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Item 5.1 of the provisional agenda

**DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY TO COMBAT RACISM,
DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE**

OUTLINE

Source: 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2.

Background: In accordance with 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2, the Director-General is submitting to the General Conference the present integrated strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in UNESCO's fields of competence.

Purpose: The purpose of the strategy is to relaunch UNESCO's efforts to combat these scourges. The document reviews UNESCO's past efforts, defines the priority fields and themes selected and sets forth the new partnerships to be established and the conditions for implementation of the integrated strategy.

Decision required: paragraph 26.

Draft UNESCO integrated strategy to combat racism and discrimination

Background

1. The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 31 August to 8 September 2001) was organized by the United Nations to give new impetus to the combat against these scourges in modern societies. The conference, which was the third international meeting of this scope on the issue, following those held in 1978 and 1983 in Geneva, was held to mark the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003) proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 1993 (A/RES/48/91).¹
2. In the Programme of Action it adopted, the Durban Conference addressed some specific recommendations to UNESCO, inviting it to strengthen its efforts in the following areas: the Slave Route project and research on slavery and the slave route (paras. 119 and 120); development of cultural and educational programmes aimed at countering racism and racial discrimination (para. 126); preparation of teaching materials and tools for promoting human rights and the struggle against racism and other forms of discrimination (para. 156); preservation of cultural diversity (para. 179); promotion of the dialogue among civilizations (para. 192); development of research on cultural traditions relating to human rights (para. 195); implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and the objectives of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (para. 202).
3. In its resolution 56/266 adopted on 27 March 2002, the United Nations General Assembly “endorses the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted on 8 September 2001 by the Conference; and expresses its satisfaction with the outcome of the Conference, which constitutes a solid foundation for further action and initiatives”. The resolution in particular “invites specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust, within their respective mandates, their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies to take into account the follow-up to the Conference”.
4. In response to that invitation and to the specific recommendations addressed to it, UNESCO, at the 164th session of the Executive Board in April 2002, examined document 164 EX/16 on the follow-up to the Durban Conference and adopted 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2 in which the Board “invites the Director-General to develop ... an integrated strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance in UNESCO’s fields of competence, to be submitted to the General Conference at its 32nd session ... [and] to report to it at its 166th session on the progress that has been made on the implementation of this decision”. In his report 166 EX/5 Part I on the follow-up of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its previous sessions, the Director-General informed the Executive Board of the various activities implemented by UNESCO since the Durban Conference and the adoption of 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2.
5. The Durban Conference came at a time when the international community was facing new threats of confrontation, exclusion and discrimination linked to the rise of extreme nationalism and ideologies of intolerance and was reflecting on the most effective ways of managing globalization and technological and scientific progress. The Conference offered UNESCO an opportunity to

¹ The goals and objectives of the Third Decade are similar to those of the preceding decades, namely “to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind on grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, ..., to eliminate the persistence of racist policies and to counteract the emergence of alliances based on mutual espousal of racism and racial discrimination; ...; to identify, isolate and dispel the fallacious and mythical beliefs, policies and practices that contribute to racism and racial discrimination; and to put an end to racist regimes”.

revitalize and reinforce, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, its combat against racism, discrimination and exclusion that is central to its mandate, as set forth in the preamble to its Constitution.²

6. It must be admitted that since the dismantling of the system of apartheid in South Africa, the Organization's efforts to combat racism and discrimination have slowed down to some extent and are no longer highly visible. It is therefore important to give new impetus to UNESCO's action, in the light of the commitment made by the international community in the Durban documents, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly. This resolve is motivated by the new global response to the events of 11 September 2001 characterized by reinforcement of the combat against international terrorism, which must be carried out with full respect for human rights, and of the international instruments concerned with eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, descent or ethnic origin. The revitalization of UNESCO's action is also in response to the need for openness, tolerance and mutual understanding of the dialogue among civilizations and of intercultural exchanges in a world which is more interdependent than ever before.

I. UNESCO'S PAST STRATEGIES AND ACTION

7. Before presenting the major thrusts of UNESCO's new integrated strategy, a brief review of UNESCO's past efforts is in order. From the earliest years of its existence, UNESCO demonstrated its commitment by initially waging the combat on the scientific front. It was able to mobilize the scientific community, calling upon eminent specialists to draft scientific texts refuting racist theories. A series of historic statements were thus produced, helping to demonstrate the absurdity of racial prejudice: *Statement on Race* (1950), *Statement on the Nature of Race and Race Differences* (1951), *Statement on the Biological Aspects of Race* (1964). The pinnacle of UNESCO's efforts was the *Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice* adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 20th session in 1978.

8. Following the phase of consolidation of scientific evidence and ethical principles refuting racism and other forms of discrimination, UNESCO then turned to the drawing up of international instruments defining universal principles, concepts and criteria in support of the combat against these threats to social peace and stability. Several standard-setting instruments relating to the problem of racism and discrimination in UNESCO's fields of competence were thus adopted by the General Conference (see Annex).

9. Parallel to its scientific and standard-setting efforts, UNESCO launched, at the operational level, programmes and projects enabling it to participate more substantially in combating racism and discrimination in its fields of competence. UNESCO's efforts in this field have become widely known owing in part to the following activities:

- the **special programme against apartheid**, a policy described since 1966 by UNESCO as a "crime against humanity";

² The Constitution of UNESCO, after observing in its preamble that "the great and terrible war which has now ended was a war made possible by the denial of the democratic principles of the dignity, equality and mutual respect of men, and by the propagation, in their place, through ignorance and prejudice, of the doctrine of the inequality of men and races", states in Article I that the Organization's purpose is "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed by the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion ...".

- the **Slave Route project** which, through its promotion of scientific research and its “Breaking the silence” programme, designed to raise awareness about the transatlantic slave trade and launched by the Associated Schools Project (ASPnet), has helped bring about greater understanding of the tragedy of the slave trade and the ideological foundations of racism.

II. MAJOR THRUSTS OF UNESCO’S NEW INTEGRATED STRATEGY

10. UNESCO’s new integrated strategy takes into account the lines of emphasis defined as a result of UNESCO’s reform policy encouraging the Organization to concentrate on areas where it can have a real impact. The strategy is in harmony with the Organization’s strategic objectives, in particular objective No. 5 “Improving human security” (31 C/4, para. 93), and the priorities defined in the Medium-Term Strategy (2002-2007), which invites UNESCO to “**put its expertise and knowledge also at the service of eliminating all forms of discrimination, in particular in the framework of the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance ...**” (31 C/4, para. 92). It is also part of a UNESCO global human rights strategy which is being developed in conjunction with the United Nations Secretary-General’s Reform Programme (resolution 51/950) aimed at placing human rights at the core of the United Nations system and achieving the development objectives set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. It is designed to give concrete form to the principles and values set forth in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted by the General Conference in 2001. The new strategy is based on the results of studies on the various causes and forms of discrimination and on the recommendations made during the regional consultations on the follow-up to the Durban Conference organized by UNESCO during the 2002-2003 biennium, in pursuance of 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2, and in which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance participated actively.³ Those results and recommendations were discussed and endorsed at the **international expert seminar organized by UNESCO in June 2003 in Osaka, Japan**, with the support of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. In view of the significance for UNESCO of the new strategy, the Director-General addressed a special message to the Osaka seminar participants, representing regions from all over the world.

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE INTEGRATED STRATEGY

11. General objectives:

- revitalize UNESCO’s efforts in the combat against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance in its fields of competence;
- reinforce cooperation with other United Nations agencies, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNAIDS and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), and with international intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations (European Union, African Union, Organization of American States, Association of South-East Asian Nations, etc.);

³ The studies and the reports of the regional consultations are available on request from the Secretariat.

- reinforce awareness-raising activities in the field and strengthen solidarity networks by forming new partnerships and remobilizing UNESCO's customary partners including civil society organizations, in particular those concerned with the defence of human rights, universities, research centres, educational establishments and training institutes and competent NGOs throughout the world.

Specific objectives:

- deepen knowledge about the development of forms of discrimination inherited from the past, notably those linked to the period of slavery and colonization and those affecting indigenous peoples and cultural and religious minorities;
- pursue research on new forms of discrimination, in particular those linked to globalization and to scientific and technological progress;
- reinforce the institutional capacities of the different actors involved to promote research, education and communication in the combat against racism and other forms of discrimination;
- broaden reflection on the phenomenon of xenophobia, particularly in the context of multi-ethnic and multicultural societies aspiring to a democratic citizenship where diversity is respected;
- contribute to the formulation and implementation of national policies and plans of action to combat racism and discrimination at the appropriate levels;
- collect, compare and disseminate good practices in the combat against racism, discrimination, including discrimination against individuals with HIV/AIDS, xenophobia and intolerance.

B. MAIN LINES OF ACTION OF THE STRATEGY

12. Unlike the early decades of its existence when UNESCO was quickly able to define its role in the combat against racism and discrimination and to become an essential partner, the field today is occupied by a multitude of social actors using all kinds of approaches and action strategies. Faced with this profusion of initiatives, UNESCO must find a niche which will enable it to demonstrate its unique contribution while ensuring greater complementarity and synergy with the efforts of the other partners. However, rather than lay out in advance the activities to be implemented for each UNESCO programme, the integrated strategy will define priority themes and actions covering the major fields of competence of the Organization which can later be translated into specific activities within the various programmes in conjunction with the recommendations made directly to UNESCO by the Durban Conference.

13. Because of the special features and cumulative effects of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance to which women fall victim, the gender dimension will be taken into account in all the fields of action covered by the present strategy.

14. In view of the scope of the problem and the limited means at UNESCO's disposal, the new strategy must fulfil three requirements:

- (a) *the need for a thematic choice* with a view to refocusing UNESCO's efforts on selected fields where it can best demonstrate its comparative advantage;

- (b) *the need to take account of and choose specific regional characteristics* in order to include some of the priorities identified by the different regions of the world during the consultations and to facilitate interregional cooperation on some matters of common interest;
- (c) *the need for operational and innovative action* to build up UNESCO's presence and visibility in the field.

III. PRIORITY DOMAINS AND THEMES SELECTED

15. **Developing scientific research and reflection on the phenomena of racism, discrimination and xenophobia with regard to the following themes:**

- *Legacy of racism:* UNESCO will pursue and strengthen its research efforts on the link between current forms of racism and discrimination and certain traditional prejudices and forms of discrimination. The study of the impact of the slave trade and colonial domination will be reinforced as part of the Slave Route project, particularly in conjunction with the events planned for the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition (2004).
- *Link between discrimination and women:* UNESCO will strengthen research on the process of the accumulation/superposition of forms of discriminations standing in the way of equality between women and men and of an improved status for women in different societies.
- *Link between construction of identity and discrimination:* UNESCO will make a greater contribution to reflection on the construction of identities in multicultural and multi-ethnic societies, to analysis of the discrimination and exclusion to which it may give rise, and to the search for responses that respect the diversity of identity issues and may preserve social cohesion.
- *Link between scientific progress and emergence of new forms of discrimination:* while scientific research once enabled UNESCO to discredit racist theories, the spectacular development of some scientific fields, in particular genetics, now raises the spectre of new forms of discrimination. As a scientific cooperation organization, UNESCO will launch appropriate studies and will mobilize the scientific community and the public to raise awareness about the emergence of these new forms of discrimination. To that end UNESCO will resume the bold and innovative approach which marked its combat against racism on the scientific front.
- *Interaction between HIV/AIDS and discrimination:* as part of the study of new forms of discrimination, special attention will go to the stigmatization and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS and the new epidemics.
- *Link between globalization and new types of exclusion:* As an organization promoting international solidarity, UNESCO will also seek to bring about better understanding of the new forms of discrimination and exclusion which may result from globalization.

16. **Revision and/or revitalization of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments contributing to the combat against discrimination in its fields of competence and reinforcement of cooperation with actors in the United Nations system.**

In the face of aggravated racism and the emergence of new forms of discrimination and dissemination of ideologies of intolerance, UNESCO will take steps to review, revitalize, complete and/or ensure the ratification of its standard-setting instruments relating to racism and discrimination.

- Special attention will be given to the 1960 *Convention against Discrimination in Education* (for which the seventh consultation for the examination of reports is scheduled for 2005) with a view to its ratification by all UNESCO Member States and its revitalization.
- UNESCO will strengthen its collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) with a view to more effective application of the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* in the Organization's fields of competence, in conformity with the memorandum signed on 5 February 2003 by the Director-General of UNESCO and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which lists the combat against racism and discrimination as one of the priority areas of cooperation.
- As part of the follow-up to the Durban Conference, UNESCO will also reinforce its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the intergovernmental working group on the Durban follow-up, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the group of independent eminent experts⁴ appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to follow-up the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

17. Development of new educational approaches, preparation of teaching materials and definition of statistical indicators on racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance

UNESCO will concentrate on the following activities:

- *carrying out of comparative studies on educational approaches and methodologies* used in civic education for the prevention of racism and discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance;
- *training of trainers and teachers* in the prevention of racial and xenophobic conflicts, in the classroom and in all educational settings, through, in particular, the design of specific tools based on human rights principles;
- *reinforcement of exchanges between schools in different countries and cultures* using various networks including the Associated Schools Network, as part of the "Breaking the silence" theme of the Slave Route project;
- *creation of Internet dialogue and discussion forums on racism in the schools* in view of the increasingly widespread use of the Internet by young people;

⁴ The five leading figures appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 16 June 2003 are: Martti Ahtisaari (former President of Finland), His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal (Jordan), Edna Maria Santos Roland (Brazil), Salim Ahmed Salim (Tanzania, former Secretary-General of OAU) and Hanna Suchocka (former Prime Minister of Poland).

- *preparation of guidelines* for the development of new textbooks dealing with racism and other forms of discrimination, taking into account specific regional and national characteristics;
- *definition of criteria and guidance for the revision of textbooks*, particularly history textbooks, with a view to eliminating prejudice, racist attitudes and discrimination;
- *production of a publication to combat racism and encourage tolerance*, for use by university teachers, young researchers, and students, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- *production of a training manual and teaching materials* on the stigmatization and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS for use with young people, in cooperation with UNAIDS and youth organizations;
- *definition of statistical indicators* to measure the prevalence of racism and discrimination, in cooperation with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

18. Mobilizing of opinion leaders and decision-makers against racism and forms of discrimination

Experience has shown that the combat against racism and discrimination, on fronts other than research, education and communication, calls for major efforts in the field whose effectiveness depends on raising public awareness, in particular through opinion leaders. This approach also depends on the participation of decision-makers and the adoption of legislative, judicial and administrative measures to provide protection against racist and discriminatory acts and attitudes.

- UNESCO will undertake initiatives to encourage decision-makers (governments, parliamentarians, municipal authorities and so forth) *to draw up and implement anti-racist and anti-discriminatory measures.*
- It will also use its reputation and status with various publics, including *young people, artists, athletes, journalists, scientists, teachers and religious leaders*, to launch targeted awareness or mobilization campaigns on the occasion of special events (international days, in particular the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March and the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November, festivals, sports events, celebrations, etc.). UNESCO will take advantage of the influence of its *Goodwill Ambassadors*, involving them more deeply in such campaigns.

19. Preserving diversity in multi-ethnic and multicultural societies

- UNESCO will strengthen its contribution to reflection on the socio-political and cultural conditions likely to facilitate *a democratic citizenship respectful of diversity in multi-ethnic and multicultural societies.*
- It will also develop in-depth studies on various forms of discrimination which stigmatize and exclude “minorities” from certain aspects of society, in particular the *audiovisual field.*

20. Combating racist propaganda in the media and in cyberspace

In response to the potential use of the new information and communication technologies, in particular the Internet, to spread racist, intolerant or discriminatory ideas, UNESCO will reinforce

its awareness-raising efforts with the aim of ensuring greater respect by professionals for ethical rules and more effective application by public authorities of regulations in this field.

- UNESCO will in particular encourage professional organizations to *engage in ethical reflection* as a means of strengthening the commitment of media professionals, in particular those working with the Internet, to combating racism and discrimination in cyberspace.
- It will launch campaigns for raising the awareness of political and professional decision-makers and mobilizing them against racist propaganda spread via the new information technologies.

IV. IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED STRATEGY

21. UNESCO will, in addition to its “*upstream*” action to encourage reflection on the development of the phenomena of racism and discrimination and the formulation of universal standards, be carrying out “*downstream*” activities to contribute to capacity-building for victims, mobilizing opinion leaders and decision-makers, and promoting public awareness in general. As part of these operational efforts, UNESCO will reinforce its cooperation with its traditional partners such as the National Commissions, UNESCO Clubs, the Associated Schools Network, UNESCO Chairs, the educational and scientific community, NGOs, women’s associations, and so forth, and will establish new partnerships with other social actors able to help it strengthen its presence and visibility in the field, including:

- youth organizations, with a view to launching exchange initiatives and meetings on the topic;
- city councils, with a view to setting up a network of cities united against racism and exclusion;
- sports organizations, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), with a view to the regular staging of sports events dedicated to combating racism and discrimination;
- artists, with a view to the organization of cultural events condemning racism;
- the private sector, in particular businesses which have signed the *United Nations Global Compact*,⁵ with a view to the application of anti-discrimination measures and the sponsoring of activities and campaigns against racism and discrimination.

22. The strategy’s themes, fields of action and regional priorities will require the participation of the Organization’s programme sectors (social and human sciences, natural sciences, education, culture and communication). The new integrated strategy has accordingly been designed as a transdisciplinary exercise requiring close intersectoral cooperation and coordination. Since the strategy will be in place for at least six years, each sector/division/unit will define for each

⁵ The Global Compact, launched in 2000 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, is designed to bring together businesses and United Nations agencies, the world of work and civil society around nine universal principles relating to human rights, labour standards and the environment. Using the power of collective action, the Global Compact endeavours to promote the civic responsibility of businesses and the participation of the business world in the search for solutions to the problems arising from globalization. Principle No. 6 of the Compact concerns the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

biennium (beginning with 2004-2005) the priority themes, areas of intervention and activities that it plans to implement under its programme.

23. To make more effective use of available resources, actions under the new integrated strategy should be based on the past experience of each programme sector. In support of the new strategy, it will therefore be important to reinforce the units, sections, programmes and projects which have all along been dealing with the issue of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

24. To ensure follow-up to the present integrated strategy within the Organization, the **Section to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination**, established within the Division of Human Rights and Struggle against Discrimination, in the Social and Human Sciences Sector, will be responsible for coordinating implementation of the activities planned under the strategy, in cooperation with the programmes and services concerned, including the field offices, and the UNESCO National Commissions, and in consultation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

25. A mid-term assessment on the implementation of the present strategy will be conducted. To that end each sector will, during its programming exercise, have to define evaluation indicators for the activities concerned.

26. After examining this document, the General Conference may wish to adopt a resolution along the following lines:

The General Conference,

Recalling the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 31 August – 8 September 2001),

Referring to resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002 in which the United Nations General Assembly endorsed “the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action” and invited “specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust, within their respective mandates, their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies to take into account the follow-up to the Conference”,

Recalling also 164 EX/Decision 3.4.2 of the Executive Board adopted in April 2002 inviting “the Director-General to develop ... an integrated strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in UNESCO’s fields of competence”,

Considering that fresh impetus must be lent to UNESCO’s efforts to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Having taken cognizance of document 32 C/13 entitled *Development of an integrated strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*,

1. Approves the strategy submitted;
2. Invites Member States to take an active part in implementing the proposed strategy by initiating concrete projects based on the thematic choices and the regional priorities identified;

3. Invites the Director-General still further to strengthen cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by developing and undertaking joint projects to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, and by disseminating widely the results of that work to the Member States;
4. Also invites the Director-General to give most particular attention to the Slave Route project in connection with the implementation of the present strategy and, above all, with the celebration in 2004 of the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition;
5. Further invites the Director-General to increase cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations with a view to preparing didactic and promotional materials facilitating implementation of the priorities defined in the integrated strategy at regional and national level, among them the countering of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia;
6. Appeals to the non-governmental organizations working with UNESCO to amplify their efforts to promote the values of peace, non-discrimination, tolerance and non-violence among different population groups and, above all, among young people.

ANNEX

Instruments relating to racism, discrimination, xenophobia or intolerance on the list of UNESCO standard-setting texts (CL/3631)

- *Convention against Discrimination in Education (14 December 1960)*, which was the first to provide an exhaustive definition of the term “discrimination”, described as “any distinction, exclusion, limitation or preference which, [is] based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic condition or birth”.
- *Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (19 November 1974)*, which recommends, *inter alia*, that respect for the principles and values of non-discrimination should be inculcated in citizens of all ages.
- *Recommendation on Participation by the People at Large in Cultural Life and their Contribution to It (26 November 1976)*, which reaffirms the right of all individuals, without exclusion or distinction, to have access to and to participate in cultural life.
- *Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (1978)*, which reviews, in a single standard-setting instrument, the results of the scientific work and progress in policy-making on the issue. Apartheid was already described as a crime against humanity in this Declaration.
- *Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racialism, Apartheid and Incitement to War (28 November 1978)*, which emphasizes the special responsibility of the media in that domain.
- *Declaration of Principles on Tolerance (16 November 1995)*, which, given the new wave of intolerance and extremism, revitalizes the concept of tolerance by presenting it as an active attitude arising from recognition of and respect for the human rights of others.
- *Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (11 November 1997)*, in response to the development of biotechnologies and the risk of new forms of discrimination based on genetic characteristics.
- *UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2 November 2001)*, which is now considered one of the basic texts of a new ethic and represents the culmination of UNESCO’s long efforts in defence of cultural pluralism in its fields of competence.