

# **AGREEMENT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO CHAIRS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND TOLERANCE**

Stadtschlaining/Austria, May 2000

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

*Taking into account* the basic principles and objectives of the Plan of Action of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) and relevant UNESCO declarations, resolutions and documents,

*Recalling that* human rights in all their multiple dimensions - philosophical, political, economic, social and cultural - are common heritage of entire humanity, irrespective of religion, race, sex, or other considerations and, an expression of human dignity,

*Deeply concerned* by ongoing violations of human rights in many parts of the world, widespread extreme poverty, social marginalization, social exclusion, forced movement of people, genocide, discrimination against women, children, persons belonging to minorities, migrants, refugees, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups,

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

*Recognizing* that the International Year of the Culture of Peace (2000) is an occasion to reinforce individual and joint activities in order to contribute, by means of education and research, mobilization of public opinion, in particular that of young people, to: the promotion and protection of all human rights for all; the prevention and eradication all forms of discrimination; the strengthening of peace; the consolidation of democracy and the promotion of tolerance,

*Convinced* that the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001) and the World Conference on this subject, will give a new impetus to the struggle against various forms and manifestations of racism, discrimination, related intolerance and violence,

*Taking into consideration* the necessity to contribute to the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (2001) by promoting mutual understanding and respect, among and within different cultures and peoples,

*Persuaded* that UNESCO Chairs will continue to jointly develop, in co-operation with relevant partners at local, national, regional and international levels, activities aimed at promoting values of human rights, democracy, peace, non-discrimination, social justice, tolerance and understanding among peoples and between different cultures,

*Bearing in mind* the desirability of creating a genuine 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, 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 them including, *inter alia*, development of a Public and Private Forum of Chairholders on the Internet.
2. To implement joint educational and research programmes and to establish the practice of reciprocal visits and exchanges of experts between the Chairs, as well as students and/or scholars.
3. 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 active involvement in their projects.
4. To reinforce co-operation between the Chairs on regional and sub-regional levels, in the forms they find appropriate, in particular between Chairs in Arab States, in Central and Eastern Europe, in Latin America, in Africa, in Asia and in other regions.
5. To promote the UNESCO Chairs' networking on regional level by Regional Co-ordinators.
6. To publish, regularly, the *Bulletin for UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace, Tolerance and International Understanding* in hard-copy and also on the Internet and to entrust the responsibility for the preparation and publication of the second issue, as for the first issue in 1999, to the European University Center for Peace Studies, Stadtschlaining, Austria, which should summarize the results of the second meeting and provide information on the activities of the Chairs, on issues of common interest and problems.
7. To hold the meetings of the representatives of the UNESCO Chairs on a regular basis, preferably biannually.

***THIS AGREEMENT IS SIGNED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL PARTICIPATING CHAIRS AS WELL OTHERS AFTER THE EVENT:***