

**Statement on the Role of UNESCO Chairs in the  
Promotion of a culture of Peace**

**adopted by the  
International Meeting of Representatives of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Peace,  
Democracy and Tolerance  
(Stadtschlaining, Austria, 25 April 1998)**

We, representatives of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Tolerance,

*Mindful* that education, information and research are important means for promoting respect for human rights, strengthening peace and security, consolidating democracy and promoting tolerance, non-violence and international understanding,

*Noting* that UNESCO Chairs established in conformity with the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme launched in 1991, have developed a potential for making a significant contribution to the shaping of a culture of peace, human rights and democracy,

*Conscious* of the necessity to increase this contribution,

*Have agreed that efforts of the UNESCO Chairs should be concentrated at achieving the following aims:*

1. To develop educational programmes in the field of human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance, which should help in forming relevant behavioural patterns.
2. To participate in the improvement of curricula and text books in order to eliminate negative stereotypes and promote respect for values of human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance.
3. To serve as focal points, at the local, national, subregional, regional and interregional levels, for the exchange of experiences in education and research in the field of human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance and in service training of educators, in order to ensure a multiplier effect.
4. To serve as centres for dissemination of information on human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance, in particular among educators and professional having special responsibility in the field.
5. To contribute to the dissemination of knowledge on human rights among the professionals having special responsibilities in the field, in particular among decision makers, judges and lawyers, public administrators, parliamentarians, the military, the police, law enforcement officials, mass media professionals and religious leaders.
6. To ensure active co-operation with educational and research institutes, non-governmental organizations, human rights, democracy and peace activists and with national dealing with the protection of human rights in order to promote a culture of peace. To encourage the elaboration of national plans in the field of human rights education and assist in their preparation and implementation.
7. To contribute to establishing of a Web Site, available on Internet, with a view to providing access to educational and teaching materials, in particular those elaborated by the Chairs.
8. To develop individually and jointly the research potential in the field of human rights, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, democracy-related issues, promotion of international understanding, tolerance and all other issues related to a culture of peace.

