

THE STADTSCHLAINING DECLARATION
ON PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, PEACE,
AND TOLERANCE (MAY, 2000)

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

Acknowledging with satisfaction the adoption on 13 September 1999, of the United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace¹,

Welcoming UNESCO's activities to promote universal respect for the fundamental values of human rights, peace, democracy, tolerance and non-discrimination,

Expressing our conviction that the International Year for a Culture of Peace is an occasion to renew commitments to promote, by means of education and research, all human rights for all, ideals of peace, tolerance, non-discrimination, democracy, social justice, peaceful conflict management and prevention and thus to contribute to strengthening peace and security,

Noting with deep concern the continuing violations of all human rights in many parts of the world,

Expressing deep concern for the widespread and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in recent armed conflicts,

Acknowledging the imperative need to reinforce implementation, enforcement and dissemination of relevant international standards for the protection of human dignity in warfare,

Being aware that building societies free of violence and human rights violations is a long process requiring efforts in political, social, economic, educational and other fields,

Welcoming with satisfaction the adoption of new international instruments aimed at increasing the protection of the rights of women and children, namely the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women² and the International Labour Organisation Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour³,

¹ UN General Assembly Resolution 53/243 of 13 September 1999.

² UN General Assembly Resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999.

³ ILO Convention N° C 182 of 17 June 1999.

Being persuaded that the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001)⁴ and the World Conference on this subject (South Africa, 2001) are excellent opportunities to redouble efforts to combat various forms and manifestations of discrimination,

Underlining the utmost importance of preventing discrimination in education and of creating a genuine equality of opportunity in implementing the right to education,

Considering that the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (2001)⁵, should serve to strengthen mutual understanding and respect among various cultures, especially the cultures of minority groups and indigenous people,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action⁶ (1993) as well as other relevant international instruments and documents concerning human rights⁷, as a basis for further action in this field as well as for the consolidation of peace and democracy,

Reaffirming the inherent link between peace, development, democracy and human rights, as acknowledged by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993),

Recognizing the need to develop education based on human rights and social justice at all levels as an essential part of the culture of peace programme,

Also recalling the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) in the implementation of which UNESCO plays a major role,

Bearing in mind that education for human rights is a powerful means for building a culture of human rights, peace, democracy, social justice, tolerance and non-discrimination and for reaffirming the human dignity of all members of humankind,

Taking into consideration the results of the Regional Conferences on Human Rights Education (Europe, 1997; Africa, 1998; Asia and the Pacific, 1999; Arab States, 1999) organized by UNESCO in order to further encourage human rights education at national and regional levels,

Stressing the importance of joint efforts to struggle against violations of human rights, genocide, extreme poverty, social exclusion, social marginalization, the deterioration of the envi-

⁴ UN General Assembly Resolution 53/132 of 9 December 1998.

⁵ UN General Assembly Resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998.

⁶ Adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, Austria, June 1993).

⁷ Including: the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy (adopted by the International Congress on education for Human Rights and Democracy in Montreal, Canada, 8-11 March 1993); the Declaration of the Principles of Tolerance and the Follow-up Action Plan of the United Nations Year for Tolerance (adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 28th session on 16 November 1995); the Declaration (adopted at the 44th session of the International Conference on Education, Geneva, Switzerland, October 1994) and Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy (adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 28th session, Paris, November 1995); the Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations (adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 29th session on 12 November 1997).

ronment, and other threats to human rights, as elucidated, *inter alia*, in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (1995)⁸,

Express our resolution to contribute by means of education, training, research and sensitization of public opinion, to the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1999);

Reaffirm our strong conviction that education for human rights should be further promoted as a significant means of ensuring respect for human rights, democracy, tolerance and, as a result, peace and security;

Commit ourselves to further disseminate in national and local languages, the texts of relevant international human rights instruments with a view to increasing commitment to the ideals of human rights, peace, non-discrimination, tolerance, social justice, mutual understanding and respect;

Appeal for the adoption and effective implementation of national plans for human rights education in order to achieve the goals of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004);

Recognize the need to influence State's policy and action in creating a climate conducive to the full implementation of human rights, as well as sustainable conditions for a culture of peace, which are essential to reduce violence,

Emphasize the need to guarantee the right to education for all, without any distinction based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or ethnic origin or on other grounds, and equality of opportunity in this respect;

Affirm our resolution to contribute to the promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law as widely as possible in both civilian educational establishments and to military, police and security officials, as well as to encourage the ratification and entry into force of the Statute of the International Criminal Court at the earliest possible date;

Strongly condemn all forms and manifestations of discrimination and recognize the necessity of further sensitizing public opinion regarding all forms of discrimination, xenophobia, religious and political intolerance, in order to ensure their prevention and eradication;

Affirm our determination to participate actively in the implementation of the objectives of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2002), the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001) and the World Conference on this subject (South Africa, 2001);

⁸ Adopted in Copenhagen, Denmark, by the World Summit for Social Development, in March 1995.

Express our resolution to contribute to the implementation of the aims of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (2001), through, in particular, the clarification and popularization of its aims, and further efforts to promote mutual understanding and respect;

Underline the urgent necessity for energetic action in order to promote and protect the rights of women, children and persons belonging to other vulnerable groups including those suffering from HIV/AIDS;

Reaffirm our resolution to further contribute to the prevention of discrimination against women and to ensuring genuine gender equality;

Reiterate our appeal for the universal ratification of all international human rights instruments, including the recently adopted Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1999) and the International Labour Organisation Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999), as well as for the withdrawal of any reservation which limits their full observance;

Appeal to the academic and civil society structures and movements for an effective mobilization of efforts to obtain international legal recognition of peace as a fundamental right of all peoples as an enduring contribution to the International Year of the Culture of Peace;

Adopt this Declaration and express our determination to popularize it on local, sub-regional, regional and international levels by all appropriate means available, in order to make it known as wide as possible.