

## **Memorandum of Co-operation between UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance**

**April 1998**

*We, representatives of UNESCO Chairs for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance:*

*Deeply concerned* by on-going violations of human rights in many parts of the world, widespread extreme poverty, social exclusion, numerous manifestations of discrimination against persons belonging to various vulnerable groups, in particular against women, children minorities, migrants, indigenous people, elderly, disabled, etc.,

*Alarmed* by threats to peace, to human life and security provoked by armed conflicts, internal strife, terrorist activities and organized crime, as well as by the deterioration of the natural environment,

*Mindful* that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an opportunity to redouble efforts in order to implement all human rights for all, without any discrimination whatsoever, and with due respect for the principles of the universality and indivisibility of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights,

*Convinced* that education and research are important means for promoting respect for human rights, strengthening peace and security, consolidating democracy and promoting tolerance and forming relevant behaviour patterns, thus contributing to the creation of a culture of peace,

*Persuaded* that UNESCO Chairs should continue and increase their contribution towards achieving these objectives, in particular through strengthening co-operation between the Chairs as well as their collaboration with other relevant partners at local, national, regional and international levels, with a view to promoting a culture of peace,

*Bearing in mind* the desirability of creating a genuine global network and regional sub-networks of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance,

*Have agreed on the following:*

1. To establish a regular exchange of information, research results, education programmes and materials and publications between the Chairs and to make use of the facilities provided by new information technologies in order to enhance co-operation among themselves including, *inter alia*, creation and maintaining a Web Page for the Chairs.
2. To implement joint educational and research programmes and to establish the practice of reciprocal visits and exchanges of guest lecturers between the Chairs.

3. To use the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other important forthcoming events in order to develop joint activities aimed at mobilizing public opinion, in particular young people, to the cause of human rights, peace, democracy and tolerance in the interests of a culture of peace.
4. To strengthen co-operation of the Chairs with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, national human rights bodies, human rights and peace institutions, educational establishments, foundations and the mass media, including involvement in their projects.
5. To reinforce co-operation between the Chairs on regional and sub-regional levels, in forms they find appropriate, in particular between Chairs in Arab States, in Central and Eastern Europe, in Latin America, in southern Africa, and in other regions.
6. To launch an information bulletin, *UNESCO Chairs*, to be published at least once a year in hardcopy and on the Web which will serve as a source of information on the activities of the Chairs, subjects of common interest and problems to be solved (the first issue will be prepared in 1999 by the European University Centre for Peace Studies, Stadtschlaining, Austria).
7. To hold the meeting of the representatives of the UNESCO Chairs on a regular basis, preferably biannually (the next meeting will be organized in the year 2000 by the UNESCO Chair on Peace, Human Rights and Democracy in Pune, India).

**This memorandum is signed by the representatives of the following chairs:**

UNESCO Chair for Teaching, Research  
and Education for Human Rights, Democracy  
and Peace  
University of Oran, Algeria

UNESCO Chair on Cultural Rights  
University of Palermo, Argentina

UNESCO Chair on Peace, Human Rights and Democracy  
European University Center for Peace Studies, Stadtschlaining, Austria

UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Peace  
Baku Institute of Public Administration and Political Sciences, Azerbaijan

UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy  
Belarusian State University, Minsk, Belarus

UNESCO Chair in the Culture of Peace and Democracy  
National Institute of Higher Education of the Republic of Belarus, Minsk,  
Belarus

UNESCO Chair on Human Rights and Democracy  
Université nationale du Bénin, Cotonou, Bénin

UNESCO Chair on Education for Peace, Human Rights Democracy and  
Tolerance  
Institute for Advanced Studies, University of São Paulo, Brazil

UNESCO Chair for Civic Education  
Sofia University « St. Kliment Ochridsky »  
Bulgaria

UNESCO Chair on Culture of Peace and Human  
Rights  
Bourgas Free University, Sofia, Bulgaria

UNESCO Chair for Democracy and Human Rights  
Luis Carlos Galan Institute for Development of  
Democracy, Santafe de Bogota, Colombia

United Nations for Education for Human Rights  
and Democracy  
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

UNESCO Chair on a Culture of Peace and Democracy  
Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani Tbilisi State Pedagogical University, Republic of  
Georgia

UNESCO Chair on Education for Human Rights and Peace, Aristotle  
University of Thessaloniki, Greece

UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy  
Al al-Bayt University, Mafraq, Jordan

UNESCO Chair for Peace, Democracy and Development  
University of Fianarantsoa, Madagascar

UNESCO Chair for Human Rights  
Faculty of Political and Social Sciences  
National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico, DF.

UNESCO Chair on Education, Training and Research for Human Rights,  
University Mohammad V, Rabat, Morocco

UNESCO Chair for Democracy and Human Rights  
University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia

UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and  
Peace, A Najah National University, Nablus, Palestinian Authority

UNESCO Chair on Human Rights and Peace  
Nicolas Copernicus University, Torun, Poland

UNESCO Chair on Peace, Democracy and Human Rights  
Korea University, Seoul, Korea

UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy  
Romanian Institute for Human Rights, Bucarest, Romania

UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy  
Moscow State Institute of International Relations and Moscow Independent  
Institute of International Law  
Moscow, Russian Federation

UNESCO Chair on a Culture of Peace and Democracy  
Russian State University for the Humanities  
Moscow, Russian Federation

UNESCO Chair for Human Rights Education  
Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

UNESCO « Oliver Tambo » Chair on Human Rights  
University of Fort Hare, Alice, South Africa

UNESCO Chair for Peace, Parliamentarian  
Democracy and Human Rights, University of La Laguna  
Tenerife, Canary Isles, Spain

UNESCO Chair on Peace and Human Rights  
The Autonomous University of Barcelona  
Bellaterra, Spain

UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Peace and  
Democracy, Tolerance and International Understanding  
The National University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy  
Kiev, Ukraine