

# newsletter

## Adopted: a new ethical framework regarding the use of human genetic data

The challenge for an elaborate organization such as UNESCO is to keep its course well – without distractions – and to communicate with its constituents what it is doing. In the Sector for Social and Human Sciences, we are addressing this issue by developing and publishing our strategies.

The strategy development exercise has involved all of our field and headquarters staff, and has been growing in intensity over the course of more than a year. We consulted widely, with many partners, with UNESCO's National Commissions and their partners, as well as with other UN agencies, so that we could be very precise about what it is we are trying to do and – just as important – what we are not going to do.

The first two such papers – on human rights and on combating racism – were developed for UNESCO Member States to review at UNESCO's General Conference in October of this year. There, the Members signaled their agreement by a vote of approval. A third strategy paper – on democracy – was studied and confirmed by UNESCO's Executive Board (a meeting of a smaller number of Member States) in September.



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→ Thus, the process is still quite new. But it is a vital one. At a staff consultation in July 2003, draft strategies on many of the other themes – gender issues, ethics, urbanism, philosophy, etc. – in the Sector’s work were shared among staff from headquarters and field offices. Regional strategies, not specific to themes, were also studied. This enabled a discussion of the centrality of one theme across the whole of the Sector’s work: creating desirable social transformation.

The extensive consultations have demanded a high degree of participation and teamwork from all the staff, and they are leading toward more precision in the identification of objectives. Where there was a vague consensus, the goal now is to have a clear one, written and publicized so that our partners can easily identify us – what we represent and what we aim to do.

Several strategy papers will be developed in the Sector’s areas of work. As these papers are developed, we will publish their elements in this *Newsletter*. The feedback has so far been very positive, since circulating these strategies has allowed more people to see more clearly what we are already actively doing, and what our objectives are. We hope that this kind of clarity and transparency will help us identify new partners, as well as better serve our current constituencies.

While strategies are being prepared, to be implemented in the coming years, work started a few years ago is bearing fruit. The latest is the finalization, after close to two years of intensive work, of the *International Declaration on Human Genetic Data*. The dossier of this issue explains what it is and why such a Declaration was needed.

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## “Who knows?”



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**Following on from the first two forums held in 1995 and 1996, entitled “What we do not know” and “Who are we?”, respectively, a new UNESCO Philosophy Forum took place on 13 September 2003, on the subject “Who Knows?”.**

The Forum was opened by UNESCO’s Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, and moderated by Jérôme Bindé, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences and Director of UNESCO’s Division of Foresight, Philosophy and Human Sciences. This third Forum was a chance for twenty-one eminent philosophers, scientists and researchers from all over the world to compare their views on, and analysis of, the new ways in which knowledge is created, shared and disseminated. In line with UNESCO’s Programme, approved by the Organization’s General Conference, this Forum was designed to help elucidate the concept of a “knowledge society”, as part of the preparatory work for the first *UNESCO World Report on Building Knowledge Societies*, to be published in 2004.

The place knowledge holds in our lives has been radically transformed by the revolution in the area of information and communication technology.

However, although this transformation might seem to bring us closer to the ideal of universally shared knowledge, the reality is somewhat different. Questions remain unanswered, such as: Does everybody really have access to the vast amount of knowledge that is now circulating? Exactly what knowledge are we talking about? Can we control the momentum being gathered by the far-reaching changes that are taking place? Who therefore can stand up today and say, in all honesty, “I know”? Who, tomorrow, will know?

### **Social demand and scientific controversies**

The political, ethical and social implications of knowledge cannot simply be reduced to questions relating to the use of technology or the issues raised by the information society. This complex relationship between social demand and the dynamic of scientific controversies was the first topic to be discussed, with contributions from Aziza Bennani, Enzo del Bufalo, Luc Montagnier and Paulin Hountondji.

The participants drew particular attention to the risks of scientific specialization and compartmentalization, stressing the need for responsibility to be shared between researchers and society. This plea for a modern, responsible science was taken up in the comments by Kristof Nyiri, Peter Scott, Peter Jarvis and Régis Debray, who highlighted the need for long-term, critical and “organic” knowledge, against the background of the radically changing methods of acquiring and disseminating knowledge, with the use of the new technologies.

### **Modern knowledge**

From the point of view of ethics, technology is neither good nor bad. It is not neutral either, however, and its effect on knowledge, as on society, depends on the legal, political and cultural context in which it is used. Attention was drawn to this strange relationship we have with modern knowledge by Elia Zureik, who talked of the generalization of new forms of monitoring; Jean-Joseph Goux and Dominique Lecourt, who discussed the types of utopia to which the new forms of technical and scientific knowledge gave rise; and Jérôme Bindé, whose paper was on the emergence of a new “secret society” and the transformation of “memory-based societies” into “knowledge societies”.

### **The limits of knowledge**

The facts provided by Tadao Takahashi, Jacques Attali and Thierry Gaudin on the disparities engendered worldwide by the transformations currently taking place in the use of knowledge illustrated the shortcomings of the view that control of knowledge is something that is universally shared. The hopes engendered by the technological revolution cannot conceal from us the limits of knowledge and the need, in certain cases, for it to be challenged; attention was drawn to this by Julia Kristeva, Youri Afanassiev, Hide Ishiguro and Souleymane Bachir Diagne.

Closing the debate, Jean d’Ormesson defended the idea of open-ended, indefinite knowledge – indeed, the great “odyssey” of knowledge and culture on which we have embarked. For him, this culture of openness could be seen as the culture of dialogue, democratic debate and exchange of experience and knowledge advocated by UNESCO. ¶

Jérôme Bindé, [j.binde@unesco.org](mailto:j.binde@unesco.org)

## Thomas Pogge

Thomas Pogge, philosopher and professor at Columbia University (USA), has dedicated a major part of his work to the fight against poverty and written several books on this issue. He is currently participating in the UNESCO project “Ethical and Human Rights Dimensions of Poverty: Towards a New Paradigm in the Fight Against Poverty”.

### How do you define poverty?

Poverty is normally defined in income terms, but there are much broader definitions of poverty that also take other aspects of deprivation into account. For purposes of work I have done on the World Bank poverty statistics and in monitoring the first Millennium Development Goal, I stick to a narrow definition of poverty as income poverty. But from a philosophical point of view, the definition of poverty is not terribly important, so long as it is understood that what is of interest, morally, goes far beyond low income.

### What do you think about the UN definition of poverty?

The first Millennium Goal refers to an income-based definition of poverty, which is perfectly all right so long as other Millennium Goals address other kinds of deprivations.

### But the poverty threshold of 1 dollar a day may not cover the same realities in different regions of the world...

Yes, that's right. Even if you focus just on income poverty, which is indisputably one aspect of human deprivation, you have to focus on it in a plausible way. The threshold has to be consistent both in space and time, so that people who are counted as poor really can buy less of the basic necessities than people who are counted as non-poor in different countries and different years. The World Bank's methodology does not satisfy this very minimal condition of consistency across space and time. Moreover, the Bank's threshold is unreasonably low in most countries. Many people who are counted by the Bank as non-poor in fact have too little money to meet their basic human needs.

### The first UN Millennium Goal is to reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day. In your opinion, can this goal be achieved?

In my view, this goal can easily be achieved. The goal is formulated so that it is supposed to be achieved by the year 2015. Since 1990 was chosen as the baseline, the first Millennium Goal is in fact formulated as a 25 year plan to reduce by one half the *percentage* of those in the developing countries who live in severe poverty. If you calculate this in numerical terms, what they are aiming for is in fact only a 20 per cent reduction in the *number* of very poor people

# Interview



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from 2000 to 2015. The revised goal is not very ambitious. If the rich countries, in particular, took the problem more seriously, we could not only achieve the 20 per cent reduction but wipe out poverty well before the year 2015.

### Does this mean that you are optimistic about these goals being achieved?

No, I'm pessimistic, because there simply is no political will to achieve these goals. At present, each country is in charge of its own poverty eradication and most of the rich countries see no urgency in helping with this process. They do not think that they should for example ease trade rules in such a way as to make it easier for the poor countries to achieve the target. The responsibility is in most cases shifted on to the poor countries. So, with political will lacking on the part of the rich countries, the goal will not actually be achieved.

### You have characterized the international community's efforts to reduce poverty as a "go-slow" approach. What do you mean by that?

As I have said, the *Millennium Declaration* understanding of "halving severe poverty" is really a complicated way of committing to a 20-per cent reduction in the *number* of very poor people – a huge cut-back from the reduction the same governments promised at the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome. According to the World Bank's one dollar a day poverty line, which is not only grotesquely low but also very badly translated into other currencies, the number of very poor people was about 1170 million in 2000, to be reduced to 937 million by 2015. Consider also that the rich countries spend only a

**“We are involved in an immense crime against humanity, through the upholding of the present global economic order.”**

little over 50 billion dollars annually on official development assistance, out of which only 4 billion dollars are devoted to basic social services. Compared to their combined GNPs of ca. 26,000 billion, these 4 billion dollars are obviously an extremely small amount devoted to such an extremely large problem – after all, roughly one third of all human deaths, 18 million each year, are due to poverty-related causes. So I am speaking of a go-slow approach because we could easily devote 200 or even 300 billion dollars to poverty eradication and thereby achieve a much greater reduction in the number of very poor people by 2015 than is now being aimed for.

**In one of your recent lectures, you even compare the world poverty problem with some of the catastrophes of last century, such as the Holocaust. Aren't these very different phenomena?**

Obviously, the Nazis' actively and intentionally killing people is morally very much worse than not doing enough to reduce poverty today, because there is no intention among rich-country politicians or citizens to kill a large number of people in poor countries. There is simply indifference. However, if you look at the problem from the standpoint of a politician in a neutral country during the Nazi period who *could* pursue policies that might defeat the Nazi challenge and might end the Holocaust, then the two problems become much more comparable. If we think that it was morally urgent *then* to do something to reduce the problem of the Nazi killings, we should for very similar reasons conclude that it's very urgent *now* to do something about the world poverty problem.

**You published a book entitled *World Poverty and Human Rights*. What is the link between the two and is poverty in your opinion essentially a human rights issue?**

I do not claim that poverty is a human rights issue in principle, or that each and every case of poverty is a human rights issue. However, I am arguing that almost all poverty in the world today is a human rights issue. When poverty is in good part caused by others – by conduct of and in the rich countries – then it should be considered a human rights violation.

**Could you give concrete examples?**

The existing global trading regime contributes to the perpetuation of poverty through the asymmetrical market opening that took place in the 1990s. Poor countries still do not enjoy unfettered access to our markets and are still hampered by anti-dumping duties, quotas and very high subsidies, for instance on agricultural products and textiles. Not only do these subsidies make poor countries' products uncompetitive on rich countries' markets. They also hamper poor countries' products in other markets because they allow the rich countries to undersell these products everywhere. By upholding a global economic order that grandfather the rich countries' right to impose such protectionist measures into the global trading system, the rich countries greatly contribute to the persistence of the world poverty problem.

**What is your stand on globalization? Has globalization in your opinion led to an increase in poverty-related human rights violations?**

Globalization is not one particular homogeneous phenomenon. There are many different ways in which globalization can proceed if we understand globalization as increased economic and political integration of the world. The way globalization has actually been steered for the last 15 years has been much worse than it could have been from a poverty perspective. Open markets could have been created with far fewer grandfathering and other rules favouring the rich countries. Out of the various paths of globalization that were available, the chosen one foreseeably produced much more severe poverty than necessary. To the extent that it did, it was a human rights violating path.

**How do you describe the connection between social and economic rights on the one hand, and civil and political rights on the other?**

Ever since the end of the Second World War there has been a long dispute between those who think that civil and political rights are the “true” human rights and those who say that social and economic rights are more important than civil and political rights. In the early history of the United Nations that dispute resulted in the separation of what initially was a unified conception of human rights, as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, into two covenants, the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Both types of rights are of course of crucial importance and they are in many ways mutually reinforcing. As Amartya Sen has pointed out, civil and political rights are very important supports



→ for social and economic rights. In a country with a free press and an open and competitive political system, it is more likely that the basic needs of the poor are being addressed. Conversely, in a country where social and economic rights are secure, where people do not have to focus all their energy on getting their next meal, a genuine democracy is more likely to exist. So empirically, I think there is a strong connection. Conceptually, as well, human rights are indivisible in the sense that a human life in which some of them are unfulfilled is a blighted human life, a life that in many ways is not as much worth living as a life in which these basic minima are secure. If people in the Western countries tend to consider social and economic rights less compelling, I think it is because they conceive these rights as rights to be helped, to be supported or to be given something. I agree with them that it is morally less urgent to benefit or to help people than it is not to harm them. But to associate civil and political rights with the obligation not to harm, and social and economic rights with the obligation to benefit is a mistake. Through the imposition of economic institutions that predictably make it impossible for many people to meet their basic social and economic needs, those who impose these institutions are actually harming people rather than merely failing to help them. Most severe poverty in the world today is due to poor people being harmed in this way.

**In your work, you refer to our negative and positive duties...**

This is a very old and conventional distinction in moral philosophy. When the conduct of one person is causally related to the fate of another person, then philosophers distinguish between two different ways in which that relation might exist. In the first case, a person actively does something that causes harm to another person. In the second case, a person merely fails to do something he could have done to prevent something bad from happening to the other person. For example, you might throw a baby into the water and as a consequence the baby drowns, or you might simply fail to rescue a baby that is already in the water and as a consequence of your failure to rescue the baby, it dies. Philosophers believe that this distinction between the negative duty not to harm and the positive duty to help is morally significant. In the context of understanding what human rights are it is a very important distinction. In my view, somebody is a human rights violator only when he or she actively harms others or contributes to harming them. Human rights, this very minimal notion of what human beings owe one another, do not require that people benefit or rescue or protect each other. They merely require that we not harm others. However, with regard to poverty, even

this very minimal demand is arguably widely unfulfilled today, since the rich countries and their citizens collectively harm many in the poor countries through the global economic order they impose.

**So in your opinion, the fight against poverty is a negative duty.**

For us citizens of affluent countries, the eradication of severe poverty is a negative duty, yes.

**You argue that not only the international community, but also States, and even citizens of the industrial world share responsibility for poverty. Could you explain why?**

The global economic order as we now have it consists of a very large set of rules. Some of these are encapsulated in the WTO, but there are also less obvious rules that have a tremendous negative effect on living conditions in the poor countries. Take the international resource and borrowing privileges, which allow any person or group holding effective power in a developing country to sell the resources of the country or to borrow in its name, irrespective of whether that person or group has any kind of democratic legitimacy. These privileges are very convenient for the rich countries who can buy resources from anybody who happens to exercise power in a country. However, they are devastating for the populations of the developing countries because they make it possible for oppressive and unrepresentative rulers to entrench themselves with money they borrow abroad or get from resource sales. These privileges also provide incentives for potential strongmen in these countries to take power by force. Their existence explains to a large extent why there are so many civil wars and coups d'état in the developing countries, in particular in Africa. This is an example of how the international order, largely upheld by the rich countries, aggravates oppression and poverty in the poor countries.

**You are advocating a new global institutional order. What kind of reforms are you in fact recommending?**

One of my reform proposals is to suppress, or at least significantly to modify, the international resource and borrowing privileges in order to tie the right of rulers to sell resources and to borrow in the country's name to some minimal degree of democratic legitimacy. This could be implemented by developing countries themselves, by passing a constitutional amendment that would bar anyone who will govern the country in violation of democratic principles from selling its resources or from borrowing in its name. This would make it much harder for anyone to take over the country by force and would also reduce the incentives to do so. Another of

## ↳ A short bibliography

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- *Global Justice* (Thomas Pogge, ed.), Oxford: Blackwell 2001.
- *Realizing Rawls*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press 1989. ¶

my proposals is somewhat less imaginative, namely the idea simply to raise the amount of money dedicated to poverty eradication. A highly unequal distribution of income tends to be self-reinforcing by giving the rich much greater powers to shape the global economic order. One can to some extent compensate for this by channelling funds for development into the poor countries (not necessarily to or through their governments). So I propose a global resources dividend, where a small part of the value of resources that are harvested worldwide would be diverted into a fund specifically for poverty eradication. Approximately 300 billion dollars a year would be the amount needed in order seriously to attack the global poverty problem. 300 billion dollars sounds like a huge amount, but it is really only a little over 1% of the aggregate GNP of the rich countries. So it is still an affordable amount and moreover one that could gradually decline as severe poverty is eradicated.

### **If poverty is a question of human rights being violated, then can we use the term “abolish” instead of “eliminate” or “eradicate”?**

Some say that we should either understand or modify existing human rights instruments in such a way that it would be considered illegal for countries to tolerate poverty within their own borders or to undertake policies that contribute to people remaining below the poverty threshold even in other countries. I do not quite agree with this point of view, because such an understanding or formulation extends human rights to entail positive obligations to help. The term “abolition” has that connotation to it, whereas I insist, partly for rhetorical reasons, on the notion of human rights as entailing only negative obligations.

### **Could you specify what you mean by rhetorical reasons?**

Especially in Western countries, there is great resistance to the idea that there is a strong positive obligation to eradicate poverty abroad. I want to bypass this resistance by appealing not to the good heart or to the charity of citizens and governments of the rich countries. I am only asking them no longer to harm the poor by upholding a global economic order under which severe poverty will, foreseeably and avoidably, persist on a massive scale. It is this violation of a negative duty that should be outlawed first and foremost. Doing so would implement Article 28 of the (legally non-binding) Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized”. Currently, this Article is massively violated.



→ **You have written a lot about the concept of global justice. Could you explain it and the change of paradigm that it proposes?**

Thinking about justice is often divided into two domains: international and intra-national. In the first domain, people think in interactional terms about the rules that States ought to obey in their conduct. In the second domain, the question is to what extent the rules according to which each State is organized are producing certain harms or benefits for the population. This institutional analysis, which is commonplace intra-nationally, is one that I want to carry to the global level. With regard to duties across borders, we should not only think about the way States ought to behave in their interactions with one another. We should also consider the framework of global rules and what effects this framework has on phenomena such as poverty.

**How do you relate to Rawls's idea that States have a duty of assistance?**

Rawls is certainly right to say that States have a duty to assist one another, for example in cases of emergency. It would be a great step forward to incorporate this principle into international ethics and, more importantly, into international law. However, in suggesting that the problem of world poverty is due to the failure to fulfil such a duty, Rawls is buying into the empirical picture I am criticizing. His theory completely disregards the active contributions the rich countries make to the persistence of the global poverty problem. It is based on the misconception that poverty is essentially home-grown. Rawls does not take into account that we are deeply involved, causally and morally, in perpetuating this problem.

**How do you as a philosopher deal with that responsibility? And more generally, how can philosophy contribute to the debate on poverty?**

Philosophy means the love of wisdom, and wisdom involves understanding what really matters. I work on poverty because I think it is by far the most important problem the world is facing today. It is not something that threatens people in the rich countries, not something we have any immediate cause to be concerned about; this is why it is so widely neglected. What philosophers can do is recognize the importance of the poverty problem, alert people to it and clarify what our responsibilities are with regard to that problem. In other words, to get people away from the picture that poverty is some remote good cause that they, as a kind of hobby, might do something about. Poverty is a very grave moral responsibility – much greater than any other responsibility we have today. We are involved in a very large crime against humanity through the upholding of the present

global economic order. And this is something that most people in the rich countries do not realize but have a responsibility to realize, a responsibility that philosophers can help them at least recognize, if not live up to.

**How do you see UNESCO's role in relation to the international community's global efforts to combat poverty?**

UNESCO has some intellectual leadership within the UN system and it can play a very crucial role in highlighting the issues that other UN organizations ought to be dealing with, in highlighting what is important and in mapping out at least the conceptual and justificatory ramifications of such issues. I am therefore very glad to see that UNESCO is involved in clarifying our moral responsibility with regard to severe poverty worldwide and causally. ¶

Interview by [Jeanette Blom](#), [j.blom@unesco.org](mailto:j.blom@unesco.org)

## WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY

Over 4000 participants from around the world attended the 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Philosophy, held in Istanbul, Turkey (10-17 August 2003). The World Congress, which takes place every five years, is the biggest gathering of philosophers in the world. SHS was particularly active during the Congress. Besides organizing a consultation meeting with philosophers, including key members of the International Federation of Philosophical Associations (FISF), to discuss the UNESCO Strategy on Philosophy, it held a seminar on poverty and human rights with 15 philosophers from different regions. It also organized the plenary session on "Social and global justice".

Numerous contacts were made with philosophers from Asia and the Arab regions, in preparation for the launching of the new project *Philosophical Dialogues*. This project was enthusiastically supported by the scholars invited to discuss the possible modalities. It was considered a particularly important initiative for the Arab region which has neither a philosophy association nor a stable network of philosophers. ¶

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## Should poverty be abolished?



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We are embarking on the 21st century with the full array of the world's resources – wealth that can meet the needs of the whole of humanity and provide for its future. This currently means six billion people and nine billion or more by the next generation. But humanity is far from forming a homogeneous whole, able to avail itself of the opportunities afforded by globalization of the economy where economic growth rides over and through all cultures, a process we have been witnessing for several decades. Today, one person in four lives in dehumanizing conditions of poverty. This means daily suffering for hundreds of millions of old people, women and children; it means places unfit for human habitation, disease, danger and death. Can we call it progress, when our world is capable of showing great concern for a few missing tourists and yet resigns itself to abandoning more than one billion people in inhuman conditions?

For the international community, the new millennium was a time for making grand resolutions. First and foremost, it resolved to halve by 2015 the number of people living with less than one dollar a day – the agreed criterion for defining extreme poverty, although that means something totally different from country to country. The objective is laudable. Attaining it will entail tremendous effort

and genuine systemic change, yet it will leave unchanged the intolerable situation of hundreds of millions of men and women.

### Poverty violates human rights

The problem raised by poverty is far greater than the mathematical calculation. Beyond the very real picture of the level of resources, and conditioning it, is the denial of a whole ensemble of human rights, both as cause and effect of poverty. Of the five groups of fundamental rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as inherent to all human beings, poverty always violates social rights and, all too often, most of the other rights as well. The violation of any one of these rights quickly degenerates into poverty. The World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, rightly saw the organic link between violation of rights and poverty. That must be our starting-point if we want to overcome poverty.

The decision to reduce poverty is praiseworthy, but it is not sufficient, and it is fundamentally flawed. Poverty is not a problem of degree, but of nature. It is not a matter of reducing it but of abolishing it as a violation of human rights, since openly violating indivisible human rights in

a structural manner cannot be tolerated. Reducing a violation of rights is not enough; the violation must cease to exist and we must try to make amends. This approach is fundamentally sound; and it is the only operational one with regard to content. Recognizing rights imposes duties on governments and other institutions of global governance; at the same time it empowers the poor who then have credibility. The movement of these two forces – awareness on the part of the actual trustees of sovereignty of an imperative duty imposed on them, and the discovery by poor people of a legitimacy to claim a kind of credit – is the only way to get rid of pauperism – the persistence of structural poverty – once and for all.

### A three-tier duty

The best major programmes to reduce the level of poverty do not provide a cure for the plain, intolerable fact that poverty persists and each day inscribes in the pages of history a massive denial of human rights. Abolishing poverty does not mean reaching equality of conditions – a Utopia that in the past brought about even greater misery; it is a matter of ensuring for each and every person the effective exercise of all their human rights, and therefore of eliminating everything that wrongs them, of which poverty is



→ a flagrant example. This leverage of rights is extremely powerful if taken seriously because it is an obligation. It is up to the conviction and action of governments in power, their sovereignty and the citizens.

Public opinion can be won over by the shocking fact that putting up with poverty is a denial of the public's own values, and an infringement of its own founding rights. Slavery and apartheid were beaten that way. Poverty is their structural equivalent. In fact, it adds them together and, to our shame, perpetuates them, but we pretend to ignore that it too is a violation of human rights. We should face up to it. Clearly we have a three-tier duty: first, the question of coherence in our own rights and values; next, in terms of efficiency, addressing a major problem that half a century of palliative politics has been unable to eradicate; and finally, in terms of forecasting, although it may be true that a world that evades the problem of its unity of rights and equality before the law could be totally incapable of attaining sustainable development, whether with regard to the planet or in terms of social tolerance.

### Engagement of every State, every citizen

If respect for our own foundations in human rights is insufficient, then the will to act more efficiently and particularly the awareness of an imminent major danger for human security worldwide should be enough for each State and every citizen to engage in the fight for the abolition of poverty. The main line of this combat is the concept of justice, outlined by existing rights, without the need for any particular ideology: to genuinely respect human rights for the benefit of everyone. Freedom and humanity will do the rest. The infinite riches of human diversity will be able to draw the best from the world's resources, from experience and from the vitality of the present, and thus build the continually renewed matrix of sustainable development on a world scale. ¶

**Pierre Sané**

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### UNESCO PLAYS KEY ROLE IN NAMIBIA'S PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT

Namibia is embarking upon the development of regional poverty profiles through participatory poverty assessments, carried out in relation to the National Poverty Reduction Plan of Action (NPRAP). This will provide information on poverty in terms of its causes, character, dimensions, depth, dynamics and experiences at local levels. The information gathered will complement other forms of data on poverty-related issues, particularly the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES). This should provide a stronger basis on which to formulate poverty reduction policies and programmes and to monitor the impact of poverty reduction policies at the local level.

The Social and Human Sciences Programme of the UNESCO-Windhoek Office, was selected by the Namibia National Planning Commission Secretariat (NPCS) to undertake and coordinate the first Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) to be carried out in Ohangwena Region. The PPA was prepared in close cooperation with the Namibian NGO Nara and the NPCS between September and November 2003. ¶

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\* See also: *New Horizons for the San, Participatory Action Research with San Communities in Northern Namibia*, Dhyani Berger and Elke Zimprich Mazive, August 2002, UNESCO Windhoek Office, ISBN 0-620-229391-8.

### HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

To assist Pakistan with its National Plan of Action (NPA) for Human Rights Education, the UNESCO-Islamabad Office has supported the organization of four training workshops through the Provincial Institutes of Teacher Education. These were held in Nawabshah, Sindh (8-9 September); Peshawar, NWFP (15-16 September); Quetta, Balochistan (8-9 October); and Punjab, Lahore (16-17 October). The workshop participants in each province developed strategies for the implementation of the NPA:

- Strategies for teachers to incorporate Human Rights Education (HRE) in existing teaching methodology and in training courses;
- Guidelines for writers to incorporate HRE in textbooks;
- Strategies for identifying institutions and their roles for the implementation of the NPA. ¶

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# Gender equality in Pakistan: the role of boys and men

**The UN Division for the Advancement of Women is concerned by the slow process worldwide in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on Equality, Development and Peace. It has thus been decided that boys' and men's contribution to the process towards gender equality will be the theme for next year's discussion in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, March 2004.**

Until now, not much has been done in Pakistan to research how boys and men can contribute to gender equality except for the work of the NGO Rozan, the national counterpart of the international White Ribbon Campaign: Men against Violence.

Through a participatory process, UNESCO-Islamabad and Rozan (as the implementing party) have initiated a project on "Boys' and men's involvement in the quest for gender equality in Pakistan", considering men to be essential partners in the process of addressing the issue of gender equality. The project will solicit the views of young Pakistanis on the topic as part of the country's preparations for the CSW 2004 and as a basis for furthering the discussion on gender equality in the country.

## First phase: a pilot project

The pilot project involves universities in the four provincial capitals. More than 200 students from Fine Arts, Mass Communication and Journalism departments of universities and the National College of Arts have been invited to develop visual art expressions or writing on the theme, "How to involve boys and men in the quest for gender equality in Pakistan?".

A selection of entries, rated on gender sensitivity, artistic/literary expression and effectiveness of messages, will be displayed as a national exhibition during a seminar in Islamabad on 3 December 2003, jointly hosted by UNESCO-Islamabad and Rozan in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Development.

To provide an opportunity for the participating youth to explore this issue more deeply and connect with it at a personal level, a number of participants will be chosen to attend gender sensitization workshops. The three-day workshops for groups of some 25 students will be conducted by the Rozan team of facilitators.

A comprehensive report on the initiative, along with recommendations for further work with boys and men is planned.



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Role-playing during a workshop on gender awareness raising.

## Second phase: a nation-wide project

A nation-wide project focusing on male roles and masculinities in Pakistan will be based on the material developed during the pilot project and the sensitization workshops. The purpose would be to strengthen the process towards gender equality and reduce violence in society, notably violence against women.

The project would focus on stimulating a broad debate and capacity building on socialization of boys and girls, especially on male roles and masculinities and on how changing male roles may contribute to gender equality. Partners are sought for this phase of the project. ¶

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## ➔ Important Dates

### Phase I

- Initiation and material production: September - October 2003
- Four Sensitization workshops: 1 October - 25 October 2003
- Submission of material and selection: 1 November 2003
- Exhibition and Seminar: 3 December 2003  
Report printing: February 2004

### Phase II

- March 2004 – March 2006 ¶

### A WEBSITE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Visit the Website *Research and Teaching on Human Rights, Gender Issues and Democracy in Southern Africa*, launched in June 2002. The website documents and disseminates information pertaining to the 14 member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The main issues covered are: Human rights protection systems; Democracy; Gender; Rights of indigenous peoples (in particular the San population) and minorities; Rights of children; Academic freedom; Human rights education; Rights to peace, health environment and development. The site is hosted by the Human Rights and Documentation Centre (HRDC) at the Faculty of Law, University of Namibia; a mirror site has been set up at the Human Rights Internet (HRI) in Canada. The partners are the University of Namibia, in cooperation with the UNESCO-Windhoek Cluster Office and the UNESCO Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Africa, UNESCO Dakar Office. ¶

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### TRANSLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING MATERIALS

Human rights training materials are now being translated into the Kyrgyz, Tajik and Kazakh languages. The materials include the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and participatory exercises on human rights and tolerance. Along with the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which has already been translated into the three languages, these documents will be used by the youth trainers who received an intensive “training for trainers” on human rights and democracy in their respective countries (see SHS *Newsletter 01*). The aim of these new documents is to help the young trainers raise awareness about human rights among their peers, their communities and the wider public in Central Asia. ¶

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### THREE UN AGENCIES JOIN FORCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The UNESCO-Almaty Office and the UNDP-Kazakhstan Office plan to participate in the OHCHR-funded *Assisting Communities Together* (ACT) project. ACT will enhance local initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights. UNESCO, in consultation with civil society, plans to support the following activities:

1. A two-day workshop in Almaty on the reporting system of international human rights conventions with representatives of civil society from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on:
  - Reporting System of the international human rights conventions
  - Analysis of the State party reports
  - Experience of civil society on completing the alternative reports
  - Current status of the reporting system in each country
  - Experience of civil society in implementing the concluding observations made by the UN human rights bodies
  - Regional strategy on the promotion of human rights
  - Adoption of Recommendations and Resolutions
2. Development and publication of training materials on human rights education.
3. Enhancement of training programmes on human rights targeting youth in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan with trainers who have already received training from the ongoing mobile training programme on democracy and human rights. ¶

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### SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMME

Eighteen participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan successfully completed the five-day “training for trainers” programme on democracy and human rights from 15 to 19 July in Almaty. They received training on human rights, the rights of the child, tolerance, cultural difference and conflict resolution. Each participant also took part in training the other participants. In this way, they developed their presentation skills and acquired participatory methodologies of training such as role playing and group work. The participants will now start training their peers in their communities and schools in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. ¶

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Market in Ohs, Kyrgyzstan.

### EXPERT PANEL ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

An expert panel meeting was held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 1 to 3 October. Organized jointly by SHS, the Communication and Information Sector and the UNESCO-Montevideo Office, the panel's aim was to analyse collectively the ways in which governments in the region are managing the transition towards the information society and how the new information and communication technologies (ICT) are affecting local democratic processes.

The meeting took place in the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Forum of Cities and Local Governments in the Information Society, a preparatory meeting of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in December 2003 and in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 2005. The Regional Forum was a showcase for Latin American and Caribbean

projects on e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-inclusion and e-economy, bringing to the fore regional and local experiences in the field of the information society, with the long-term view of strengthening local governments' capacities for implementing and promoting effective use of ICTs throughout urban and rural communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. ¶

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### SWISS-KYRGYZ DEMOCRACY TRAINING PROJECT

The Kyrgyzstan National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Democracy in Multi-Ethnic and Multicultural Society at the Bishkek Academy of Management organized an international conference for higher education students on 22 October in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). Plenary sessions and discussions focused on the revised Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic and the guarantee of human rights and freedoms; democratization and inter-ethnic relations in the Kyrgyz Republic; human rights in jurisdiction; and civil society and the State in Kyrgyzstan: mechanisms of interaction. This event was part of the democracy training project funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and managed by UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector. The project's overall objective is to further the development of democratic modes of interaction at all levels of society. In the long term, this implies institutional reform as well as strengthening the nascent civil society. Given the multi-ethnic character of Kyrgyz society, the main challenge is ensuring democratic management of ethnic diversity. ¶

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### MERCOCIUDADES

Together with the municipality of Montevideo, the UNESCO Office organized the Seminar "Participatory local management and productive complementarity" on 18 and 19 September. The meeting took place during the Ninth *Mercociudades* Summit "Cities for Social Inclusion and Regional Integration: tools for job creation". Civil society leaders from the capitals of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay discussed themes set out in the *Mercociudades* Political Agenda, aiming to strengthen the involvement of cities in *Mercociudades* and the links between the various local and regional social actors who create socio-economic networks in MERCOSUR cities. ¶

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## “Should human cloning be banned?”

**UNESCO’s Twenty-First Century Talks put into effect the will of the international community to strengthen the Organization’s role as intellectual lookout. Panelists at the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Talks discussed the vital issue of human cloning.**



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On 10 December 2003 a new session of the *Twenty-First Century Talks* was held, looking at an area of bioethics that has been a focus of media attention in 2003: “Should human cloning be banned?”

The session was introduced by UNESCO’s Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, and moderated by Jérôme Bindé, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences and Director of UNESCO’s Division of Foresight, Philosophy and Human Sciences.

UNESCO’s primary role is that of a laboratory of ideas. Indeed, the Organization’s Strategy stipulates that it must play “a key role in anticipating and defining, in the light of the ethical principles it defends, the most important emerging issues in its spheres of competence, and in identifying appropriate strategies and policies to deal with them”. The questions raised by human cloning constitute one such issue, since cloning human beings calls into question human dignity and diversity. UNESCO had already created an instrument designed to address the challenges of science faced by human societies and the international community – the International Bioethics Committee, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. A new approach needs to be taken, however, now that human cloning is no longer simply a technical possibility but a near probability. For this development in biomedical research raises philosophical

and political questions that go beyond the strictly defined borders of science. It was therefore time to initiate a forward-looking, interdisciplinary discussion to clarify the different problems raised by, in particular, the two known cloning techniques: “reproductive” cloning, which aims to replicate a complete human being, and “therapeutic” cloning, which has the potential to radically transform organ transplants, the ethics dimension of which has given rise to much controversy among experts.

### **The uniqueness of human beings**

Why, and on what basis, should reproductive cloning be formally banned? Basing his comments on the three conceptual aspects of a human being – body, mind and personal liberty – Jean-François Mattei, member of the French National Academy of Medicine, and French Health Minister, whose portfolio includes family and disability issues, set out to demonstrate how the uniqueness of human beings would be challenged by reproductive cloning. Mr Mattei did not seek to ban research with therapeutic applications, however. Faced with the alternative, irreversible scenario of a *laissez-faire*, taboo-breaking approach, he said that respect for human beings should be preserved, and the requirements of medical care reconciled with those of moral dignity.

### **Responsibility of decision-makers**

This is not as easy as it sounds. William B. Hurlbut, professor at Stanford University and member of the US President’s Bioethics Committee, stressed that even for the strictly medical applications of therapeutic cloning, ethical issues needed to be thoroughly considered. Is it legitimate to create embryos that will not be allowed to develop to term? Does this not run the risk of encouraging a dangerous commercialization of living beings? With these questions, decision-makers have to face up to their responsibilities in controlling medical research relating to human beings.

### **The North-South divide**

These responsibilities extend far beyond that, however, and are of international and regional scale, involving relations between States. The presentation by José-Maria Cantu, Professor at the University of Guadalajara (Mexico), Member of the Mexican National Academy of Medicine and the Mexican Academy of Sciences, and simultaneously member of the Ethics Committee of HUGO (the Human Genome Organization) stressed this point. Standard-setting and legislative work in the area of human cloning must take into account the reality of the disparity between North and South: without solidarity and without widespread access to knowledge and technology, the

future of biomedical research and its applications could lead to exclusion, thus violating the ethics of the very art of medicine itself.

#### Consensus at the international level

Finally, in her presentation, Mireille Delmas-Marty, Professor at the Collège de France (Chair of comparative legal studies and internationalization of law) made it clear just how much work needed to be done. In today's era of globalization, all attempts at laying down legal rules on human cloning will result in inconsistencies and ineffectiveness if no strategy is implemented to bring about a consensus at international level. The effectiveness of the legal instruments themselves also needs to be reviewed, however: in prohibiting cloning, without providing for sanctions in the event of infringement, most current legislation is doomed to failure.

The conclusions of these *Talks* reaffirmed the legitimacy and relevance of UNESCO's work in the area of bioethics. Forward-looking and standard-setting work at international level is the only way of guaranteeing effective legislation to preserve the dignity and diversity of humanity in general. These discussions were the occasion for UNESCO to reaffirm its role as a laboratory of ideas and future-oriented forum. Indeed, the Organization is the ultimate forum in which people representing different cultures, visions of the world and religious convictions can discuss issues of the utmost importance for humankind.

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#### ETHICS OF THE ECONOMY CONTRIBUTION TO THE HUMANIZATION OF GLOBALIZATION

The interdisciplinary project "Ethics of the Economy" was conceived as an experimental programme and developed as part of UNESCO's unifying theme: humanizing globalization. The aim was to encourage and support initiatives towards the definition, promotion and dissemination in the economic world of ethical values able to contribute to the humanization of globalization. An appraisal of the humanization of economic globalization issues and initiatives with regard to promoting ethical values in the economy was carried out in 2000-2001. The results of that appraisal made it possible to identify the main lines of thematic thinking in order to guide the next stage of the work. A multidisciplinary team of experts therefore undertook a series of studies on the appraisal of knowledge and practices concerning ethical economy. These studies are now accessible online (see website indicated below). ¶

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#### Documents of the Ethics of Economy programme

Humanization of globalization; *Master Plan of the Ethics of the Economy Programme*, 2002, English/French, (SHS-2002/CONF.603/2).

#### *Ethics of the Economy Series*

(These papers are available in French only) « Pour une éthique de l'économie : le droit, élément de frein ou de progrès ? » by Monique Chemillier-Gendreau, 2003, (*Économie Éthique* n°1, SHS-2003/WS/21).

« L'émergence contemporaine de l'interrogation éthique en économie » by René Passet, 2003, (*Économie Éthique* n°2, SHS-2003/WS/22).

« L'économie éthique publique : biens publics mondiaux et patrimoines communs » par Philippe Hugon, 2003, (*Économie Éthique* n°3, SHS-2003/WS/23).

« L'économie sociale et solidaire : pôle éthique de la mondialisation ? » by Louis Favreau, 2003, (*Économie Éthique* n°4, SHS-2003/WS/33).

« L'éthique économique : une contrainte méthodologique et une condition d'effectivité des droits humains » by Patrice Meyer-Bisch, 2003, (*Économie Éthique* n°5, SHS-2003/WS/36).

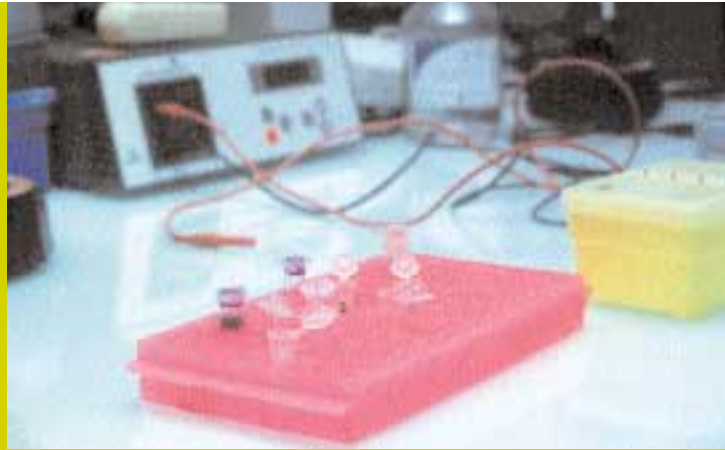
« Éthique et économie : médiation du politique » by Henri Bartoli, 2003, (*Économie Éthique* n°6, SHS-2003/WS/37).

« L'économie éthique privée : la responsabilité des entreprises à l'épreuve de l'humanisation de la mondialisation » by Michel Capron, 2003 (*Économie Éthique* n°7, SHS-2003/WS/42). ¶

# Dossier

## Declaration

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“Present-day scientific practices cross national borders. Hence the imperative need to take action together at the international level – not to erect barriers against these practices, but to provide the necessary oversight so that the benefits of science may be enjoyed by all humanity... Fifty years after the discovery of the DNA double helix structure, this year will mark, I am sure, the determination of the international community to anticipate the possible misuses of that discovery.” ¶

Koïchiro Matsuura,

Director-General of UNESCO

UNESCO has two consultative bodies in the field of bioethics: the International Bioethics Committee and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee.

### ↳ The International Bioethics Committee (IBC)

The IBC was created by UNESCO in 1993, and until 1997 functioned on an *ad hoc* basis. Since 1998, it has Statutes defining its mandate and composition. The IBC's 36 members, designated by UNESCO's Director-General for a term of four years, serve in a personal capacity. They are chosen from among eminent personalities, specialists in the fields of the life sciences, social and human sciences, including law, human rights, philosophy, education and communication, on the basis of equitable geographical representation.

The IBC's mission is to follow the progress of research in the life sciences and its applications by ensuring that the principles of human dignity and freedom are respected. The IBC is the only forum at global level which can facilitate in-depth ethical reflection by exposing the issues at stake, without passing judgement on any given position.

The IBC has produced several reports on crucial questions concerning bioethics. The following titles give an idea of the issues covered: *Confidentiality and Genetic Data; The Use of Embryonic Stem Cells in Therapeutic Research; Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis and Germ-line Intervention.* ¶

[www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics](http://www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics)

### ↳ The Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)

The IGBC is comprised of 36 Member States of UNESCO, elected by UNESCO's General Conference, for a period of four years. IGBC sessions are convened by the Director-General at least once every two years.

The IGBC examines the opinions and recommendations of the IBC, particularly those relating to the follow-up of the *Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights*. The IBC and the Director-General are then informed of the IGBC's point of view so that the Director-General may transmit this information, along with the opinions and recommendations of the IBC, to the Member States, the Executive Board and the General Conference of UNESCO. The IGBC may also make proposals for appropriate action regarding the IBC's opinions and recommendations. ¶

### ↳ The Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics

The Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics was created on UNESCO's initiative to maximize coordination among the UN Agencies in the field of bioethics and facilitate cooperation with other inter-governmental organizations. Members are the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies working in the field of bioethics. International and regional intergovernmental organizations engaged in activities linked to bioethics are also invited to take part as Associate Members. ¶



# International Declaration on Human Genetic Data

**On 16 October 2003, UNESCO's General Conference adopted the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data. This non-restrictive instrument provides an ethical framework for Member States developing their legislation and regulations.**

With the Declaration, human genetic data now have their own standard-setting instrument, laying down the ethical principles that should govern their collection, processing, storage and use. Collected from biological samples (blood, tissue, saliva, sperm, etc.), human genetic data play an increasingly important role in our lives. They are allowing scientists to identify, in advance, the diseases that threaten us, and they hold the promise of new cures. Genetic data banks, furthermore, are multiplying and expanding all over the world. And certain countries are undertaking a genetic census of their population. Such data are also providing answers to a number of questions – concerning paternity, for instance, or the identity of law-breakers – posed by judges or police.

In view of this rapid and not always orderly development, common ethical guidelines needed to be defined. This has now been done.

**The Declaration's objective** is clearly stated – to ensure the respect of human dignity and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in keeping with the requirements of equality, justice and solidarity, while giving due consideration to freedom of thought and expression, including freedom of research. It undertakes to define the principles that should guide States in formulating their legislation and their policies on these issues.

According to the Declaration, “Each individual has a characteristic genetic make up. Nevertheless, a person's identity should not be reduced to genetic characteristics, since it involves complex educational, environmental and personal factors and emotional, social, spiritual and cultural bonds with others and implies a dimension of freedom.”

The respect of international laws protecting human rights is the principal safeguard established by the instrument. It is a recurring theme, evoked in each instance that the Declaration allows exceptions or restrictions to the major principles it sets out.

The specific nature of genetic data and the purposes for which they should be collected, treated, used and stored are also defined. Concerning procedures, the Declaration calls for collecting, treating, using and storing data on the basis of transparent and ethically acceptable procedures. It proposes that independent, multidisciplinary and pluralist ethics committees should be promoted and established at national, regional, local or institutional levels.

**At the collection stage**, the Declaration emphasizes “prior, free, informed and express consent, without inducement by financial or other personal gain” of the person providing the data. Limitations are possible but “should only be prescribed for compelling reasons by domestic law, consistent with the international law of human rights.” The right to withdraw consent is affirmed, “unless such data are irretrievably unlinked to an identifiable person.” The right to decide whether or not to be informed of research results is also considered and the Declaration recommends that genetic counselling – non-directive, culturally adapted and consistent with the person's best interest – be made available when genetic testing that may have significant implications for a person's health is being considered.

**“Every effort should be made to ensure that human genetic data and human proteomic data are not used for purposes that discriminate in a way that is intended to infringe, or has the effect of infringing human rights, fundamental freedoms or human dignity of an individual or for purposes that lead to the stigmatization of an individual, a family, or a group or communities.”**

International Declaration on Human Genetic Data

**At the processing stage**, the key issue is confidentiality. The Declaration stipulates that genetic data linked to an identifiable person not be disclosed nor made accessible to third parties, in particular employers, insurance companies, educational institutions and families, except for an important public interest reason in cases restrictively provided for by domestic law that is consistent with the international law of human rights. The text adds “The privacy of an individual participating in a study using human genetic data, proteomic data or biological samples should be protected and the data should be treated as confidential”.





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### ➔ Selected definitions

*Human genetic data:* Non-obvious information about heritable characteristics of individuals obtained by analysis of nucleic acids or by other scientific analysis.

*Population-based genetic study:* A study which aims at understanding the nature and extent of genetic variation among individuals within a group and/or between individuals across different groups.

*Behavioural genetic study:* A study that aims at establishing possible connections between genetic characteristics and behaviour.

*Genetic testing:* A procedure to detect the presence or absence of, or change in, a particular gene or chromosome, including an indirect test for a gene product or other specific metabolite that is primarily indicative of a specific genetic change.

*Genetic screening:* Large-scale systematic genetic testing offered in a programme to a population or subsection thereof intended to detect genetic characteristics in asymptomatic people. ¶

Extract from the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data

### ➔ A declaration on bioethics?

The need for standard-setting action in the field of bioethics is felt throughout the world and is often expressed by scientists and practitioners themselves as well as by lawmakers and citizens. Many countries wish to establish benchmarks and define a framework for laws and regulations but sometimes lack the means to do so.

In October 2003, the General Conference of UNESCO invited the Director-General to undertake the preparation of a declaration on bioethics.

➔ **At the use stage,** change of purpose is the main topic discussed. The Declaration considers that data collected for one purpose should not be used for a different purpose that is incompatible with the original consent. Concerning sharing benefits, the text affirms, “In accordance with domestic law or policy and international agreements, benefits resulting from the use of human genetic data, proteomic data or biological samples collected for medical and scientific research should be shared with the society as a whole and the international community”.

**At the storage stage,** the problem of cross-matching is anticipated: “Consent should be essential for cross-matching human genetic data, proteomic data or biological samples stored for diagnostic and health care purposes and for medical and other scientific research purposes, unless otherwise provided for by domestic law for compelling reasons and consistent with the international law of human rights”.

**The promotion and implementation** of the Declaration are covered in the final articles. Action in the sphere of education, training and public information is recommended. The text also calls for entering into bilateral and multilateral agreements enabling developing countries to build up their capacity to participate in generating and sharing of scientific knowledge concerning human genetic data and related know-how. UNESCO’s International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) are called upon to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and the dissemination of the principles it sets out. ¶

**Pierre Gaillard,** Bureau of Public Information

## ↳ Birth of a declaration

**In a little under two years the *International Declaration on Human Genetic Data* was written and approved.**

**1993**

Creation of the bioethics programme at UNESCO and setting up of the IBC.

**1997**

*The Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights* is adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO.

**1999**

Report of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) on “Confidentiality and genetic data”.

**2001**

**January:** UNESCO’s Director-General asks the IBC to examine the question of human genetic data with a view to drafting an instrument.

**October:** Round Table of the Ministers of Science on “Bioethics: International Implications”. The participants recommend that extensions to the *Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights* should be considered.

**November:** UNESCO’s General Conference endorses the Director-General’s proposal to examine the possibility of preparing an international instrument on genetic data. (Resolution 31 C/22).

**2002**

**February, April and July:** The IBC sets up an *ad hoc* Drafting Group, co-chaired by Ms Nicole Questiaux (France) and Judge Patrick Robinson (Jamaica), which meet to formulate proposals as to the form and content of an international instrument on genetic data. The Group pronounces itself clearly in favour of a declaration, which is a non-binding instrument, since it is a form that allows the drafting of principles that States can interpret taking into account their legal systems and their different cultural, economic and social circumstances.

**May:** Finalization of the document “Human genetic data: preliminary study by the IBC on its collection, treatment, storage and use”.

**October:** UNESCO’s Executive Board considers that “the Organization should prepare, as a matter of urgency, an international declaration on human genetic data with due regard for human dignity and human rights and freedoms” (165 EX/Decision 3.4.2).

**November:** A preliminary outline of the declaration is examined by the IBC in a public meeting in Montreal, Canada (26-28 November).

**2003**

**January:** A revised outline of the Declaration is the subject of a broad international written consultation.

**February:** Public hearings on human genetic data and the declaration outline in the Principality of Monaco (28 February).

**March and May:** The Drafting Group holds two more meetings.

**April:** UNESCO’s Executive Board invites the Director-General to present a finalized text to the General Conference in October 2003.

**23 April:** The Chairperson of the IBC, Ms Michèle S. Jean (Canada), the co-chairpersons of the Drafting Group and its Rapporteur, Mr Georges B. Kutukdjian (Lebanon), finalize the provisional preliminary draft of the declaration.

**May:** The IBC examines the provisional preliminary draft of the Declaration (12-14 May) and requests that the provisional draft declaration be finalized.

**June:** The draft international declaration on human genetic data is finalized by the Meeting of Government Experts in Paris, 25-27 June.

**October:** The Declaration is adopted unanimously and by acclamation by UNESCO’s General Conference on 16 October.

[www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics](http://www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics)

## ↳ The Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights

UNESCO launched its normative action in the field of bioethics in 1997 with the adoption of the *Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights*. The 25 articles cover: human dignity and the human genome; the rights of the persons concerned; research on the human genome; conditions for the exercise of scientific activity; solidarity and international cooperation; and the promotion of the principles set out in the Declaration.

Thanks to numerous conferences, meetings and workshops, the Declaration has had a notable impact on the major stake-holders working on human genome issues. Indeed, its principles are incorporated in the mandates of bioethics and ethics committees of medical universities and research centres alike. In many countries these principles are present in national legislation and regulations and the Declaration itself has been translated into several languages.

The new *International Declaration on Human Genetic Data* of 2003 is both a logical sequel to the Universal Declaration and one of the modalities for its implementation since it applies to human genetic data the principles set out in the Universal Declaration. ¶

[www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics](http://www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics)



## Why the need for a Declaration?

**Human genetic data tell us a great deal, and promise to tell us much more. Yet, like many other aspects of the ongoing genetic revolution, they pose as many problems as they resolve.**

Human genetic data already provide answers to questions asked by judges and police: proof of paternity, identity of a sex criminal or an accident victim. In varying degrees, they also answer medical questions: genetic tests can already predict diseases. Other, less conclusive tests – indicating only a predisposition – provide invaluable information for prevention. Research based on human genetic data is extremely promising: we can expect more tests of increasing reliability as well as new approaches for understanding and treating innumerable diseases.

As a result, human genetic data banks are multiplying and the largest of them have already gone beyond the mark of one million data.

Many people fear that genetic data lend themselves to uses that are contrary to justice and civil liberties, that they open the door to discriminations of all types. The need to establish ethical guidelines had become urgent. This led UNESCO to draft a normative instrument, the *International Declaration on Human Genetic Data*.

The following examples clearly illustrate the complexity of the problems that the Declaration addresses.

### **First case: a genetic test**

Because one of her parents had died of Huntington's disease, a North American woman decides to take a genetic test to find out if she too will develop the neurodegenerative disorder. The decision is difficult: she has a 50 per cent chance of developing the disease. A genetic counsellor advises her to take out life and health insurance before taking the test, because should the test prove positive, not only will she be condemned to illness, but she will no longer be eligible for insurance. No company will accept her if she discloses her "positivity". And if she conceals it, she would be committing fraud, and the company could cancel her policies if the omission was discovered. One of her co-workers overhears the conversation when she is making the appointment for the genetic test, and mentions it to their employer. At first he is sympathetic and ready to help his employee. But the test comes out positive. The woman thus discovers she will get the disease, and tells a certain number of people. She is soon fired, despite having received several promotions and praise for her work over the previous eight months.

From this sad story much can be learned about the genetic tests that are gradually invading our lives.

### **On discrimination and insurance**

The economics of insurance is based on the fact that it is not individuals who are being insured but groups. For each accident or illness, there is a given statistical risk. The whole system depends on the good faith of the contracting parties. If a large number of people ask for life insurance because they have learned that they have a higher than normal risk of getting cancer, it throws the system out of balance. Insurance companies say they fear these "fraudulent" clients, but they are not at their mercy: they can try to prove that the insured person cheated by neglecting to inform them of test results that changed his or her situation.

The scales can also be tilted in the other direction, posing a different threat. Insurance companies can be tempted to use the increase in genetic testing to their own advantage.

Without going as far as to impose the tests on their clients, they can incite them to get tested by offering lower rates. We would then end up with insurance at two, or even three, levels: clients at risk (those with a revealed predisposition to a serious disease or refusing to take the test) who would pay the top price, and clients who were lucky enough to draw a winning number in the genetic lottery – no increased risk of serious disease – and who would get the best prices from the insurance companies.

### **On discrimination by the employer**

It seems obvious in our example. But it could have taken another more insidious form, with the employer waiting a little longer to get rid of the "problem" employee so that no one would suspect the real reason for firing her. Discrimination can also take a more active form. In our example, the employer merely reacts to a test that the employee has freely chosen. But an employer can initiate genetic screening.

If certain policies deserve to be labelled discriminatory (for instance, firing employees who are "at risk" or blocking their promotion) there are others that are harder to interpret. Where is the dividing line? Not assigning a worker predisposed to carpal tunnel syndrome (crs) to a job where he or she will have to operate a jackhammer can come under the heading of a preventive measure, taken for the worker's own good. To also bar him or her from access to production lines can be justified (use of a pneumatic tool). But adding other bans begins to seriously curtail the employee's ability to advance in the company.

### **On refusing tests**

Discrimination by insurers and employers obviously discourages potential candidates from getting tested, depriving them at the same time of the advantages that early diagnosis can entail. Furthermore, because of this reluctance, scientists risk being deprived of valuable

information since many people fear data about them will end up in the wrong hands. Such mistrust is hard to measure. But a study by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) involving 344 doctors indicates a trend: 87% reported that their patients had asked that certain data not appear in their files, and 78% said they had complied with the request.

### **Second case: the property issue**

A resident of Seattle (Washington State) suffering from leukemia is hospitalized in 1976 in a renowned university hospital in California. He undergoes a splenectomy (removal of the spleen) and within the many samples taken (blood, bone marrow, etc.), a researcher discovers a scientifically and commercially interesting substance. A patent is taken out which benefits five parties (the doctor, the hospital, a researcher, a genetic institute and a pharmaceutical company) but not the man whose cells contained the substance. He sues in court. The court upholds his claim on one count – lack of consent – but denies him a property right, as such a right would prevent scientists from gaining access to the cells they need.

### **On what is at stake**

A few years ago, the situation seemed simple. As long as the patient had consented to giving cells or tissues, scientists considered themselves at liberty to use them in their research. Today this is no longer a minor problem. Using human cells or tissues, or by analysing data derived from them, hundreds of biotechnological companies are competing in the race for tests or treatments. Millions of dollars are at stake, which explains the explosion in the number of genetic data banks. The economic importance of human genetic data can only grow.

### **On consent**

The patient consented to have his spleen removed. But the consent applied only to the operation performed in 1976 in the context of his treatment for leukemia. He was not informed of the fact that the doctor intended to use the removed organ for his research. Only much later (1983), and when the patient was becoming suspicious – wondering why he had to come all the way to California to give samples which could have been taken in his home town – was he asked to sign a waiver, giving up his rights to any product that could be derived from his blood. The patient refused to sign. The discovery of a patent application, filed in 1981 by the doctor and other parties, resulted in the lawsuit. The court upheld the patient's claim on the issue of consent.

The conditions for consent are normally that it is prior, freely given, and informed. In other words, (1) The person

from whom the samples are taken must know in advance that the sample will be used to produce human genetic data; (2) he or she must be under no physical or psychological pressure (no threat of punishment or promise of gain); (3) he or she must understand to what end the human genetic data are being produced (possible advantages and disadvantages, guarantees stipulated). Consent must also sometimes be explicit, i.e. the purpose of the sampling must be clearly defined.

### **On changing the objective**

It seems clear in our example. As far as the patient is concerned, the samples were taken with a therapeutic aim: to improve his care, evaluate his progress. The doctor's objective was the same at the beginning, but he soon realized that his patient's blood contained an interesting substance. This resulted in taking samples that were useful for research but perhaps not necessary for the patient.

Between a therapeutic goal and a research goal, there is often a fine line. Other changes of objective are more clear-cut. Imagine that a country decides to create a genetic data bank of all of its citizens – to help research and improve health care – but that the collected data is then made available to the police to hunt down criminals. Ethically, the change in purpose is not admissible.

### **On property**

Who owns what? Scientists discover genes or discover one of their functions but they do not invent them. Yet this has not prevented thousands of patent applications from being filed.

More concretely, to whom does a sample containing genetic data belong? Simple common sense produces the first response: my blood (my saliva, etc.) belongs to me. But do they no longer belong to me once they are extracted from my body? Without claiming an absolute property right, do I not at least have a say in what use is made of my cells or a product derived from my cells?

### **On obstacles to research**

To deny the patient any right to the product discovered in his blood, the court concluded that recognizing such a right would prevent scientists from having access to the cells they needed. Collective interest – in this case, medical progress – prevails here over individual interests. Questions can be raised, however. Was it truly collective interest? More generally, one can also question the court's giving ultimate value in the eyes of the law to scientific and medical utility. Such a principle can be laid down, but does it not call for wider reflection, involving the entire society concerned (through its legislators)? ¶

Pierre Gaillard, Bureau of Public Information

## Beijing 2008: the challenge of social sustainability

**In preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing's urban construction is undergoing vast change. UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector and Culture Sector are providing expertise for the urban planning of the old city. SHS focuses mainly on the issue of social cohesion within the framework of the rehabilitation of Old Beijing.**

Thirteen years ago the municipal government of Beijing decided "to speed up reconstruction of dilapidated houses in order to relieve the people of their housing problems". Since then, Beijing has carried out tremendous construction work. This rapid, large-scale renovation went through the normal planning procedure; yet time has shown that such reconstruction has many drawbacks.

One visible impact is the loss of atmosphere of the ancient city. New buildings decorated with a few traditional features have replaced the old Beijing architecture of courtyards and *hutongs*. Another problem relates to the fact that large amounts of money have been invested in the project, attracting real estate speculators. In pursuit of economic returns, urban developers are building high density, high-rise constructions and thus destroying the historical atmosphere of the old city. And finally, the neighbourhood community has been destroyed and people displaced, often leading to social exclusion and unrest of former residents.



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### Modernization and preservation

The first step in the "Social Sustainable Development of Old Beijing" project was a symposium on "The Future of Old Beijing and the Conflict between Modernization and Preservation" held at Tsinghua University, Beijing, in October 2002. Urban development specialists from China and other countries attended the meeting. Discussions focused on coping with modernization and preservation, upgrading the residents' living conditions, and maintaining social cohesion and community life.

In order to carry out the project focusing on social aspects, SHS representatives had discussions with the Beijing municipality, leading to a request for the implementation of an SHS project in Old Beijing, the Yan Dai Xie Jie Area, in Xicheng District. As part of this pilot project on social renovation, Tsinghua University researchers are conducting a social survey among more than 400 households. The questionnaire submitted examines the living conditions in the old town and the opinions of local residents on the changes taking place in their neighbourhood.

The project will involve residents in the renovation of a target area in Old Beijing to show that good practice is possible and to provide recommendations for policy makers.

The project will blaze a trail in the district's renewal by creating new models, approaches and procedures to be followed for future sustainable urban development.

A comparative study of experiences in different regions of the world will be carried out in order to include urban economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects, including urban management and legislative spheres. The aim is to make a breakthrough both theoretically and practically by combining former studies with the latest achievements. ¶

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### EDUCATION AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Following the seminar organized by MOST in Recife, Brazil, last year on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Paulo Freire, UNESCO's Sectors for Education and Social and Human Sciences, together with the *Cercle de pédagogies émancipatrices* (Teaching Empowerment Circle), organized the second seminar on Education and Social Transformation at UNESCO from 17 to 19 November 2003. ¶

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# Landscape and environment

**“Landscape is the invention of perception. It exposes problems that go beyond the dimension of aesthetics. The crises existing between society and its territory are increasingly revealed. Cities are getting out of control, towns are in a state of crisis, and the landscape just grows. Towns want perspectives that have visual impact from different angles.”**

Those are the words of Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec, the first incumbent of the UNESCO Chair in “Landscape and Environment”.

Over two years ago, in June 2001, at the request of the Moroccan Government, UNESCO’s Urban Development Section organized a Symposium on the theme “Life and Living in Landscape”. This Symposium brought together – apart from the actors involved in the development of the region, from towns and urban districts – teachers and researchers from Italy, Germany, France and Canada, and, from Morocco a number of Ministers as well as the Secretary of State for Development, Urban Issues, Housing and Environment.

## Establishment of a Chair

This Symposium was the catalyst for creating, on 4 July 2003, the UNESCO Chair in “Landscape and Environment” at the University of Montreal. This Chair responds to the needs of many Member States concerned about the training of professionals in architecture and regional and town planning, and also keen to raise awareness on the part of municipal authorities regarding their localities.

The Chair combines the mission of the University of Montreal with the aims targeted by UNESCO’s scientific internationalization project:

- development of research in landscape architecture;
- internationalization of teaching through university solidarity, particularly through the assistance and transfer of knowledge towards developing countries;

- strengthening of higher education in landscape architecture through the setting up of appropriate systems to encourage inter-university cooperation, and create academic and professional mobility;
- direct assistance to municipalities faced with urban planning problems, through the holding of international workshops for the Chair’s network of teachers and students, on the sites of the municipalities concerned.

The Chair includes disciplines from operational programmes such as planning, architecture or town planning; the human sciences such as sociology, anthropology, geography and history; and the natural sciences, ecology and the environment.

## First Forum

On 30 and 31 October 2003, at UNESCO Headquarters, the first “Landscape and Environment” Forum officially launched the work of the Chair. Attending the Forum were a number of Ministers as well as representatives of universities from Austria, Canada, France, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco and Spain.

Official representatives of the project organizers also attended the Forum, together with the different representatives of the network of Phase I of the “Landscape and Environment” Chair, some possible partners such as the African School of Architecture and Town Planning, from Lomé, Togo, and a representative of the International Federation of Landscape Architects and the International Union of Architects. ¶

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**The UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environment at the University of Montreal is the first international research and university teaching structure focused specifically on knowledge and the promotion of landscape.**

## CELEBRATION OF CITIES

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Social and Human Sciences Sector and the International Union of Architects (UIA), UNESCO is supporting the UIA “Celebration of Cities” project, an initiative of the new UIA President, Jaime Lerner, from Brazil.

The project’s aim is to mobilize architects to undertake concrete projects for cities and their municipal authorities, projects designed to improve the local lifestyle and give back to cities their quality, their capacity to develop communication, international solidarity and creativity.

The international consultation is addressed both to architects and to students of architecture, and is structured in three stages: local, national and international.

The World Day of Architecture, on 6 October 2003, was held under the same theme: “Celebration of Cities”. ¶

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## Successful networking experience



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Meeting of residents and ITESO University staff to discuss their housing development (Mexico).

Among its most recent activities, the City Professionals network (see *SNH Newsletter 01*) launched a local development project based on an inter-community structure of ten communities in Codenoba, in the province of Buenos Aires. Work prospects for the coming months promise close cooperation between universities and local authorities.

It should perhaps be recalled that the City Professionals network (UNESCO's MOST Programme) is a complex of groups, institutions and individuals who established an exchange system in order to attain their common goals. This involves each person or institution sharing their own experience with others with the aim of exchanging information, optimizing resources and improving on their own experience and the quality of their impact on society.

### Three-stage project

From the standpoint of the actual workings of the project, the development of the network is in three stages: *the launching phase* (October 2001 - June 2002) centrally coordinated by UNESCO for the monitoring of the timetable and the final action plan. This coordination was helped by a working group responsible for the systematization activity. *The questioning phase* (June 2002 - March 2003) during which period it became apparent that it was necessary to redefine the role of the members of the network and of the coordinators, as well as the types of decisions they were called upon to make more or less independently. Then came the *independence-decentralization phase*, from March 2003, following increased involvement on the part of member institutions. These were organized with regional centres (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, etc.) and with Mexico's ITESO University, thus giving a foretaste of how decentralization would work. UNESCO continues to lend its support and sponsorship to the network, being the federating institution because of its prestige and its mission to serve the world.

### Publications and videos

The City Professionals network has become an aid for universities confronting the need for academic reform. The first concrete results of this networking are:

- a systematization paper on the lessons learned (accessible at the MOST website address below).
- the publication with the São Paulo University Press of a compilation of the experiences of the Architecture and Urban Studies Faculty. A summary of these experiences is also available on the above website.
- the production of two videos on educational experiences: *Rua do Ouvidor 63* (a UNESCO-University of São Paulo Architecture and Urban Studies Faculty joint production). Prizewinner of the 2002 *International Federation for Housing and Planning* (IFHP) competition. *Escritorio Público de Arquitetura e Engenharia 2003* (a UNESCO-Salvador Unifacs University of Bahia, Brazil, joint production).
- Production of *The City Game*, devised by Débora Nunes as a pedagogical tool to teach local residents how to obtain equipment for their district from local or regional authorities.

### Network activities

The City Professionals network is now developing around subregional groups. At the moment four new ones are being constituted: in Argentina, Brazil, the Caribbean and Mexico. Other national projects are joining the network in Panama and Uruguay. Several of the activities are described below. ¶

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### ➔ Exhibition of a town centre renovation project

The exhibition "Renovation – the key for urban development" is being held from 27 November to 11 December 2003, in the main hall at UNESCO Headquarters. The work shown comes from the most recent seminars of the permanent international urban studies workshop in the El Cerro district of Havana, Cuba. ¶

### ➔ City Schools in Argentina

From 24 to 26 June 2003, the Research and Urban Action Workshop (TIAU) organized, with UNESCO's help, the Sixth *Escuela Urbana* on the subject of City Professionals. These "City Schools" bring together professionals, decision-makers and citizens for discussion sessions to help professional practice become more in line with higher education in their attempt to meet the challenges of city construction, development, financing and management, particularly in the city of Buenos Aires. The proceedings of this City School will be available late 2003. ¶

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### ➔ Seminar in the 9 de julio district, Buenos Aires

The City Professionals network, with the support of the Université Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle and the French Embassy in Buenos Aires, is organizing a seminar/workshop in March 2004 structured around the communities of ten towns in the Province of Buenos Aires, with a view to strengthening the Province's institutions. Universities, experts and decision-makers will thus all be collaborating on the same project to improve governance and contribute to problem-solving. ¶

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### ➔ New Management Tools

Within the framework of a cooperation agreement with a consortium of ten towns in the Province of Buenos Aires, the City Professionals network together with experts from the ten communities, are going to help design new management tools. This project – which will turn into development as well as training activities – will be a tremendous partnership opportunity between universities and municipalities. One case being studied is that of thousands of hectares of agricultural land that have been covered by floodwater. One of the alternatives to the economic conversion of the area is creating a regional tourist park along the lines of the Camargue in France. ¶

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### ➔ Information meeting in Argentina

On 6 October last, in partnership with the member associations of the City Professionals network, UNESCO organized an information meeting on “Urban agriculture and sustainable district development”. A talk was given by Marielle Dubelling from the Urban Management Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean (PGU-ALC). Ms Dubelling is a specialist in urban agriculture and development. The highly successful meeting was of particular importance because of the malnutrition and poverty in this part of the Pampa in Argentina. The participants – NGOs, local authorities and civil society associations – asked for a global project to be organized under UNESCO auspices. ¶

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### DAREKZ: A DATABASE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

The UNESCO-Almaty office is developing DAREKZ, a database of Central Asia social scientists. Already entered are the data related to the scientists involved in discussions and preparation of the national and regional strategies as well as general SHS activities in the region. Containing names, addresses, key research areas, list of publications, etc., DAREKZ is indexed for the purpose of quick search. It should assist local and international interested parties to find Central Asian experts in different areas of social sciences for partner projects – research, teaching, networking, exchange of information, etc. ¶

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### NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

UNESCO-Islamabad, in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, is organizing the first National Conference of Social Scientists on “The Status of Social Sciences in Pakistan: Current Scenario and Future Trends” (Islamabad, 15-17 December 2003). More than 500 social scientists are expected to attend the conference. The UNESCO Office is also supporting the Council of Social Sciences (COSS) in the preparation of three publications which will serve as background papers for the Conference: the second volume of the *State of Social Sciences in Pakistan*; a study of professional associations of social sciences disciplines; and a national directory of Social Scientists. ¶

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## A new Declaration for Latin America and the Caribbean

**Thirteen countries, members of the Forum of Latin American Ministers of Social Development, signed the Andean Declaration on 11 June 2003. The Forum was created in 2001 on the initiative of the UNESCO Office in Mexico with the primary aim of overcoming poverty through increased regional cooperation in matters of social development. The next follow-up meeting of the Forum will take place in Lima, Peru, in early 2004.**

On the occasion of the Fourth Meeting of Social Development Ministers held in the municipality of San Esteban, Chile, the Social Development Ministers of 13 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean acknowledge the importance of this Forum as a specialized venue for the exchange of experiences and best practices – based on the common political will of achieving a society that is fairer, more equitable, and devoted to overcoming poverty – and hereby declare:

- Their recognition of the importance achieved by the region's social agenda, as well as by the concurrence of views and strategies adopted by the different governments in their endeavors to overcome the problems affecting the poorer and more marginalized peoples.
- That they reaffirm the relevance of the Millennium Goals established for the planning and execution of the region's social policy, particularly as regards reducing extreme poverty and fighting against inequality and social exclusion.
- That they endorse the institutionalization of these Meetings through the creation of a Forum Technical Secretariat, as well as subregional working groups such as MERCOSUR, the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the Central American Integration System, and Mexico. The Forum Secretariat shall be comprised of representatives of the following host nations: host country of the last or previous meeting; host country of the upcoming or most recent meeting; and host country of the following meeting. In this case, these countries are Brazil, Chile and Peru, who shall submit a proposal regarding the establishment of a permanent structure for approval at the Fourth Forum to be held in Peru in January 2004. In addition, there will be three working groups acting as Forum technical-affair authorities representing their respective countries and in charge of addressing the following issues: poverty: Ecuador; best practices: Mexico; evaluation: Brazil.
- That they reaffirm their commitment to the Forum becoming established as a political authority for the permanent or ongoing construction of regional proposals by way of a specific ministerial conference.
- That they reiterate their commitment to promoting horizontal cooperation among the Forum members concerning the planning and evaluation of social policies, as well as the study and encouraged repetition of best practices in the region's social policy.
- That they recognize social unity as a vital factor for guiding the objectives of social policy and that this merits analysis at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Latin American-European Union Summit to be held in Mexico, at the Extraordinary Session of the Summit of the Americas, and at the next Forum of Social Development Ministers, as well as highlighting the position of Latin America at the Inter-American Meeting on Poverty, Equity and Social Exclusion to be held on Margarita Island, Venezuela, in October 2003.
- That they welcome the suggestion from the Asunción Declaration that the Technical Secretariat of the Forum of Social Development Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean conduct a permanent and ongoing evaluation of the international commitments of cooperation and assistance assumed by the more developed countries, as well as of the terms of international trade and their impact on the lesser developed countries of the region. They likewise welcome the proposal of establishing an International Fund to protect against hunger and extreme poverty inasmuch as the availability of world resources for this purpose constitutes one of the pivotal factors for achieving the Millennium Goals and hereby make a commitment to promoting their discussion. [...]¶

### **Signatories:**

***Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela***

## Meetings and research to reinforce human security

### **UNESCO is carrying out a series of regional consultations to determine the priorities in the area of human security in different parts of the world.**

In 2003 meetings were held in East Asia, Latin America and Africa. Next year, consultations will continue in the Arab States and Central and South Asia. The results of these meetings and of parallel research will be the basis for pilot projects to improve human security worldwide.

#### **East Asia**

The International Conference on Human Security in East Asia, jointly organized by UNESCO, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and Korea University, took place on 16 and 17 June 2003 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The main objectives of the Conference were: to define human security and identify major issues inherent in East Asia; to determine causes of threats to human security in East Asia and attempt to find ways to solve them; and to examine the draft paper, prepared at UNESCO's request, on "The Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks for the Promotion of Human Security in East Asia", for amendment prior to its publication by the end of the year. The Conference formulated three sets of recommendations for governments, civil society and UNESCO and its National Commissions. Issues covered by the recommendations included: conflict resolution, economic insecurity, poverty, regional migration, military spending, human rights, trafficking in human beings and drug trafficking.

#### **Latin America**

Two months after the Seoul Conference, a parallel Conference was held in Santiago, Chile from 20 to 22 August. Entitled "Contemporary International Security: Consequences for Human Security in Latin America", this Conference was jointly organized by UNESCO Headquarters, the UNESCO Mexico Office and the Latin American Social Sciences Faculty (FLACSO-Chile). The main objectives were: to define human security needs and priorities in the region; to identify action plans for implementing projects in the region during the next two years; to exchange best practices in conflict prevention and peace within the region and at international level; to present, for participants' comments, the draft paper prepared by FLACSO-Chile on "The Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks for the Promotion of Human Security in Latin America and the Caribbean". The three sets of recommendations are addressed to governments, academic circles and civil society, and UNESCO. The main subjects of the recommendations were: early warning for conflict prevention and resolution, accountability in terms of security and defence, improved security coordination, migration, drugs and arms trafficking, economic insecurity, poverty, civil and military coordination, capacity-building and human rights education.

#### **Africa**

With the strong similarity of the recommendations of the Seoul and Santiago Conferences, it will be interesting to see whether the International Conference on Human Security in Africa, to be held on 28 and 29 November, will echo those of East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Africa Conference is being organized in cooperation with the African Union and with the support of UNESCO's Africa Department, its Bureau of

Strategic Planning and its Addis Ababa Office. The main objectives are to define human security and identify priorities in the region, to determine causes of threats to human security in Africa and attempt to find ways to solve them, and to examine the draft paper "The Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks for the Promotion of Human Security in Africa". ¶

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### **VIOLENCE AND ITS CAUSES**

As part of its "Violence, War and Peace" programme, UNESCO organized an international symposium: *Violence and its Causes: a stocktaking*. The meeting took place on 3 November at UNESCO Headquarters in cooperation with the National Defence Institute of Higher Education (IHEDN, Paris). With a view to opening up new perspectives on the problems linked to violence, several specific subjects were tackled during the Symposium: new forms of violence; causes and roots of violence; and the links between extreme violence, terrorism and political crises, between violence, fanaticism and sacrifice, and between violence and corruption. ¶

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## United against hatred



### UNESCO Prize for Peace Education

The UNESCO Prize for Peace Education is an annual prize, created in 1980. It honours the promotion of any type of action that aims to build the defences of peace in the minds of men, to alert public opinion and to raise awareness for the cause of peace. The Division of Foresight, Philosophy and Human Sciences provides the secretariat. ¶

[www.unesco.org/shs/prizes](http://www.unesco.org/shs/prizes)

### On Monday 8 September, the award ceremony of the 2003 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education was held at UNESCO Headquarters.

This is a prize that has become a symbol of the Organization's work. The prizewinner was Father Emil Shufani, Israeli Arab, archimandrite of the Greek Catholic Church and Principal of St Joseph's College in Nazareth. He was awarded for his "Memory for Peace" project. Honourable Mention was given to Ms Yolande Mukagasana from Rwanda for her founding role in creating the Nyarirambo Support Association – a foundation for the memory of the victims of genocide in Rwanda and for the country's reconstruction.

The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, presided over the award ceremony, together with Ms Lucy Smith, Chairperson of the International Jury for the Prize, as well as representatives of international bodies engaged in the fight for furthering and passing on the message of peace.

The audience came from all walks of life to share in the honour awarded to Father Emil Shufani. Eminent representatives of different religions, heads of associations and NGOs campaigning for peace education, all were united in a spirit of equality and fraternity.

We should recall that Father Shufani led a "pilgrimage" of about 300 Israelis – Arabs and Jews – to Auschwitz-Birkenau "where the traumatism of the Jewish people is very present" with the aim of understanding and sharing this painful past, this wound still so open for a whole people.\* In his speech, Father Shufani stressed the importance of going in search of the other, of meeting the other and accepting him with everything that makes him what he is, in an utterly gratuitous and boundless gesture of love opening up to the future. The audience listened intently to his words and to the way he conveyed the strong emotion felt during the journey to Auschwitz. His words showed his greatness, his generosity and his humility, uniting the audience of different faiths with his humanist sermon.

The feeling was just as strong when Ms Yolande Mukagasana told her story. Nurse and writer from Rwanda, Ms Mukagasana lost her husband and three children at the time of the genocide in her country during the 1994 civil war. "How could my friends have become my enemies?" she asked. It was a question addressed to the whole gathering but one that no one could answer.

In memory of the victims of the genocide and for the rebuilding of Rwanda, she founded the Nyarirambo Support Association to fight against divisions coming between peoples. Now a refugee in Belgium, she has rebuilt a family by adopting three nieces and seventeen Rwandan orphans. "I call them my children, and they call me mother" she explained, visibly moved.

From that afternoon we will remember the incredible journey of these fervent defenders of peace, their strength of will and their unshakeable faith in people.

As Father Shufani said in his closing remarks, "all this is only a small drop of water, but I hope it will help change things". To encourage and help such acts to continue, UNESCO awarded them the Prize. ¶

Silvia Guédras, SHS intern

\* See SHS Newsletter 02

### AVICENNA PRIZE FOR ETHICS IN SCIENCE

Margaret A. Somerville has been chosen as the first laureate of the Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science (see SHS Newsletter 02). Of both Australian and Canadian nationality, she is Samuel Gale Professor of Law at McGill University in Montreal (Canada) and Professor in the Faculty of Medicine.

The Prize, created by UNESCO at the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, rewards the activities of individuals and groups in the field of ethics

in science. Through her books, conferences and other work, Professor Somerville has made an important contribution to the global development of bioethics, and to the ethical and legal aspects of medicine and science.

The award ceremony will be held in 2004. ¶

[www.unesco.org/shs/prizes](http://www.unesco.org/shs/prizes)



### Education for a Culture of Peace in a Gender Perspective

BETTY A. REARDON, 178 pp. French edition  
2003, UNESCO PUBLISHING, ISBN 92-3-203811-0

When first published (in English), this volume was, to the best of our knowledge, the only manual based on a comprehensive, gender-sensitive approach to peace education. It has just been published in French.

As an educational tool, it is designed as a resource for teacher education. Especially relevant to teaching in secondary schools, it can also be used for the preparation of elementary school teachers and facilitators of non-formal adult education. It responds to the demands of a growing number of educators who want to be part of a global movement towards a culture of peace. By providing their students with learning experiences in holistic and gender-sensitive human rights and peace education, these teachers wish to develop the skills and capacities to build and maintain a culture of peace. ¶

[www.unesco.org/publishing](http://www.unesco.org/publishing)



### Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth. A manual for participation

par DAVID DRISKELL, 208 pp. Arabic edition  
2003, UNESCO PUBLISHING, ISBN 92-3-603815-8

This is a practical manual on how to conceptualize, structure and facilitate the participation of young people in the community development process. It also provides suggestions for finding the institutional support necessary for effective implementation.

The core ideas and methods have been field-tested in a wide range of urban settings in both developing and industrialized cities through the work of the UNESCO Growing Up in Cities project. Case studies from project sites help to demonstrate the methods in action and show how they can be customized to meet local needs. They provide lessons and insights to help ensure a successful project, and highlight the universal applicability and value of young people's participation.

This how-to manual is an invaluable resource for architects, planners, city officials, development professionals and all those interested in creating more child-friendly, humane urban environments and in involving young people, including "marginalized" groups, in the process.

The manual was first published in English in 2002, along with *Growing up in an Urbanising World* (Louise Chawla, ed.) which presents the lessons drawn from the Growing Up in Cities project in eight countries. ¶

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### A Guide to Human Rights: Institutions, Standards, Procedures

628 pp.  
2003, UNESCO Publishing, ISBN 92-3-103928-8

This publication presents brief information on major human rights instruments, procedures and mechanisms to protect human rights, principal events (international conferences, decades, years, days, etc.), and institutions dealing with human rights issues.

It contains about 600 entries and is designed for all those who are concerned about and interested in human rights, primarily educators, students, human rights activists and mass media professionals. The Guide should better orient them in the international system of promotion and protection of human rights, based on international human rights law. ¶

[www.unesco.org/publishing](http://www.unesco.org/publishing)



### Human Rights: International Protection, Monitoring, Enforcement

JANUSZ SYMONIDES, ED. 422 pp.  
2003, UNESCO Publishing/Ashgate  
ISBN 92-3-103883-4

This is the third and last volume of UNESCO's series for teaching human rights at the higher education level. It takes an institutional approach to the international protection of human rights, first examining the United Nations system, which may be seen as universal, and then analysing regional systems of protection. An indispensable source of information on the protection of human rights, the volume can also be employed as a practical guide to existing procedures in the defence of human rights. ¶

[www.unesco.org/publishing](http://www.unesco.org/publishing)

### International Journal on Multicultural Societies, vol. 4, no.2 (2002)

*Protecting Endangered Minority Languages: Sociolinguistic Perspectives*

It is estimated that 80% of the world's 6,000 living languages will die within the next century. Sociolinguists are divided on whether they should press for intervention and institutional protection of these endangered languages or whether they should just record and document them without interfering in their complex and highly politicized rescue. The main argument for language maintenance is that the loss of language is in fact a permanent loss of human culture and knowledge, which is why they should be protected before the process of attrition becomes irreversible. On the other hand, language policies often hold a fundamentalist view that can lead to unrealistic revitalization programmes that often fail.

The latest issue of UNESCO's International Migrations Section's e-journal analyses the problems of endangered languages not only from a linguistic point of view, but also by looking at the underlying causes and circumstances which threaten the existence of minority languages. In the introduction, the co-editor shows that the most decisive factor in the future of endangered languages is the will and the attitude of the speech communities. While some people are sceptical about the possibility of deliberate efforts to prevent language shift, others argue for a more realistic formulation of protection policies, taking into account the local realities such as the main sociolinguistic factors that determine high or low status of minority languages. The volume also includes two case studies: the situation of the Bolivian minority language Uchumataqu and that of the Arbresh Language in Sicily. ¶

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### Best Practices and international migration

Best practices models are a particularly useful tool in the area of international migration which is a sensitive topic, and consequently is often approached in a highly ideological or political way. The best practices concept encourages a more result-oriented approach. Through exchange of information on lessons learned and on good practices, such projects can play a prominent role in linking empirical solutions, research and policy.

Such was the argument presented in the article "Best practices in immigration services planning", prepared by the UNESCO Section of International Migration and Multicultural Policies and published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (Volume 22, Issue 4, 2003). The issue focused on the complexity of compiling a compendium of best practices, including the nature and quality of evidence that warrants a "best practice" label. ¶

[www.unesco.org/most/migration/publications.htm](http://www.unesco.org/most/migration/publications.htm)

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### The International Social Science Journal (Issue 177 – September 2003):

*Social Science Futures*

Lay doubts about what social science is "for" are mirrored by professional uncertainties as to how one would recognize "good" social science and how one would know whether it "mattered". The position of the social sciences within the public debate sometimes suggests that no one understands their questions, nor cares about the answers. Yet good social science

can help us make sense of the social world; and by putting ideas, fears, interests, values and relationships at the heart of the social processes they reflect and shape, it is inherently participatory and democratic. Inadequate attention to social science makes our problems seem beyond reach. Good social science, in other words, is both social *and* scientific.

As social science involves registering, recording, filing and transmitting images of human activity and social existence, this issue considers questions of data and programming, and addresses some of the disciplinary dynamics of new topics and modified priorities. ¶

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### Migration and Poverty

The 5<sup>th</sup> International APMRN Conference (December 2002) was devoted to the theme of migration and poverty. Selected contributions to the Conference as well as to the preceding PacMRN (Pacific Migration Research Network) Workshop in Suva are presented in the *APMRN Working Paper No. 12, 5<sup>th</sup> International APMRN Conference, Fiji 2002, Selected Papers: Australia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan*, edited by Kerry Lyon and Carmen Voigt-Graf, ISSN 1328-2530.

For a summary of the Conference and the Working Paper, please consult the web. ¶

[www.unesco.org/most/apmrnews\\_13.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/most/apmrnews_13.pdf)

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### World Directory of Human Rights Research and Training Institutions

Sixth edition, 372 pp.  
2003, UNESCO, SHS-2003/WS/31

Published on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights, this sixth edition of the Directory, prepared by the Social and Human Sciences Documentation Centre in cooperation with the Section of Human Rights and Development, contains over 660 institutions specialized in human rights. Each entry contains information on, for example, its human rights activities, its publications, its fields of specialization, research or training. Consultation of the Directory is made easy by the indexes on specialists in the field of human rights, themes of research, human rights international cooperation programmes, institutions providing scholarships. The Directory also contains a listing of over 100 human rights periodicals, each presented in detailed form.

To obtain copies free of charge, please contact: UNESCO, SHS Documentation Centre, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France.

The publication is also accessible online and can be downloaded from the website of the Social and Human Sciences Documentation Centre website. ¶

[www.unesco.org/shs/shsdc/index.html#publications](http://www.unesco.org/shs/shsdc/index.html#publications)

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### The Interaction between Democracy and Development; Executive Summary

by BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI, 48 pp.  
2003, UNESCO, SHS-2003/WS/24

In this booklet, Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali presents the issues discussed by UNESCO's International Panel on Democracy and Development which he chaired from 1998 to 2000. Published in UNESCO's six official languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish – the booklet also contains the Panel's recommendations and conclusions.

Both the Executive Summary and the complete verbatim (400 pages) can be found on the SHS website. They can also be obtained free of charge in paper form at: SHS/EO/CIP, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris CEDEX 15, France. ¶

[www.unesco.org/shs](http://www.unesco.org/shs)

### Migration: a new series of articles on the web

UNESCO's section on International Migration and Multicultural Policies has just launched a series of articles on their website, analysing the scenario "Migration without Borders". The first article, written by Nigel Harris, Professor at University College London, privileges an economic point of view. Future articles will explore the sociocultural and human rights dimensions and issues surrounding the Migration without borders scenario.

[www.unesco.org/shs/migration](http://www.unesco.org/shs/migration)

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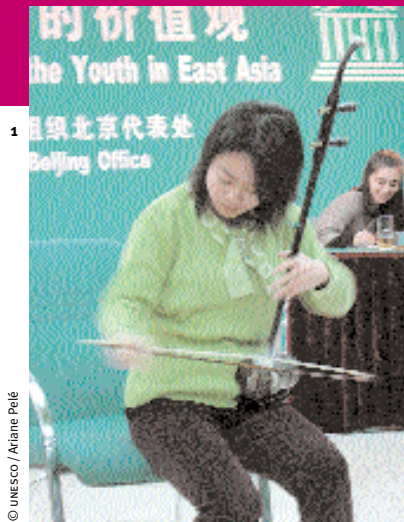


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## PHILOSOPHY DAY, FROM PARIS TO... BEIJING

For the second year running, International Philosophy Day, launched by UNESCO in 2002, was celebrated throughout the world. More than 70 countries organized meetings, round tables, workshops and concerts to show how important philosophical thinking is and to encourage people to listen to the philosophical heritage of others. At UNESCO House in Paris, 120 philosophers from 35 different countries took part in the Day's activities.

Thinking, discussing, surprising, understanding, interpreting, analysing... as well as having fun, were what the Day was aiming for. The next issue of the *SHS Newsletter* will devote several pages to this event.



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1. Concert at the University of Beijing during the Day that attracted over 80 Chinese, Korean and Japanese students.

2. In small groups, students, journalists and teachers discuss "The values of young people in East Asia" at a Philosophy Café organized at Beijing University.

3. University of Sun Yat-Sen, Guangzhou, China.

4. In Paris, nearly 3000 people took part in the Philosophy Day.

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

**3 November:** International symposium: "Violence and its causes: a stocktaking". Paris, France. (c.maresia@unesco.org)

**4-7 November:** International Forum for Europe and Latin America: "Reinforcement of Decentralized Institutional Capacities: Toward integrated and participatory development". Puebla, Mexico. (g.abad-ortiz@unesco.org)

**5-7 November:** Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on Ethics of Science and Technology. Bangkok, Thailand. (m.meisea@unesco.org)

**10-11 November:** Meeting on the subject: "The Challenges of Globalization". UNESCO, Paris. (g.solinis@unesco.org)

**17-19 November:** Seminar on "Education and Social Transformations: Examining our Practices". Paris, France. (a.paes@unesco.org / g.solinis@unesco.org)

**20 November:** Philosophy Day at UNESCO. Paris, France. Activities will also be organized by National Commissions and UNESCO Regional Offices. (m.shino@unesco.org)

**24-25 November:** Informal Expert Meeting: "Ethics of the Economy: Challenges and Strategy for UNESCO". Fribourg, Switzerland. (n.garabaghi@unesco.org)

**24-25 November:** Second Meeting of the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics. Geneva, Switzerland. (s.colombo@unesco.org)

**27-28 November:** Sub-regional meeting of the Bioethics Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, REDBIO. Organized in cooperation with the *Núcleo de Estudios y Pesquisa em Bioética* of Brasilia University. Brasilia, Brazil. (a.saada@unesco.org)

### 28-29 November:

International conference on human security in Africa. Organized in cooperation with the African Union. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (c.maresia@unesco.org)

**30 November – 2 December:** Evaluation Meeting of the Network on "Small Historical Coastal Cities". Essaouira, Morocco. (b.colin@unesco.org)

### DECEMBER

**28 November – 11 December:** Exhibition on "Revitalization, a key for building cities". Organized in cooperation with the Permanent International Workshop in Urban Studies of Havana, "El Cerro". UNESCO, Paris, France. (g.solinis@unesco.org)

**1-3 December:** Meeting on "Gender Studies Programmes in the Asia-Pacific Region". Bangkok, Thailand. (m.meisea@unesco.org)

**1-4 December:** Third Session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (s.scholtze@unesco.org)

**9-10 December:** International Symposium on "Pathways of Thought: Emerging Humanisms". Alexandria, Egypt. (f.albernaz@unesco.org)

### FEBRUARY

**3-4 February:** Meeting of Palestinian women's networks and NGOs within the framework of the project "In support of Palestinian Women". Tunis, Tunisia. (e.smith@unesco.org)