Commission – which was also celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary – organized an international conference on the ethical dimensions of the Declaration from a philosophical perspective, aimed in particular at highlighting the pivotal role of civil society in strengthening human rights. ¶

For more information, please contact: [cnlu@cyberia.net.lb](mailto:cnlu@cyberia.net.lb)

## FOR FURTHER READING

### **Development of youth policies to confront social changes in Lebanon**

This book, in English and Arabic, is based on the proceedings of a conference organized in 2000 by the Lebanese Commission for UNESCO within the framework of the MOST programme of UNESCO. It reflects on four aspects of youth policies: the nature of these policies, the direction of research, content and priorities of youth policies and the development and implementation process of these policies. ¶

240 p., CNLU/ALECSO, 2000

### **Directions of research in social sciences and the needs of Lebanese society**

This book, in Arabic, is the result of a study conducted in 2002 by a group of researchers at the initiative of the Lebanese Commission for UNESCO. It proposes reflection on the direction of research in economical, political, social and psychological sciences as well as the needs of Lebanese society, including those of research centres and universities. ¶

244 p., Lebanese Commission for UNESCO (CNLU), 2002, ISBN 0-9953-0112-X

### **Seminar during the constitutive meeting of the Arab Committee for Science and Technology**

The speeches of all those present at the seminar organized at the constitutive meeting of the Arab Science and Technology, in 2001, are collected in this book. The role of ethics in the field of scientific progress is discussed, particularly with regard to assisted pregnancy techniques and ethics as a subject in medical schools. ¶

115 pp., CNLU/ALECSO/ISESCO, 2004, ISBN 9953-0-0270-3

### **Philosophy and Democracy: International Conference on the occasion of World Philosophy Day in 2005**

From a philosophical perspective, this book, in English, Arabic and French, is a study of democracy in heterogeneous societies, exploring in particular the values of democracy and education in democracy, the relationship between democracy and liberalism, and between democracy and religion. ¶

160 p., CNLU, 2005, ISBN 9953-0-0449-8

### **Challenges for 2020**

This publication, in Arabic, is composed of speeches of a conference organized by the Lebanese Commission for UNESCO in 2000 to examine the challenges that the 21<sup>st</sup> century is facing. Many ecological, scientific and social issues are discussed concerning, in particular, the future of the environment, medical ethics, information and identity, and the relationship between thinking and language, within a context other than that of the mother tongue. ¶

144 p., CNLU/ALECSO, 2000

### TOOLS



### **The Manual of the National Commissions for UNESCO,**

which was first published more than ten years ago, was updated with the

collaboration and contributions of several National Commissions before being presented on the 34<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the Organization, in October 2007. Mainly intended for the personnel of the National Commissions, this tool can also be very useful for all partners of civil society and institutions which work in UNESCO's fields of competence. Composed of two parts written in the form of practical index-cards, it presents, firstly, the various possible structures of the National Commissions, their role, their functioning, their partnerships and their actions to make UNESCO known to the general public and the relations which they maintain between themselves. Secondly, it presents UNESCO as a whole, explaining its constitutive bodies, its programmes, as well as the means to promote them. ¶

*Manual of the National Commissions for UNESCO*  
157 pp., UNESCO, 2007.  
ERC/RSC/NAC/2007/P1/100

To download this guide in French or in English:  
[www.unesco.org/en/national-commissions](http://www.unesco.org/en/national-commissions)

For more information, please contact:  
[natcom@unesco.org](mailto:natcom@unesco.org),  
tel.: +33 1 45 68 15 52



### The rights of women and the uses of Michel Foucault headlined in the *ISSJ*

In response to the debate launched in No. 184 of the *International Social Science Journal* (*ISSJ*), No. 191 is devoted to how the synergies between activism of women, research and policy have contributed to the advancement of their rights. It also emphasizes the fundamental role of the agencies of the United Nations system in increasing awareness of the importance of gender equality. Also in this issue: a dossier on Michel Foucault revisits his contribution to the social sciences and reflects on the fact that concepts do not simply travel, but are transformed in being used. ¶

*ISSJ* No. 191  
UNESCO/Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.  
ISBN 0020-8701  
€ 22,50

For more information, please contact:  
**John Crowley**, [j.crowley@unesco.org](mailto:j.crowley@unesco.org),  
+33 1 45 68 38 28

### A compilation of texts on Human Rights

This book is composed of fifty texts and documents, including the writings of great thinkers such as Martin Luther King or Hannah Arendt, as well as normative instruments such as the Bill of Rights, adopted by England after the revolution of 1866, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, after the French Revolution, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ¶

*Direitos humanos*  
Marco Mondaini  
189 pp., UNESCO, 2008.  
ISBN 85-7244-342-8  
€ 12 (Available only in Portuguese)

To order this book:  
[grupoeditorial@unesco.org.br](mailto:grupoeditorial@unesco.org.br)

### Decrypting words of racism in Latin America

Considered unsuitable by those who try to mask it by the concept of social inequality, the term “racism” is often hidden. This book reveals the xenophobic and racist discourse concealed by many prejudices that found in certain social practices in Brazil and other countries in the Americas. ¶

*Discurso racismo e na América Latina*  
Teun A. van Dijk  
383 pp., UNESCO, Ed Contexto, 2008.  
ISBN 978-85-7244-367-8  
€ 14,50  
(Only in Portuguese)  
To order this book:  
[grupoeditorial@unesco.org.br](mailto:grupoeditorial@unesco.org.br)

### Human Security: a book to capture a complex idea

Co-published by UNESCO and Wiley-Blackwell, this book reflects on the complexity of a concept whose scope is wide: the concept of human security. It presents various studies that address different dimensions such as interlinkages with human rights, the role of gender in the promotion of human security, the ethical and environmental agenda developed by the Human Security Network, or debates on this concept within the United Nations. ¶

*Rethinking Human Security*  
Moufida Goucha and John Crowley  
148 pp., UNESCO/Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.  
ISBN 978-1-4051-9263-7  
£ 25 (English only)

For more information or to order this book:  
<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com>



# Concrete examples to make the right to the city a reality



**Launched at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum in November 2008, the new opus of the Social Policy series, published by the MOST programme of UNESCO, sheds light on the concept of the right to the city and provides multiple examples of good practices and legal instruments which local governments can use to include all citizens in the life of the city.**

Entitled *Urban Policies and the Right to the City: Rights, Responsibilities and Citizenship*, the latest brochure in the *Social Policies* series of the MOST programme of UNESCO reports on the varied experiences and normative instruments that have led to a shared vision of the concept of the right to the city. It distinguishes, at the regional level, between the “European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City”, which promotes the right of citizens to social welfare and good governance, and the “Charter of Educating Cities”, which reaffirms the right of citizens to education and the commitment of local governments to enhancing education in cultural diversity and peace.

At the national level, it gives the example of the innovative “City Statute”, established in Brazil in 2001, to offer a new legal paradigm on the concept of land ownership which

recognizes the social dimension of urban property and promotes democratic participation in urban planning.

At the city level, it cites the “Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities”, which governs the rights and duties of citizens and establishes a commitment between the city and its inhabitants. Identifying the best practices in legal and urban planning, and locating initiatives that reaffirm the rights and responsibilities of everyone, the necessity for interreligious tolerance, or the participation of women, youth and migrants in urban governance, the brochure also deals with the approach of the concept of the “inclusive” city managed by an international research project between the UN-Habitat and UNESCO, as well as topics related to gender equality, the rights of migrants, the rights of informal workers, interreligious dialogue and racial equality.

In this way, the five basic concepts, to which the concept of the right of the city appeals, are identified: freedom and autonomy of all citizens, participation and democracy, transparency in city administration; celebrating cultural diversity and the fight against poverty. ¶

**Alison Brown** (Cardiff University) and **Annali Kristiansen** (Danish Institute for Human Rights)

*Urban Policies and the Right to the City: Rights, Responsibilities and Citizenship*

Alison Brown and Annali Kristiansen  
53 pp., UNESCO, 2008.  
SHS/SRP/URB/2008/PI/H/3  
(English only)

For more information, please contact:  
**Brigitte Colin**, [b.colin@unesco.org](mailto:b.colin@unesco.org),  
tel.: +33 1 45 68 37 54



**Arnaud Drouet**

A French national, Arnaud Drouet is currently working as a consultant in the office of the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences. After studying literature and philosophy, he worked between 2002 and 2008 at the Section of Philosophy and Human Sciences of UNESCO.

# Is Feminism a Humanism?

by Arnaud Drouet

The role Olympe de Gouges played in the history of ideas has been the subject of renewed interest in the academic community worldwide. And this is only very recent. It is in this context that a two-day meeting was held in mid-November 2008, at UNESCO and in Montreuil<sup>1</sup>. The symposium drew an audience wishing to discover, or rediscover, this far too often forgotten or disguised figure. Where are we today with the renown of her ideas? How do we support their rehabilitation? How, above all, can we interpret her battle and place it in the context of current struggles for human rights?

These two days, 215 years after Olympe de Gouges was guillotined, aimed at gathering both specialists of her work and human rights activists.

In the biography she devoted to Olympe de Gouges in 1986, Benoîte Groult, a French journalist, writer and long-time activist in favour of women, used the particularly instructive sentence from the Declaration on the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen, drafted by Olympe de Gouges in 1791: "through this text, she has claimed all rights for all women."

An undeniable proto-feminist, de Gouges was actually much more than that. Her work, like her entire life, actually combined to turn completely to a thought out, reflected, desired and lively humanism. A deep humanism of devotion and dedication to the cause of Others, first and foremost of those who – without voice, without rights, without defence – are banned and tossed in the dustbin of history and politics. And, we must acknowledge that, in that time, women constituted a large part of it.

The conference did not fail to recall that her fight for women's rights led Olympe de Gouges to a humanist struggle for the universality of rights. It led in particular to an unwavering commitment to abolish

slavery. But the least one can say is that the revolutionary society considered politics as the full prerogative of men. As a witness, this sentence pronounced by the prosecutor of the Revolutionary Court which condemned de Gouges to the guillotine in 1793: "Since when is it possible for women to abjure their sex and become a man?". Olympe de Gouges had to suffer many times this type of criticism where misogyny espoused crass stupidity. Including in posterity.

In the atmosphere of the French Revolution, she imagined she was an important political figure. She thus led the fighting by adapting political action to women. Her feminism before its time, so to speak, led to an authentic humanism: defence supporting the "marginal" (slaves in the colonies, pregnant women, the unemployed, the poor, children, widows, etc.); opposition to the death penalty on principle; condemnation of all forms of violence and all forms of ideological escalation; defence of equality and wide access to knowledge. "Everything depends on education," she wrote in *"Le Prince philosophique"*; profound belief in Man, as a human being, against all injustices, including the defence of a king who has failed in his task by betraying his people. Humanity, for de Gouges, comes before the function, even if this was not exercised with respect and honesty.

The conference recalled with force the urgent need to replace and restore Olympe de Gouges in all her complexity. A useful reminder because at the same time strange and beautiful, a true standard-bearer, she is also a criticized and forgotten contemporary. A very unusual woman, she refused to accept the rules that were imposed. If we cannot present her as a great woman, we can paint her as she was, that is, an exemplary woman, a humanist woman, a woman of letters, a committed polygraph, without a father or tutors.

**CALL FOR PAPERS**



**This is your magazine**

Responses to news from the Sector for Social and Human Sciences and proposals to publish an article or a photograph on a topic relating to UNESCO's social and human sciences programme are very welcome at the following address: [shs@unesco.org](mailto:shs@unesco.org)



Event in France, against violence towards women.

From south-west France, de Gouges made her way to Paris, a woman of honour as much as of urgency. In her work, she does not claim to be a poet, even though many of the turns of phrases are highly expressive. She draws on her work – its drama, like her militant activity – in favour of respect for the human being. She will therefore always be expressed over the events by capturing the most innovative medias yet.

The symposium stressed the fact that, to confine Olympe de Gouges to the figure of “feminist heroine”, would disguise her other dimensions. Throughout her life, she indeed called for open humanism and universalism. A good reason to consider her in all her finesse and in all of her ideas. Without judging her. Without misinterpretation. Without coarsely and summararily appropriating words.

Posterity will not have much regard for her. Constantly mocked as a *Virago* – both woman and man – or brutally portrayed as hysterical, she was an eclipsed celebrity in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Flora Tristan, for example, was believed to be the first to consider the drafting of a Declaration of the Rights of Women.... It was forgetting the essential contribution

to human rights that the conference, which opened at UNESCO, contributed to share along with a key idea: what the struggles of today must learn from it.

The many battles of Olympe de Gouges were thus exposed and recalled during the two days of debate, whether it be the legacy and fate of former colonies once dominated by slavery; the reflection on the extension to Europe of national legislative measures that are most beneficial to women; the mission and activities of the International Federation of Human Rights, particularly with regard to the place assigned to women in developing countries; the situation of illegal migrants today; the claim for the “liberation” of Palestine, or even the current debate concerning the position of Africa as a continent with deep and personal identities, in the era of globalization and liberalism often experienced as alienating external pressures.

“However, de Gouges should never be used to serve contemporary causes, by abusing her thoughts and convictions for this”, the participants of the conference clearly recalled.

Several proposals to help raise awareness of her personality and her work were made. Among these suggestions: the teaching of Olympe de Gouges in history lessons; a highly laudatory tribute on 8 March, Women’s Day; or the holding of regular international meetings around this humanist figure bringing together commitments and expertises.

While highlighting the face and the spirit of a complex personality, the major inflection of the conference was to ask how to go beyond the work of memory. ¶

1. Organized on 14-15 November 2008 by *Le Monde Diplomatique*, in partnership with the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO, the French Commission for UNESCO, the Conseil régional d’Île de France, TV5 Monde and the city of Montreuil.

# African governments united against the use of drugs in sport

A conference entitled “United in the Fight against Doping in Sport” was held from 27 to 28 November 2008, and brought together 30 African Ministers of Sport in Boksburg (South Africa).

Organized by UNESCO, Sport and Recreation in South Africa and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the meeting aimed at strengthening cooperation among countries in the region through regular exchange of information and expertise.

The Regional Anti-Doping Organization for the Indian Ocean and Mozambique (RADO) took advantage of this opportunity to present the

education programmes it develops in these countries. Zambia, the 20<sup>th</sup> country to have ratified the International Convention against Doping in Sport, for its part, explained the procedure and the legal tools it has chosen to use in committing itself “officially” to the fight of nations against doping in sport.

At the end of their work, the Ministers of Sport adopted a Joint Declaration in which they call on all African countries to urgently ratify or approve the Convention which has been in force since February 2007, before the 35<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO in October 2009. ¶

For more information, please contact:  
Paul Marriott-Lloyd, [p.marriott-lloyd@unesco.org](mailto:p.marriott-lloyd@unesco.org),  
tel.: +33 1 45 68 45 33

© UNESCO



## 100 countries ratify the Anti-Doping Convention

UNESCO celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> signature of the International Convention against Doping in Sport. To mark this event, the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, David Howman, the Director General of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and the Spanish Secretary of State for Sport, Jaime Lissavetzky, met on 12 November 2008, together with the Ambassadors from most of the 100 countries having ratified the Convention. Paraguay was the 100<sup>th</sup> signatory of the Convention, which was adopted on 19 October 2005 and entered into force on 1 February 2007. No other UNESCO Convention has been implemented so quickly.

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

#### 16-19 January

2<sup>nd</sup> Collective Consultation on the promotion and development of traditional sports and games. Tehran, Iran. ([y.sagou@unesco.org](mailto:y.sagou@unesco.org))

#### 21-22 January

International Regional UNESCO Conference: “Methodological and Methodical Issues in Bioethics Today”. Prešov, Slovakia. ([h.tenhave@unesco.org](mailto:h.tenhave@unesco.org))

#### 26-28 January

ACB (Assisting Bioethics Committee) Training Session on Working Methods. Lomé, Togo. ([h.tenhave@unesco.org](mailto:h.tenhave@unesco.org))

#### 29-31 January

ACB (Assisting Bioethics Committee) Training Session on Working Methods. Accra, Ghana. ([h.tenhave@unesco.org](mailto:h.tenhave@unesco.org))

### FEBRUARY

#### 5 February

UNESCO Workshop on Training of Ethics for Youth. Bangkok, Thailand. ([d.macer@unesco.org](mailto:d.macer@unesco.org))

#### 9-13 February

Gender Studies Network Conference. Bangkok, Thailand. ([d.macer@unesco.org](mailto:d.macer@unesco.org))

#### 12-14 February

ABC Training Session on Working Methods. Antananarivo, Madagascar. ([h.tenhave@unesco.org](mailto:h.tenhave@unesco.org))

#### 13-14 February

Inauguration of the International Centre for Human Rights Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean. Buenos Aires, Argentina. ([v.volodine@unesco.org](mailto:v.volodine@unesco.org))

#### 27 February

ABC Training Session on Working Methods. Port Louis, Mauritius. ([h.tenhave@unesco.org](mailto:h.tenhave@unesco.org))

### MARCH

#### 9-10 March

Steering Committee of the West Africa Institute (WAI) on Regional Integration. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. ([s.chin-yee@unesco.org](mailto:s.chin-yee@unesco.org))

#### 9-11 March

ABC Training Session on Working Methods. Kingston, Jamaica. ([h.tenhave@unesco.org](mailto:h.tenhave@unesco.org))

#### 12-14 March

Legal Experts' Meeting on the GEObs Database. Nairobi, Kenya. ([t.lang@unesco.org](mailto:t.lang@unesco.org))

#### 17-18 March

Workshop on Ethics Education. Dhaka, Bangladesh. ([d.macer@unesco.org](mailto:d.macer@unesco.org))

#### 18-21 March

Meeting of Experts on Ethics Teaching. Banjul, Gambia. ([h.tenhave@unesco.org](mailto:h.tenhave@unesco.org))

#### 19-20 March

International Conference on “Accessing the Urban Space: Responding to International Demand of Migrants”. Venice, Italy. ([b.colin@unesco.org](mailto:b.colin@unesco.org))

#### 20 March

Event for the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination. Paris, France. ([s.lazarev@unesco.org](mailto:s.lazarev@unesco.org))

#### 27-29 March

7<sup>th</sup> Latin American Forum of Ministers of Social Development. Caracas, Venezuela. ([j.carranza@unesco.org](mailto:j.carranza@unesco.org))

### APRIL

#### 5-9 April

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Ministers of Women's Affairs for the Great Lakes Region. Mombasa, Kenya. ([j.nkinyangi@unesco.org](mailto:j.nkinyangi@unesco.org))

#### 20-24 April

Conference “Durban II”. Geneva, Switzerland. ([s.lazarev@unesco.org](mailto:s.lazarev@unesco.org))

#### 26-29 April

10<sup>th</sup> Asian Bioethics Conference. Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. ([d.macer@unesco.org](mailto:d.macer@unesco.org))

#### 26-29 April

4<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Roundtable for Asia-Pacific School of Ethics. Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. ([d.macer@unesco.org](mailto:d.macer@unesco.org))