

First International Meeting of Chairholders of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance

Stadtschlaining, Austria 22-25 April 1998

Final Report

Final Documents (adopted)

- *Stadtschlaining Appeal to Promote Human Rights, Peace, Democracy, International Understanding and Tolerance*
- *Memorandum of Co-operation Between UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance*
- *Statement on the Role of UNESCO Chairs in the Promotion of a Culture of Peace*

Publication on the first Chairholder Meeting

Table of Contents :

Introduction

Item One: The development of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance: The present situation, new challenges and perspectives

Item Two: Planning of national, regional and international activities and projects related to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Item Three: The development of co-operation between UNESCO Chairs and educational programmes related to the promotion of a culture of peace

Item Four: Discussion on strengthening the network of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance

Item Five: Presentation and approval of the draft report and draft final documents of the meeting

Conclusion

Bureau of the International Meeting

Chairman: Mr. G. Mader

Vice-Chairpersons:

Ms. T. Bakuradze, Mr. A. Eshete, Mr. M. Mouaqit,

Ms. L. Pavlova, Ms. G. Ramirez, Mr. Sampatkumar,

Ms. L. Selezneva, Mr. J. Symonides, Mr. R. Valchev,

Rapporteur: Mr. T. Duffy

Introduction

This is the report of the rapporteur from the first meeting of the UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance. The meeting, which was organized and hosted by the European University Centre for Peace Studies (EPU), Stadtschlaining/Austria, in co-operation with UNESCO and with its financial support, provided the opportunity for discussion and shared opinions on the progress made by the Chairs. It produced a wide range of suggestions and proposals which will be important for the future development of the UNESCO Chairs and their joint and individual work. The meeting had the privilege to be addressed by representatives of the Austrian Government, the Regional Government of Burgenland, the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO, and the European University Center for Peace Studies. The participants also had the privilege of receiving a Message from the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, which was read on his behalf by Prof. Janusz Symonides, Director, Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, UNESCO.

Representatives of many leading international and regional organisations active in this field also participated in the meeting.

The *first main subject* of the meeting was the development of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, and the challenges which they face. Much useful material was offered by the Chairholders and related organizations, both in their presentations and in the accompanying documentation which they supplied.

The *second major area* of discussion concerned national, regional and international activities and projects related to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The *third key item* was a substantial section on the development of co-operation between UNESCO Chairs and educational programmes related to the promotion of a culture of peace.

This was *followed by* discussion on strengthening the network of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance.

Finally, there was a valuable session concerning the presentation and approval of the draft report and final draft documents of the meeting.

In the nature of the task, no rapporteur can hope to transcribe with exactitude the proceedings of three days of discussion and debate. Much can be lost both in the delivery and in the translation. This aside, the rapporteur has endeavoured to present as precisely as possible the presentations and interventions, and accepts full and sole responsibility for the content of the report. It will be clear from these details, that it was a most valuable meeting. It is also quite obvious that the UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, in co-operation with related organizations, are making a substantial and significant contribution to developments in these important fields.

Item One:

The development of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance: The present situation, new challenges and perspectives

The agenda and proposed Bureau having been officially adopted by the meeting, an intervention concerning the gender composition of the Bureau was noted. Prof. Gloria Ramirez Hernandez, UNESCO Chair at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, began by offering some general ideas on the problems and possibilities encountered by UNESCO Chairs in the various regions. She said that the UNESCO Chair at her university had been created in 1996, and she was already working closely with other universities in Mexico and in Latin America. She suggested that UNESCO Chairs could make a salient contribution to thinking and dissemination of information about human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance through different disciplines and by formulating different methods and approaches.

Dr Werner Koehler representing the UNESCO Chair at the European University Center for Peace Studies, Stadtschlaining, argued that UNESCO Chairs had already proven an effective element in the promotion of research, study, teaching and exchange of views in these fields. Prof. Rumen Valchev, UNESCO Chair in Civic Education at Sofia University in Bulgaria, offered a caveat to this by suggesting that it was important to examine the obstacles experienced by the Chairs, including the rigid institutional structures of many universities. Some of these issues were discussed in the submissions from the Chairs in Azerbaijan, Belarus and Brazil.

Prof. Ricardo Sanchez, UNESCO Chair at the Luis Carlos Galan Institute for the Development of Democracy, Colombia, drew the attention of the meeting to the importance of linking practical human rights efforts with academic work. On this subject, Prof. Dumitri Chitoran, Special Advisor on Higher Education to the Director-General of UNESCO, emphasized regional and subregional co-operation between universities and others working in the human rights field. It was clear from the submissions made by Prof. Sanchez and Prof. Ramirez that, in Latin America and Mexico, these efforts entailed varying degrees of personal risk. Ms. Laurie Wiseberg, Director of Human Rights Internet, referred to the specific rights

protecting "human rights educators". Discussion followed on the process of "risk assessment" which was required in order to safeguard the lives of international and local staff working in countries where human rights professionals were vulnerable to attack. Related to this work, Prof. Andreas Eshete, UNESCO Chair at Addis Ababa University, spoke on post-conflict Ethiopia, a country which, he argued, was coming to terms with issues of human rights after some thirty years of civil war. Of particular note was the emerging Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, and the "civil observing" of the War Crimes Trials.

Prof. Eshete's opened up the issue of the process for the formation of a UNESCO Chair. Prof. Janusz Symonides, Director, Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, UNESCO, said that this was a matter open to the individual universities and provided further details about the procedures for the creation of a UNESCO Chair. Prof. Chitoran reported that there were a number of networks of UNESCO Chairs in several hundred universities across the world. He said that the Chair should span the efforts of several departments, and that it should have an international dimension. Prof. Symonides added that his Division had now assisted in the creation of approximately thirty Chairs but that UNESCO could not be responsible for their financial support. Mr. Vladimir Volodin, Chief, Human Rights Unit, Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, UNESCO, mentioned that UNESCO possessed guidelines which provided a model for the creation of Chairs.

There was an interesting case-study of human rights work from the UNESCO Chair at Tbilisi State Pedagogical University, Republic of Georgia. Of particular interest were the ways in which the Chair was seeking to eschew authoritarian teaching styles in favour of new human rights manuals with an appropriate pedagogy of respect for human rights. The UNESCO Chair at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece, gave a valuable account of inter-faculty collaboration which ranged across projects and teaching on contemporary world problems, issues of scientific responsibility, the environment, ecology and development. Prof. Mouaqit, representing the UNESCO Chair at University Mohammed V in Rabat, outlined the contribution the Chair was making to training, research and documentation in the field of human rights. As the current Chairholder is a senior government minister, there was some discussion about whether it was appropriate for such an official to serve as a Chairholder. It was also noted that the reality of 60% illiteracy in Morocco necessitated innovation in the promotion of human rights education.

Another example of human rights progress in difficult circumstances was given by Prof. J.T. Namiseb, representing the UNESCO Chair at Windhoek, University of Namibia. After Namibian independence, the University's Human Rights Centre contributed to an emerging culture of human rights, and the creation of the Chair in 1996 had given it momentum. Prof. Bharat Hansjee, representing the UNESCO "Oliver Tambo" Chair at the University of Fort Hare, provided detailed information about the continued obstacles faced in struggling against the legacy of apartheid in South Africa. There was also a valuable account of the work of the UNESCO Chair at An Najah University in the Palestinian Authority which was a focal point for support of other Palestinian universities, and which was working closely with the University of Ghent. Of relevance to all these examples was Prof. Chitoran's advocacy of linking "northern" and "southern" Chairs in programmes of co-operation, in addition to their links with international bodies.

The meeting heard about two interesting case-studies from Asia. Prof. Sampatkumar outlined his efforts towards the creation of the UNESCO Chair at the World Peace Centre at Pune in India. He referred to the tradition of non-violence which had secured Indian independence and

inspired so many other non-violent leaders and movements abroad, such as that of Martin Luther King. There was also a valuable summary of the efforts of the UNESCO Chair at Korea University in Seoul, including the translation of UNESCO publications into Korean, a public lecture series and related programmes. There were several valuable reports from UNESCO Chairs in universities in various parts of the Russian Federation and in the Ukraine. The UNESCO Chair at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations gave an excellent account of human rights work which has been implemented by creating a programme of local branches of the UNESCO Chair.

The UNESCO Chair at the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow presented a valuable assessment of human rights education that had been designed especially for the Russian milieu. The Ural A.M. Gorky State University at Ekaterinburg, gave a summary of curriculum developments which would incorporate appropriate issues of human rights, democracy and civic education. A similar account was offered by Prof. Viatcheslav Brioukhovetsky of the University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy, in the Ukraine, whose activities had involved the promotion of human rights throughout the various courses of the university. Prof. Tchubarian of the International Institute on a Culture of Peace and Democracy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, offered a detailed account of its programmes in the field of culture of peace, democracy and human rights. The meeting especially appreciated his observations concerning the regrettable phenomena of "self censorship" which had plagued the academic profession in the Russia of the past and which was of particular relevance to the "new democracies" in which so many of the UNESCO Chairs were working.

There were several interesting presentations concerning the situation in Eastern and Central Europe. Ms. Jana Kviecinska, Amnesty International's Human Rights Programme Consultant for Eastern Europe, stressed the teaching potential of UNESCO Chairs in Amnesty's *First Steps Training Manual on Human Rights*. Prof. Emil Micu, Rector of Romania's North University, explained how, as part of the democratization process, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO, had decided in 1997 to establish a UNESCO Chair. A detailed report of the work of the Human Rights Education Centre, Charles University Prague, Czech Republic, followed.

There was also a valuable assessment of the human rights and related specialist courses and publications of the UNESCO Chair at Comenius University, Bratislava, in Slovakia. Informed by these interesting presentations from Eastern and Central Europe, there was a useful discussion on the subject of indoctrination by former-authoritarian governments as well as by the new "democratic" society. Arguments were made for a more international approach to human rights education which was grounded in dialogue. Another case was made for exploring the experiences of ordinary people in the promotion of participatory democracy, through appropriate workshops and programmes. A key point of agreement concerned the role of UNESCO Chairs in encouraging States to create a climate where people are less "vulnerable" to indoctrination.

Item Two:

Planning of national, regional and international activities and projects related to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

As the meeting placed particular attention on the importance of national, regional and international activities related to the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR, it was felt that a regional approach would be highly valuable. It was therefore proposed that the participants split into the following working groups: a Europe and Asia group, a Latin America group, an Africa and Commonwealth group, and an Arabic-speaking group. The rationale was that this would produce more regionally-focused thinking that might eventually contribute to the process of regional networking. However a number of interventions from participants had yet to be received, and it was proposed to collect them while the main body of the meeting was in session. These are listed in the order that they were given.

In respect of human rights networking, Ms. Wiseberg argued for greater communication between specialists in the field of human rights. She said that Human Rights Internet, her Ottawa-based NGO, was now twenty-six years old and during this time it had embodied the idea that information is a precondition for the protection of human rights. She raised the issue of a model website for UNESCO's work in the field of human rights. Prof. Symonides pointed out that many of the UNESCO materials were on the Internet or were currently being processed. In addition, he mentioned UNESCO's World Directories of institutions in the fields of human rights, international law, peace, and social and human sciences. It was agreed that Chairholders would send appropriate materials which could contribute to the frequent updating of the UNESCO website.

An intervention made by Dr. Gardos, Secretary-General of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO, concerning the importance of promoting more work on "women's rights" was well received by the meeting, and encouraged an appropriate focus on the issue of gender and human rights. Reference was made to the human rights component of the courses at the EPU. Mr. Manfred Hainzl summarized the process made towards the creation of an International Peace Museum at the European University Centre for Peace Studies, in the ancient castle in Stadtschlaining. The interpretative exhibits of the proposed museum would include, *inter alia*, unique features expected to greatly strengthen the programmes for peace, conflict and human rights studies at the EPU. Prof. Mustapha Mehedi, UNESCO Chair at the University of Oran Es-Senia, referred to the special problems he faced in promoting human rights in Algeria where his work underlined the very right to receive human rights education.

The main business of the meeting then turned to the discussions that were conducted in the form of regional workshops, and which occurred in parallel sessions. The following are summaries of the individual workshop reports.

Workshop Report (Europe and Asia Group)

Prof. Moroianu-Zlatescu, Director of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, outlined activities in Romania to mark the 50th Anniversary. Prof. Tchubarian proposed some innovative projects, including a seminar on educational programmes for human rights to be held in Autumn 1998 in the Russian Federation. Prof. Kang suggested that the UNESCO Chair at Korea University could embark on a programme of increased networking activities with their neighbouring Asian countries. Prof. Kroupova said that the Human Rights Education Centre at Charles University would hold an international seminar on the UDHR, and also a Festival of Tolerance. Prof. Papadopoulou reported that human rights training courses for Greek military forces featured among her activities in connection with the UDHR. Prof. Zarbaliyev said that he had put forward a number of proposals in connection with

celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR, including a meeting of the Committee of the National Assembly on Human Rights in Baku.

Dr. Koehler announced that the Chair's activities at the EPU included the publication of a source book in German and English for EPU students and various other target groups facilitating their access to the most fundamental UN and UNESCO documents related to education for peace, human rights, democracy and tolerance, including the UDHR. He stressed that the Chair's study programme on these issues has currently been evaluated with a view to extending its major elements to EPU's Advanced Scientific Training Programmes. The Chair's "Forum on Education for a Culture of Peace" (functioning as a "focal point"), assisted by a permanent consultative group of experts, convenes annually UNESCO seminars on relevant topical themes, e.g. on Innovative Approaches in Human Rights Education, and publishes the results achieved. In this context, close co-operation with various other "natural" partners at different levels has been established, e.g. with the Service Centre for Human Rights Education at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna. All of these activities are aimed at disseminating and implementing the UDHR. Finally, he announced that the EPU had also invested in a major programme for the creation of an International Museum for Peace at the Schlaining Castle (detailed information to be given by Mr. Manfred Hainzl) and that this project was already well underway.

Prof. Mikhailenko reported that the Ural A.M. Gorky State University had organized a variety of activities in connection with the UDHR. Prof. Valchev said that he envisaged a Youth Festival involving students from the UNESCO Associated Schools Project (ASP), and an international conference in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary which would involve UNESCO and the Bulgarian Ministry of Education.

Prof. Selezneva mentioned that she was working on an international conference and that her winter semester had already been dedicated to the 50th Anniversary. Prof. Kolosov reported that his Institute had planned a series of action-orientated events rather than one large conference. He added that these activities included the production of a special number of the Institute's journal which would be published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the UDHR. Prof. Kolosov's summary of activities being undertaken in the Russian Federation was most impressive. These included the extension of local branches of his own UNESCO Chair; progress in democracy education and international humanitarian law; co-operation with NGOs; a "trainers" network in human rights; and projects in civic education. He expressed his hope that all of these activities would help promote the UDHR. Prof. Kolosov listed as a continuing problem the difficulties of integrating his Chair into the teaching structures of the Moscow State Institute, but he added that, encouragingly, the regional branches of the Chair had been more successful in fulfilling this goal in other universities.

Workshop Report (Arabic-speaking Group)

Prof. Mouaqit reported that a number of activities would also be undertaken by the UNESCO Chair in Jordan which was not represented at Stadtschlaining. Among the principal activities in connection with the 50th Anniversary, he noted the hosting of a student competition on the UDHR to be held on 10 December 1998 in Algeria and a proposed conference envisaged for December 1998 and organized in co-operation with the UNESCO Chair in the Palestinian Authority and the University of Ghent. In addition, Prof. Mouaqit said that a Mediterranean Conference would be organized in Morocco on 27 April on the UDHR in co-operation with Amnesty International. He also referred to the proposed visit to the UNESCO Chair of the

Secretary-General of Amnesty International, and proposed future co-operation between the UNESCO Chairs in Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Morocco.

Workshop Report (Latin America Group)

Prof. Ramirez said they had already given details concerning the UNESCO Chairs in Latin America during their submissions, and that many of their activities in 1998 were, implicitly and explicitly, geared to the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR. Among the more substantial items were details of seminars in Mexico and in Colombia with the participation of the Latin American Chairs. She added that they were currently co-operating with a number of NGOs, which would also contribute to their efforts for the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR.

Workshop Report (Africa and the Commonwealth Group)

Mrs. Mulindwa-Matovu, Head of Human Rights at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, summarized the proposed activities of the Chairs in Africa and the Commonwealth. She said that a human rights schools project was well underway in Namibia and there were plans to present its first report to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. The UNESCO Chair in Namibia organizes regular meetings on human rights as a forum for parliamentarians and NGOs, and was also making an input to schools. A publication on human rights in Namibia was planned for 10 December. They were also collaborating with the UNESCO Chair at Fort Hare, and Fort Hare was planning a regional conference on human rights focusing on the impact of the UDHR.

The activities being conducted by the UNESCO Chair in Addis Ababa included public lectures, street festivals, and the translation of the UDHR into local languages. The UNESCO Chair currently being established at Pune, India, envisaged several events in connection with the 50th Anniversary.

Mrs. Mulindwa-Matovu (Human Rights Internet) noted several measures that had promoted the UDHR, including the placing of the *Human Rights World Report* on the Internet and its distribution on CD ROM. She noted that Human Rights Internet was organising a major NGO meeting between 22-24 June 1998 in Ottawa, to review the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights (1993). As to the activities of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, and elsewhere, Mrs. Mulindwa-Matovu mentioned plans for a conference on human rights at the University of Durham, U.K., in August 1998, that would help promote the UDHR. She also suggested that the translation of the UDHR into local languages should be encouraged and made available to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR).

Item Three:

The development of co-operation between UNESCO Chairs and educational programmes related to the promotion of a culture of peace

The meeting acknowledged that there was a genuine connection between respect for human rights and the creation of a culture of peace. In this regard, Prof. Eshete referred to his efforts in Ethiopia, and, in particular, to the trial Information and Education Project which envisaged maintaining a permanent record of the war. On supporting the concept of a culture of peace, Prof. Chitoran said that UNESCO was committed to a major programme on a culture of

peace. He said that Mr. Mayor, the Director-General of UNESCO, had initiated the UN General Assembly's proclamation of the Year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace. Prof. Chitoran suggested that, in this task, UNESCO Chairs in the related fields were among their first partners, together with their colleagues from human rights institutes, and institutes of peace and international law. He said that UNESCO's international education database had over 4,000 entries and of these seven hundred were higher education institutions. He then referred to another important initiative of UNESCO. The participants were informed on the steps agreed by the UN Secretary-General and the Director-General of UNESCO for the reorganization of the University for Peace in Costa Rica, which had been established in 1981, by a decision of the UN General Assembly.

Prof. Chitoran informed the meeting on the proposal placed by UNESCO that the University for Peace might move towards a "network approach" in its activities, so that the major part of its teaching, training and research would be carried out in universities and specialized institutions in various parts of the world. Under this formula, the University for Peace and the universities and institutions which agreed to co-operate, would create joint programmes to be submitted for approval by the Council of the University. Once approved, it would be at the discretion of the associated universities and institutions to select those teaching and research components most compatible with their own programmes. Students pursuing (post)graduate studies under this arrangement could be awarded a joint degree, validated by their own institution and by the Academic Council of the University for Peace. The ensuing discussions on this subject indicated that UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy and Peace are particularly suited to play an active role in UNESCO's efforts to reorganize the University for Peace along the lines presented above (or in other forms to be explored). It was, for example, mentioned that UNESCO Chairs (and the regional networks initiated at Stadtschlaining) could utilize new information technology and help turn the University for Peace into a "virtual university" which would facilitate global access to its programmes. The UNESCO Chairs agreed to gather information on existing programmes of teaching, training and research on peace-related issues, which could serve as a starting point for the examination of possibilities of developing a network approach for the programmes of the University for Peace.

Prof. Valchev outlined several projects initiated towards the creation of a culture of peace, including a 1995 pamphlet entitled *Civic Education in Building a Culture of Peace*. Prof. Tchubarian disagreed on the presentations on creating a culture of peace. In particular, he argued that any conceptualization of a culture of peace was intrinsically complex, and involved efforts at many layers of society. On a more practical note, he said that his Institute was working on a number of pilot projects on peace culture for Russia and that he hoped that Chairs in the Russian Federation and neighbouring States would participate. Prof. Ramirez, referring to the longstanding conflict in Chiapas, regretted that human rights were still very hard to achieve in Latin America. She advocated the greater involvement of universities and NGOs, and of increased co-operation between them. For his part, Prof. Mehedi observed that violence was a reality in everyday life in Algeria and that, as the UNESCO Chairholder, he had to be proactive in disseminating a culture of peace in an environment characterized by terrorism and Islamic violence. On this subject, there was an exchange of ideas between Prof. Selezneva, Prof. Mouaquit and Prof. Mehedi as to whether Islam possessed any innate capacity of tolerance, to which Prof. Mehedi concluded that, "Islam can be tolerant when it lives in modern times".

Prof. Mouaquit asked whether UNESCO Chairs had, of necessity, to be part of a named UNESCO programme. He also pointed to the diversity of cultures that needed to be

accommodated in the context of any universal benchmark of human rights disseminated in UNESCO's programmes. He suggested that more work needed to be done concerning the relationship between cultural contexts and human rights and that, at any rate, the concept of tolerance, which intrinsically stems from human rights, was vitally important in the work of UNESCO Chairs. There was an interesting discussion on these themes, which was valuable for its crystallization of thinking. Prof. Kolosov reported that the Russian National Commission for UNESCO was formulating a new programme on a culture of peace. He added that there was a great need for this work since, in the post-Soviet territorial area alone, there were more than eighty zones of potential conflict. For this reason, he argued, that academic programmes which could provide training and focus on the skills necessary for the peaceful settlement of disputes were particularly valuable. He mentioned the potential of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague which had been, relatively speaking, so little used for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. He also argued that the OSCE framework agreement had not so far been very effective in preventing the emergence of conflicts, and pointed to the potential of UNESCO's Culture of Peace Programme in disseminating the value of peace for future generations. He drew the attention of participants to the fact that 1999 will commemorate the centenary of the 1st International Peace Conference at The Hague, and strongly recommended that the occasion be suitably marked. He also suggested that it would be most appropriate if the proposed Peace Museum at Stadtschlaining prepared an exhibition on the history of international peace conferences.

Prof. Sampatkumar spoke on the nature of the concept of peace. He argued that the peace that we often refer to is rarely permanent and that we should be aware of the problem of "structural violence" which invariably undermines peace. He said that he himself conceived of peace in a very broad way, and that conflicts which ultimately threaten peace must be recognized, resolved and, where possible, prevented. He argued that there needed to be greater clarification as to what precisely the Culture of Peace Programme is. Prof. Symonides referred to Boutros Boutros-Ghali's *Agenda for Peace* (1992) which suggested various ways in which the international system could work towards post-conflict peace-building. Prof. Symonides reminded the meeting that the Culture of Peace Programme had been formally presented in the 1990s but that it had always been present in the UNESCO Constitution. Furthermore, a culture of peace had been emphasized in UNESCO's 1974 *Recommendation on Education concerning international understanding, co-operation and peace and education regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms* as well as in the 1985 *Seville Statement on Violence*. It was echoed again in the 1994 Barcelona Declaration and, more recently, in the 1998 Declaration of Grenada. These texts provided the background for recent UNESCO initiatives in this field. Today the increasing emphasis laid on this issue within UNESCO is encouraging a broad coalition of partners in international and civil society to build a culture of peace. He also added that more precise definitions were given as part of the General Assembly resolutions on this subject.

Mr. Stephane Hankins, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Programmes in Academic Circles and Universities Division, said that he was very keen that elements of international humanitarian law be integrated within the idea of a culture of peace. He offered a working definition of international humanitarian law and gave a description of the activities that he was supporting by means of programmes for adults and in schools in the CIS region. Prof. Kang made some comments on the emergence of a culture of peace in Asia, and argued that Eastern Asia was a very difficult area, since it was preoccupied with issues of regional security. He said that, despite regional obsessions of this sort, he hoped that North Korean/Chinese co-operation with South Korea would be possible in the future. He felt that

this might be encouraged by employing different kinds of regional confidence-building measures, backed by efforts of citizen diplomacy.

Mrs. Mulindwa-Matovu provided some ideas from the experience of the Commonwealth Secretariat which she hoped might be useful in thinking about a culture of peace, and that might include initiating national programmes that encouraged civil society to "be at peace with nature", that promoted humanitarian values, and efforts for conflict resolution. On the other hand, she argued that such thinking probably also required contemplating punitive action. She suggested that this might include employing different kinds of economic or political sanctions to discourage or prohibit violent behaviour that threatened culture of peace.

Item Four:

Discussion on strengthening the network of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance

Prof. Cogen of the University of Ghent, Belgium, raised an interesting point by asking whether we have a moral or social responsibility in helping to resolve an armed conflict. He argued that universities do have such responsibilities and referred to the robust action which was needed to oppose the deliberate killings of academics in Algeria. He also noted the positive contribution of the Oslo Agreement and argued that academics should try to play a critical role in conflict resolution. Mrs. Mulindwa-Matovu suggested that a network of "neutral" academics would be useful in helping towards a process of conflict resolution. Prof. Valchev referred to the "Partners in Democratic Change" initiative which had had positive results in Eastern Europe. Prof. Ramirez also agreed that such co-operation could be highly valuable and advocated a system of visiting professorships that would allow academics from different countries to benefit from their shared experiences.

In order to find a specific model for networking, Prof. Kang advocated the use of the Pugwash Conference model which he believed had encouraged the kind of initiative Prof. Cogen advocated. On this point, Prof. Mouaqit said that there was a need for an appropriate team around the UNESCO Chairholder to consolidate the work of the Chair at regional levels. Mr. Gershah said that he spoke not only from his experience with Amnesty International, but also from his work in the university system in Sudan. He cited as supportive evidence the successful history of Amnesty International's Urgent Action Network which could provide some examples for the creation of an appropriate Conflict Resolution Network.

Dr. Koehler argued for the strengthening of the network of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and its consolidation by periodic meetings. Prof. Sampatkumar suggested that this would provide a solid mechanism for the promotion of conflict resolution through the UNESCO Chairs. In this respect, Prof. Symonides outlined details of UNESCO's efforts in the field of conflict resolution, including the "Management of Social Transformation" programme (MOST). He also spoke of the work of the UNESCO networks involving institutes of human rights and of peace, and the major transdisciplinary programme for a culture of peace. He argued that different situations existed in different countries and that probably UNESCO Chairs that were most relevant to the concept of peace might make a significant impact in the field of conflict resolution.

Ms. Wiseberg emphasized the importance of networking, while Prof. Cogen said that it might be extremely helpful to have a committed group of specialist colleagues who could work in

teams to respond appropriately to ongoing conflict situations. There was a "moderating" intervention from Prof. Sampatkumar who suggested that UNESCO should not aim to "reinvent the wheel" and that the existing measures and institutions offered potential for this work. He regretted that there was so little co-operation between international organizations, since they often engaged in a "turf battle" over access to resources. He argued for greater co-operation within and between international organizations working in this vitally important field.

Mrs. Mulindwa-Matovu argued that the UNESCO Chairs were still not widely known and that they should be better publicized. Mr. Volodin explained the procedures for the creation of a UNESCO Chair, involving a formal application from the university, as well as a supporting letter from the National Commission for UNESCO. He offered a brief assessment of the current financial situation vis-à-vis UNESCO Chairs in his field, and argued that, in financial terms, the situation was mixed. While some Chairs were experiencing the problem linked to inadequate funds, others had been successful in attracting local or external support and were doing well. Prof. Chitoran argued that the UNESCO Chair programme was becoming better known and that, in the future, there was a possibility for joint chairs in association with humanitarian organizations. He particularly advocated the concept of "twinning" of Chairs as part of a network, such as the co-operative links between the Chairs in Algeria, the Palestinian Authority and the University of Ghent.

Prof. Kolosov argued that it was important to have a good working relationship with the relevant national agencies and with the National Commissions for UNESCO. He also wondered whether it might not be useful to have a co-ordinating bureau to facilitate the work of UNESCO Chairs in each region. Mr. Volodin suggested that the National Commissions for UNESCO should play this role in each country. Mr. Volodin also pointed out that many countries had given full priority to their activities associated with the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR, which was very encouraging, and suggested an emerging co-ordination. He agreed with the suggestion of Prof. Kolosov that there should be more co-operation between UNESCO Chairs. Mr. Hankins referred to the potential of the UNESCO Chair network and indicated ways in which he believed it could be made more effective. He also mentioned the possibility of future joint ICRC/UNESCO Chairs.

On the issue of regional co-operation, Prof. Mehedi said that the UNESCO Chair in Oran was co-operating with appropriate international organizations and would work closely with the UNESCO Chairs in Morocco and in the Palestinian Authority. By way of caveat as to the progress made, he said that his own work had to be conducted against a discouraging political environment. Mr. Gershah stated that Amnesty International had many projects for which they would welcome future co-operation with UNESCO Chairs.

Prof. Symonides reported that UNESCO Chairs were an important component of UNESCO's Plan of Action to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR, and that the Chairs were listed in the document sent to the Director-General for this purpose, and in material carried on the websites at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and elsewhere. He said that the new UNESCO websites for his Division would soon be operational, and he suggested the creation of a bulletin for UNESCO Chairs, the first edition of which could be prepared at Stadtschlaining in 1999. He also indicated that it would be valuable to have bi-annual meetings of Chairholders and suggested that the next meeting be held in the year 2000 in Pune in India. He proposed to prepare an academic volume containing new scientific views and research results on major challenges and issues of our

time related to the Chairs' aims. He also suggested that Prof. Kolosov act as the co-ordinator for the Chairs in the Russian Federation; Prof. Valchev for Central and Eastern Europe; Prof. Mehedi for Arabic-speaking Chairs; Prof. Rembe (UNESCO "Oliver Tambo" Chair, University of Fort Hare) for Africa and Prof. Gloria Ramirez for Latin America. He hoped that this would contribute to continued co-operation between the Chairs on a regional level and with UNESCO.

Item Five:

Presentation and approval of the draft report and draft final documents of the meeting

Before the commencement of the closing session, Prof. Symonides invited Prof. Brioukhovetsky to sign the agreement for the formal establishment of the UNESCO Chair at the University of Kiev-Mohyla. The rapporteur delivered the draft version of his report, covering the proceedings of the previous days. Among comments in the closing session, Prof. Kolosov proposed a co-ordinating bureau for the UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, and endorsed the proposal for the creation of an appropriate bulletin for the Chairholders. He also suggested that the EPU might act as such as co-ordinating bureau.

This section was followed by Agenda Item Five, being discussed and the approval of the report and final documents of the meeting. This produced a lively exchange of views which resulted in several amendments to the draft documents, including the addition of references to the special difficulties facing countries such as Algeria, of a reference to "humanitarian law", and various corrections and emendations. It was agreed that some additional amendments would be made subsequently to the documents, and on this basis, they were then formally adopted by the meeting.

Dr. Mader who attended this session of the meeting, expressed his sadness that he had not been able to participate more fully in the discussions due to ill health, but that he hoped the participants would have pleasant of Stadtschlaining.

Prof. Sampatkumar emphasized that the participants had come to Stadtschlaining without much previous knowledge of each other but that they would part as friends, and that "this treasure that they could take away, is due to Stadtschlaining". He praised Dr Mader for the peace that he had created in Stadtschlaining and the opportunity that he had provided for the work of the past days. He also thanked UNESCO and all his colleagues for making this event a success.

Conclusion

It will be obvious from this report that the International Meeting of Chairholders of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance was most effective. That it brought together almost all the UNESCO Chairholders in this important field was itself a considerable achievement. This was the first meeting of its kind. It was also extremely active symposium with a heavy agenda, and produced a wide range of suggestions and proposals which will be important for the future development of UNESCO Chairs and their joint and individual work. That the meeting was endorsed by representatives of the Austrian

Government, the Regional Government of Burgenland, the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO, and the European University Center for Peace Studies; and that it also received a Message from the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, are the testimonies of its importance.

Many valuable presentations and interventions were received on the development of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, and on national, regional and international activities and projects related to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Substantial sections were also devoted to the development of co-operation between UNESCO Chairs and educational programmes related to the promotion of a culture of peace; and to strengthening the network of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance. Documentation on all of these activities and on individual Chairs was presented at Stadtschlaining and is reproduced with this report. Most significantly of all, the meeting elaborated and adopted three important documents which will do much to advance UNESCO's work for human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance.

The first of these documents is The Stadtschlaining Appeal to Promote Human Rights, Peace, Democracy, International Understanding and Tolerance. This appeal is addressed to governments, parliaments, national and local administrations, intergovernmental organizations, educational and academic institutions, universities and research centres, national and international institutions for the promotion of human rights, national and international NGOs, relevant foundations and interested professionals. The Appeal invites their collective participation in order to adopt legislative and practical measures aimed at the implementation of human rights; the eradication of discrimination; the realization of the principle of genuine equality between women and men; the elimination of extreme poverty and social exclusion; the guaranteeing to everyone of the right to live in peace and security; the promotion of tolerance and non-violence; and the guaranteeing of a right to a healthy environment. It also appeals for the guaranteeing of the right to education for all children; the implementation of the right to development; the further elaboration of the concept and relevant instruments concerning cultural rights and academic freedom; the establishment of a social and international order in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized; and the consolidation of a culture of peace. A copy of the Stadtschlaining Appeal is attached.

The second document is the Memorandum of Co-operation between UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance which was signed by the UNESCO Chairholders. Under the terms of this Memorandum, it was agreed to establish a regular exchange of information and materials between the Chairs, including the use of a special webpage; to implement joint educational and research programmes; to use the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR and other forthcoming events to develop joint activities aimed at mobilizing public opinion, especially young people, towards the cause of human rights, democracy and tolerance in the interests of a culture of peace; to strengthen co-operation between the Chairs and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and so on; to reinforce co-operation between the Chairs on regional and subregional levels; to launch an information bulletin entitled *UNESCO Chairs*; and to hold meetings of the UNESCO Chairs on a regular basis, the next meeting being held in the year 2000 in Pune, India. A copy of the Memorandum of Co-operation is attached.

The third document is the Statement of the Role of UNESCO Chairs in the Promotion of a Culture of Peace. Under the terms of this Statement, it was agreed that the efforts of the UNESCO Chairs should be concentrated on the development of educational programmes in the field of human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance; should contribute towards the improvement of related curricula and textbooks; should serve as regional focal points for the exchange of experiences in education and research; should act as centres of information dissemination; should contribute to the dissemination of knowledge on human rights among associated professionals; should ensure active co-operation with educational and research institutes, non-governmental organizations, and others; should contribute to establishing an appropriate web-site; and should develop the research potential in the fields of human rights, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution, democracy-related issues, promotion of international understanding, tolerance and other issues related to a culture of peace. A copy of the Statement is attached.

This meeting, and the documents which it elaborated and adopted, mark an important new stage in the development of horizontal co-operation between UNESCO Chairs, thus establishing a framework for the exchange of information and materials. It also encourages the creation of a genuinely global network. This report has endeavoured to convey, as precisely as possible, the content of the presentations and interventions which were presented at Stadtschlaining. Clearly, UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, in co-operation with related organizations, are making a substantial and significant contribution to developments in these important fields. A number of proposals and agreements for future work materialized from the meeting,. Most significantly of all, the adoption of the final documents of the meeting marked an important practical and symbolic step in harnessing the joint efforts of the UNESCO Chairs towards the creation of a culture of peace and human rights. The meeting made a very significant contribution to crystallizing the thinking of UNESCO Chairs and related organizations on the problems and possibilities of this work. The organizers and the participants are to be congratulated on the contributions which they made to that vital process.

Final Documents (adopted)

The Stadtschlaining Appeal to promote Human Rights, Peace, Democracy, International Understanding and Tolerance

We, the participants of the meeting, representing UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, as well as human rights research and training institutes, universities, foundations and non-governmental organizations,

Convinced that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an occasion to reinforce activities aimed at the implementation of all human rights for all, at the

strengthening of peace and security, at the consolidation of democracy and at the promotion of tolerance,

Mindful that peace, democracy, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Persuaded that governments, international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, educational institutions and all actors of civil society, should join their efforts in order to end violations of human rights, to eradicate terrorism, extreme poverty, to eliminate discrimination, to stop the deterioration of the environment, to tackle the sources of armed conflicts and strife in order to prevent them and to ensure full respect of humanitarian law,

Welcoming the adoption by the 54th Session (1998) of the UN Commission on Human Rights of the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders).

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, the Declaration of the Principles of Tolerance, and the Follow-up Action Plan of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, the Declaration and Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy, the Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations and the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights,

Acknowledging the UNESCO Plan of Action for the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Noting the proclamation of the Year 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace (General Assembly resolution 52/15),

Welcoming UNESCO's efforts aimed at the promotion of a culture of peace,

Emphasizing that a culture of peace can become a reality if there is a change of paradigms in the concept of security: less investments for war and more investments for peace.

Address this Appeal to governments, parliaments, national and local administrations, intergovernmental organizations, educational and academic institutions, universities and research centres, national and international institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, non-governmental organizations, both international and national, foundations, mass media professionals, and all those who are interested in the promotion of human rights, peace, democracy and tolerance, inviting them to join their efforts in order to adopt legislative and practical measures aimed at:

1. The implementation of all human rights for all without exception with due regard to the principle of the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelationship of all human rights.
2. The eradication of all forms and manifestations of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, language, religion or belief, or any other grounds whatsoever.
3. The realization of the principle of genuine equality between women and men in all spheres of life and the total elimination of discrimination against women and girls.
4. The elimination of extreme poverty and social exclusion which are detrimental to human dignity and to the implementation of all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social.
5. The guaranteeing to everyone the right to live in peace and security without any threat to liberty or attacks upon honour and dignity.
6. The promotion of tolerance and non-violence and stemming the increase of intolerance, enophobia, racism and extreme nationalism.
7. The guaranteeing of the right to a healthy environment which is crucial for the sustainable development and implementation of all fundamental human rights.
8. The guaranteeing of the right to education for all children in full conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and recognizing the right to quality education, bearing in mind the utmost importance of education for realizing all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
9. The implementation of the right to development which is universal and inalienable right and as an integral part of fundamental human rights.
10. The further elaboration of the concept and pertinent relative instruments concerning cultural rights and academic freedom, bearing in mind their importance as such and close relationship with all other rights and freedoms.
11. The establishment of social and international order in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.
12. The consolidation of a culture of peace, which should be expressed, *inter alia*, in the readiness of the States to provide adequate resources and to create conditions for its full implementation.

We, representatives of UNESCO Chairs on 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, the 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 for UNESCO Chairs, to be published at least once a year, in hard-copy 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 and published 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 for Civic Education, Sofia University, "St. Kliment Ochridsky", Bulgaria

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

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

UNESCO Chair for Democracy and Human Rights, Luis Carlos Galan Institute for Development of Democracy, Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia

UNESCO Chair on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

UNESCO Chair on a Culture of Peace and Democracy, Sulkhani-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 on Peace, Democracy and Human Rights, Korea University, Seoul, Korea

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 Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco

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

UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, An Najah National University, Nablus, Palestinian Authority

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*) signed after the event

Statement on the Role of UNESCO Chairs in the Promotion of a Culture of Peace

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 on 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 textbooks 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 inter regional 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, 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 a web site 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.

Annex

ANNOTATED AGENDA (as presented before the Chairholder Meeting and approved by the participants)

1. Development of the UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance - present situation, new challenges and perspectives

The representatives of the Chairs are invited to present a brief written information in English or French on their Chairs, for example: background, role within the university concerned, special field of work, achievements and problems faced with, activities related to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This written information should not exceed four pages and be presented to the EPU, if possible, by 20 March 1998.

In their oral introduction, the representatives of the chairs are invited to concentrate on the following questions:

- experience, achievements and problems in the field of human rights at local, national, regional and international levels in different social and cultural environments, and the role played by the Chairs in this context;

- considerations concerning the universality of human rights - as laid down in the Declaration, regional/national particularities; the relationship between world ethics and local ethics;
- causes of human rights violations and concrete ways to prevent them.

In conclusion new challenges to and perspectives for the activities of the Chairs might be outlined in connection with special needs and possibilities for the development of co-operation between the Chairs on regional and interregional levels. This would enrich the discussion and provide at the same time the background for Items 2 and 3 of the Agenda.

2. Planning and discussion of national, regional and international activities and projects related to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The participants are encouraged to discuss in depth:

- joint activities of UNESCO Chairs at national, regional and international levels; involvement of UNESCO Chairs in subregional, regional and interregional projects implemented under the auspices of international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In this context, representatives of Chairs, international organizations and educational institutions may also present national and regional projects planned or prepared by them, which would be appropriate for development as "joint ventures" in the field of human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance. For example, an International Museum for Peace will be established at Schlaining Castle by the European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU) and co-founders from various countries, its motto being: "From a Castle of War to a Castle of Peace". A rich stock of historical and art exhibits will be shown in this unique museum and demonstrate the close interrelationship between human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance from the angle of history. It will also provide a centre for consultations and exchange for a large audience. The participants are invited to contribute to the implementation of this project. Similar projects of common interest will be very much appreciated.

3. Development of co-operation between the UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance and educational programmes related to the promotion of a culture of peace

The discussion on this item will refer to UNESCO's Transdisciplinary Project: Towards a Culture of Peace (UNESCO Doc. 29 C/5) and more especially to its Unit 2: Education for a Culture of Peace, also taking into consideration other relevant reference documents. This discussion would be concentrated on the following issues:

- promotion of co-ordination and dissemination of information about this project, integration of relevant components into the training and research activities of the Chairs; contributions to UNESCO activities aimed at conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict peace-building;

- promotion of education and training for human rights, democracy, and tolerance as a major means to create a culture of peace.

When discussing issues concerning education for a culture of peace, the participants will be invited to present their views on the following subjects:

- the role of formal, non-formal and distance education;
- the need to prepare a wide variety of training and educational materials designed for various target groups and geared at promoting respect for human rights, intercultural dialogue and understanding, peace, gender equality, democracy and tolerance;
- assistance to and participation in national culture of peace programmes, as well as the interregional project for a culture of peace and non-violence to be undertaken by educational institutions;
- reflection on new priorities in education for human rights, peace, democracy and tolerance, its changing content, innovative approaches, new methods, etc.

The discussion should be based upon basic United Nations and UNESCO documents on education for peace, human rights, democracy, tolerance, non-violence and non-discrimination, the aims and content of which are inseparably connected with the promotion of a culture of peace.

4. Discussion on strengthening the network of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance

Possibilities of the further development of co-operation between the UNESCO Chairs and the creation of a genuine global network and regional sub-networks will be discussed. The discussion should be focused, *inter alia*, upon the following:

- the feasibility of creating a central data bank by the Chairs;
- improvement of exchange of information, programmes, research results and materials; exchange of study visits and of guest lecturers; advisability of organizing meetings of UNESCO Chairs on a regular basis (every two years).

5. Discussion and approval of the Final Document of the Meeting

The adoption of a report of the meeting, a Declaration on the Promotion of Education for Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Tolerance and a Memorandum of Co-operation between the Chairs could be envisaged.

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Publication on the first Chairholder Meeting

UNESCO Chairs in the Struggle for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance – International Meeting of Chairholders of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance
Documents, Materials, Information – Stadtschlaining, Austria, 22-25 April 1998
European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU), Stadtschlaining/Austria, autumn 1998,
in co-operation with UNESCO
ISBN 3-900630-11-9

Edited by the EPU's UNESCO Chair on Peace, Human Rights and Democracy. Published with the financial assistance of UNESCO
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