

Dialogue among Civilizations

The regional Summit Forum on
Cultural Diversity:
A Bridge between Cultural Heritage
and the Culture of the Future

Bucarest and Sibiu, Romania
7 and 8 June 2007



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



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The lake at the Astra National Museum Complex, Sibiu, Romania

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Co-organized by
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The Presidency of Romania

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From everything that man erects and builds in his urge for living nothing is in my eyes better and more valuable than bridges. They are more important than houses, more sacred than shrines. Belonging to everyone and being equal to everyone, useful, always built with a sense, on the spot where most human needs are crossing, they are more durable than other buildings and they do not serve for anything secret or bad.

The Bridge Over the Drina
Ivo Andrić

Forward

Five years ago, eight Heads of State of South-East Europe met for the first time in Ohrid to join hands under the banner of the dialogue among cultures and civilizations and to further develop a partnership based on mutual understanding, peace and intensified regional cooperation. That meeting, attended by representatives of the international community, was the result of a High-Level Conference on Strengthening Cooperation in South-East Europe organized at UNESCO Headquarters in April 2002.

Since then, UNESCO has been privileged to cooperate closely with the leaders of all South East European countries in the organization of this now annual event. Their increasingly solid cooperation is a true expression of the willingness of all of the region's leaders to work together towards joint endeavours within UNESCO's fields of competence. These efforts, and their positive impact on the lives of the peoples of the region, have set a precedent for similar high-level cooperation around the globe.

The significance of the meetings as a major force for regional cooperation and renewal cannot be underestimated. Work undertaken within this framework has demonstrated the critical importance of culture for international understanding, development and peace. Culture not only generates income and employment, it also offers measurable and long-term social and educational benefits; promotes innovation, creativity and diversity; and enhances the quality of life.

The Regional Summit Forum on Cultural Diversity: A Bridge between Cultural Heritage and the Culture of the Future held in Bucharest and Sibiu, Romania, on 7 and 8 June 2007 represented a further step towards a more prosperous and peaceful future for the peoples of South-East Europe.

President Bănescu of Romania, the host for meeting, appropriately observed that culture plays an intensifying and consolidating role in regional cooperation, commenting that “heritage represents the specific difference of each of us and, at the same time, it offers us the basis for dialogue, mutual knowledge and development.”



The Bucharest Declaration on “Cultural diversity - a bridge between cultural heritage and the culture of the future” acknowledges that the countries of South-East Europe represent “a common space for dialogue, exchange and mutual agreement” and that “cultural diversity creates a rich and varied world and is a mainspring for dialogue and sustainable development”.

These proceedings are an invaluable contribution to the work on the dialogue among cultures, civilizations and peoples undertaken by UNESCO over the past years. Together with those of the previous meetings, they attest to the constant evolution of regional cooperation over the past five years. I am

confident that they will be of value to policy-makers, students, researchers and policy analysts.

I would like to reiterate my deep gratitude to President Băsescu, and all those involved in the organization of this summit forum, for the very warm welcome accorded to all participants. Historically at the crossroads between East and West, Romania's people have continually been open to cultural inspirations and beliefs. It was therefore fitting that the 2007 Forum was held in Romania, as it celebrated its first year of membership of the European Union and to allow participants to experience at first-hand the treasures of Sibiu as it presented itself as Europe's Capital of Culture for 2007.

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General of UNESCO

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“Cultural diversity - a bridge between cultural heritage and the culture of the future”



1. We, Heads of States and other leaders from the South East Europe region, met in Bucharest and Sibiu (7-8 June, 2007), within the framework of the *Summit of the Heads of States in the Region*, organised under the aegis of the President of Romania, Mr. Traian Băsescu, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Terry Davis.
 - a. *Reaffirming* the ideals and principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Cultural Convention, the Constitution of UNESCO and the Statutes of the Council of Europe;
 - b. *Further reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2001;
 - c. *Emphasising* the fact that support and respect for cultural diversity - as salient feature of our region - are mandatory in the age of globalisation and that they represent fundamental principles underpinning dialogue and human progress;

- d. *Recalling* that, in the spirit of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, culture, in all its forms, draws its capacity to interact and to be renewed from both its internal and worldwide sources in order to be transmitted to future generations as a testimony of our experiences and aspirations, and that otherness is acknowledged as part of plurality in societies, and that diversity can take multiple forms;
- e. *Recognising* that cultural heritage of the South-Eastern European countries plays an important part in a strengthened regional and global cooperation and hence its characteristic as bridge towards the future; and *further recognising* the need to develop the use of digital technology to enhance access to cultural heritage and the benefits which derive from it;
- f. *Being convinced of* the importance of cultural heritage in stimulating creativity in its entire diversity, by a continuing flexible and changing process remodelling the existent forms of creation and of its relevant role in inspiring a real dialogue between cultures, through concerted action between the competent international and regional organisations, with the active involvement of the members states concerned and civil society;
- g. *Recalling* the relevant conventions adopted under the aegis of UNESCO, in particular:
 - the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property to the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999);
 - the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970);
 - the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972);

- the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001);
- the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003);
- the Convention on the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005);

and the relevant conventions of the Council of Europe, in particular:

- the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985);
 - the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (1992);
 - the European Landscape Convention (2000);
 - the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005);
- h. *Taking into account* the emergence of new information and communication technologies, which offer numerous possibilities for cooperation and which allow the creation of operative networks by supporting international cultural action and by strengthening the role of cultural heritage in the culture of the future;
- i. *Acknowledging:*
- (I) that this Declaration represents a natural follow-up to the Message from Ohrid (2003), The Declaration of Tirana on the Development of Interreligious and Inter-ethnic dialogue (2004), The Varna Declaration on Cultural Corridors of South East Europe. Common Past and Shared Heritage - A Key to Future Partnership (2005), The Opatija Declaration on "Communication of Heritage" (2006);

- (II) the complementary roles and objectives of the international institutions and organisations participating in this Summit, and in particular:
- UNESCO's core mandate, which includes fostering international and regional cooperation and normative action in the field of culture, particularly through the preservation of intangible and tangible cultural heritage, as a source of dialogue and openness and, at the same time, as a means of protecting and promoting cultural diversity thus engendering sustainable development;
 - the Council of Europe's role in policy development sustaining cultural richness and its importance in creating supporting trans-national networks of experts, particularly the ongoing joint action with the European Commission for the integrated rehabilitation of the architectural and archaeological heritage (the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe 2003-2008);
- (III) the expressed willingness of the European Union to cooperate with neighbouring countries and the fact that cultural heritage is considered a vehicle of cultural identity, whose preservation and promotion are among the founding principles of the European Union, as they are enshrined in the Treaty, in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and will figure in the future European Union Constitution;
- (IV) the importance of other international initiatives, such as:
- the Alliance of Civilizations initiative carried out under the aegis of the UN Secretary-General and aimed at facilitating harmony and dialogue by emphasising the common values of different cultures and religions;

- the Central European Initiative, which traditionally gives a particular attention to the promotion and support of cultural cooperation within our region;
 - the action of *L'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*, mobilising already in 2003 the member states to support the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
- (V) the importance of Cultural Routes, Itineraries and Corridors and the role they play as bridge for regional cooperation;
- (VI) the fact that creativity is stimulated within the already existent institutional framework (formal or non-formal), thus accomplishing the essence of our region's rich cultural heritage, a culture of the future finding its roots therein in this rich heritage and its ability to survive inside the framework provided by this heritage.

2. We hereby declare that:

- a. Our region represents a common space for dialogue, exchange and mutual agreement in which culture plays an increasingly important role and cross cultural perspectives are more and more relevant;
- b. Cultural diversity creates a rich and varied world, increasing the range of choices; it nurtures human capacities and values, and therefore is a mainspring for dialogue and sustainable development:
 - each form of creation serves as a meeting point, opens up new horizons, thus helping to shape a more human world;

- each form of creation ties links between individuals, generations and regions, and by doing so they weave the fabric of tomorrow's heritage;

thus, the conception of new policies to highlight both similarities and particularities of the region have to be encouraged.

- c. Cultural diversity, in particular for South-Eastern Europe, underpins meaningful cultural exchanges, which foster the circulation of ideas and contribute to a better multilateral understanding, to the enrichment of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage and to its thorough handing on to future generations.
- d. Cultural diversity in our region can be maintained by heightening awareness of the importance of the rich cultural heritage of South-Eastern Europe as an essential bearer of our identity and of history to be conserved, medium for intercultural communication and a key element for sustainable development.
- e. Tangible and intangible cultural heritage represents an essential component of European and worldwide cultural diversity and embodies trans-national values as a result of multiple influences and confluences within our region, standing as a shared source of remembrance, understanding and cohesion, offering a privileged means needed to build a common cultural future;
- f. Tangible and intangible cultural heritage of our countries is an invaluable asset for development, not only at a cultural level, but also at an economic and social one;
- g. The creation of new ways of access to the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of South- Eastern Europe will allow to highlight the significance of the contribution brought by our region to the enrichment of European and worldwide cultural heritage and will also allow to advocate the importance of the conservation,

restoration and revitalization methods as binding moral imperatives so that its destruction be prevented, in the spirit of the Nara Declaration on Authenticity (1994);

- h. Multiculturalism defines not only a multitude of cultures with equal status, but also a system based on common values and the development of peace and that interculturality refers to constant interaction between cultures in the spirit of building bridges among peoples
3. And we are committed to:
- a. *Foster* in-depth cooperation in the field of culture among the countries in the region, by backing up the measures needed for protecting and promoting cultural diversity, in order to properly develop integrated and integrational projects and duly handle the conceptual and operational strategies within the domain of inventory, preservation and enhancement of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
 - b. *Support* the free circulation of ideas and perpetual regeneration of cultural resources, by developing the access of the public to a rich and diversified range of cultural expressions from all over the world and in particular from those coming from South-East Europe, facilitated by new information and communication technologies.
 - c. *Further develop* joint cultural policies, reflecting as closely as possible the major outlines and using effectively the potential of existing programmes and frameworks of UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Union, L'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Central European Initiative, ICCROM and of other relevant international organizations and institutions;

- d. *Strengthen* cooperation with other countries outside our region and particularly the cooperation of our region as a whole with other states, organisms and international institutional programmes;
- e. *Encourage* concerted actions, joint projects and experts' networks aimed at balanced sustainable development of cultural heritage protection, preservation and enhancement in the region, including cultural tourism;
- f. *Create* new opportunities for cultural exchanges united by common goals, in particular in the field of cultural and creative industries;
- g. *Support* joint projects on mapping for managing the protection of natural and cultural heritage, with specific attention to heritage at risk;
- h. *Reinforce* inter-state cooperation, especially on a regional level and thus take the necessary measures in combating the illicit trafficking of cultural property, according to the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995);
- i. *Facilitate* the inclusion of the cultural heritage and of creativity, as important expressions of cultural diversity, in lifelong learning education and all forms of training, so that young people be involved as stakeholders in the making of culture and as relay generations of our cultural values;
- j. *Use* modern dissemination technologies and promote pluralism of media, multilingualism and important local landmarks, in order to strengthen public awareness of the importance attached to culture, as a key-factor driving development, and in order to enhance the equal access to culture and by broadening the

implication of more and more socio-professional categories in the cultural process;

- k. *Foster* regional cooperation in order to improve research, training and managerial skills for leading staff within the whole cultural field, in particular for the promotion of the cultural heritage and creative industries sectors, so as to acknowledge and give a new impetus to the creators and specialists within the region.
 - l. *Promote* better strategies to learn about each other's cultures and countries (information campaigns, educational programmes, specific promotional approaches), exposing students to the principles of interculturality within national educational systems which include the "other- the neighbour" as value in itself;
4. In order to conclude,

We welcome the proposal of the Greek President, Mr. Karolos Papoulias, to host the next regional Summit Forum of Heads of States, which will be held in Athens in 2008, on the subject of *Intercultural encounters on maritime, river and lake routes of South East Europe*.

Part I

Statements by Heads of State



Traian Bănescu

President of Romania

I would like to cordially welcome you to Romania on the occasion of the Regional Summit Forum of the South East Europe Heads of State, on the theme of Cultural Diversity - a bridge between cultural heritage and the culture of the future.

I would also like to thank you for having accepted the invitation I addressed you last year in Opatija to hold the new edition of the Regional Forum in Romania, along with the Sibiu – European Cultural Capital programme.

I greet the presence of Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO and the presence of Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, whom I would like to thank for their constant support in protecting and promoting the South East Europe cultural heritage.

I express my confidence that the workings of this Regional Forum edition will contribute to the elaboration of a joint strategy for action and communication of the social value held by the cultural heritage, respecting its diversity and its potential of regeneration and of local and regional development. As President of the host country, I declare open the workings of the Regional Forum.

The theme of this year's Regional Forum tallies with the message of the programme Sibiu – European Capital of Culture: city of culture, city of

cultures. On this occasion, we celebrate the diversity of the European culture, for which national heritage constitutes the framework of contemporary creativity.

Representing its main historical and geographical areas, the Romanian cultural and natural heritage inscribed on the UNESCO List comprises the churches of Northern Moldavia and the fortified ones in Transylvania, the Hurezi monastery, the historic centre of Sighișoara, the wooden churches of Maramureș, the Dacian fortresses of Orăștie and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation.

After the coming into force of the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1990, Romania entered a new stage regarding its incumbent responsibility at the level of legislation and concrete action within this field. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of the UNESCO, and acknowledge my appreciation for his generous support in recognizing and promoting the Romanian heritage at worldwide level.

In its first year as full member of the European Union, Romania has the privilege of developing the programme of the European Cultural Capital, representative of the manner in which the united Europe relates to its founding values.

We could say that, in 2007, Romania entered Europe through Sibiu – a model of dialogue and cooperation among cultures, a symbolic city of the European civilization. Sibiu is not only a city that kept its medieval charm through the ages, but, moreover, it is the space of a perpetual European destiny. Two of its emblems definitely have this scope: the Brukenthal Museum, founded in 1817, is the first museum on the Romanian territory and the second one in Europe, and the National Museum Complex ASTRA in Sibiu includes the biggest open-air museum in Europe: the Museum of Traditional Folk Civilization.

I consider that the European destiny of Sibiu, an eight-century-old city, as well as its predestined role in the space of the dialogue among cultures recommends it to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The States represented within this forum emphasized on many occasions the role of culture in intensifying and consolidating regional cooperation. National heritage represents, without any doubt, an essential dimension of each country's identity and, at the same time, a decisive contribution to the identity of a united Europe. It is therefore very important to adopt a joint, responsible and effective attitude towards this common inheritance in South East Europe. Heritage represents the specific difference of each of us and, at the same time, it offers us the basis for dialogue, mutual knowledge and development.

Knowing the heritage in its diversity, according to the principles stated in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted in 2001, is not only a mark of respect for the past, but it also foregrounds the urgent responsibility for the future. The protection and preservation of the tangible and intangible creations that we inherit from the past must be continued through a communication strategy capable of highlighting their value. That is why, in a "knowledge society", as the contemporary society is defined, new information and communication technologies play a highly important role in handing down the heritage and in making it known.

Cultural heritage is not only a treasury of identity, but also a factor of sustainable development. In this way, the involvement of the Council of Europe in the elaboration and adoption of cultural programs was and still is highly important. The integrated rehabilitation of the architectural and archaeological heritage represents a common goal, supported by the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe for 2003- 2008.

Communities can shape their own projects for the future, starting with the heritage sites, approaching cultural tourism from the perspective of its real possibilities to produce effects of local and regional relaunch. In this context,

I would like to emphasize, in line with the Declaration of the Regional Forum in Varna, the importance of the Cultural Corridors and Cultural Itineraries in the relation between heritage and the culture of the future.

I believe that the concrete results of the high-level meetings on regional cooperation in the field of culture, education, science and tourism, as they are presented in the Declaration of the Regional Forum in Opatija (2006), will contribute to a dynamic development of South East Europe. The adoption of a common policy in keeping with the international agreements and conventions, and the development of integrated projects and networks of cultural cooperation are necessary for a better knowledge of the heritage diversity and for a better communication of its values.

I believe that Romania can be a bridge between the European Union and the non-member states within the region, even more so given that the latter have the calling of becoming part of the European construction in the future.

I would like to express once again the Romanian eagerness to encourage and support regional and international cooperation in the field of cultural heritage. Therefore, the educational programmes capable of handing down to future generations the respect for otherness and the preoccupation for a common legacy play a significant role. At the same time, Romania is determined to take part in a joint action aimed at protecting and promoting the heritage within South East Europe as an expression of the cultural diversity of the region and potential of social and economic development.

Nebojša Radmanović*Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

At the very beginning, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers and the auspices of this important summit, first and foremost to our host the President of Romania, Mr. Băsescu, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura and Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Terry Davis.

It is a real pleasure to discuss with friends this important and actual topic like the bridges between our countries and nations, unlike the difficult and delicate political issues that represent a burden to the modern world today.

As the introduction to the today's topic, let me recall the visionary words of Robert Schuman, one of the founder fathers of the European Union who said long ago, in the fifties:

“Before it becomes a military alliance or an economic entity, Europe needs to be a cultural community in the very sense of the word“.

Europe is a continuity of different cultures, national traditions, as well as the common civilization values. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of the three peoples, several various cultures and religions. Metaphorically speaking, Bosnia and Herzegovina, within itself and in the relations with others, signifies

a cultural and civilization bridge. Integral part of our identity is to act like a bridge between the East and the West.

Since their settling on these territories, peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina have always belonged to Europe, as well as to its cultural heritage and historical ties and relationships with other peoples and countries. Geopolitically, spiritually and culturally, Bosnia and Herzegovina belongs to Europe. Historical research has shown that in the past there were close connections between the people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other European nations and countries. Though being a small country, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been giving noticeably important contribution to the cultural-civilization heritage of Europe on the cultural, scientific, artistic, humanistic and spiritual aspect since the ancient times. That was affirmed by numerous examples. Many famous scientists, artists, writers and culture creators have worked in other European countries. Young artists, students, cultural authors from Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the leading European universities thus making the important ties of our country with the European tradition and cultural heritage.

Bosnia and Herzegovina highly appreciates the special cultural projects for the South-East European countries launched and organized in the past by the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

Those projects have essentially contributed to the stabilization of the South-East European countries by promoting the cultural cooperation and exchange between the countries on their way to the European Union.

It was clearly shown from the past that the culture is very important for keeping the peace building a democratic society on the basis of connecting, exchanging ideas and dialogue between the cultural and creative industries, not only on the local and state but also the international level.

Thanks to the organizations of several great cultural events and happenings of the regional and European importance, culture became an important factor of economic and social development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In general process of the post war reconstruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina there was rehabilitation of the destroyed and destructed cultural objects and means. I would especially emphasize the reconstruction of the Old Bridge in Mostar, owed to UNESCO's tremendous contribution. I would like to use the opportunity of the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO to once more express my gratitude on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Inscription of the ancient core of the city of Mostar on the UNESCO's World Heritage List, the very first of a kind in our country, has come as the result of an active policy in the field of preservation of the cultural heritage. There are current activities for nomination more tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the worldwide cultural heritage list.

The right to the diversity represents the basic precondition for democracy of the modern societies.

Existing governments may not only declaratively recognize the existence of many cultures within the same society, but also really respect and support the demonstration and development of a different practical cultural activities and creativity.

This means a cultural pluralism as the authentic way of existence of the different cultures in an equal, tolerant and open relationship.

In the South-East European region and especially the West Balkans live culturally similar peoples. The more the people of the South-East Europe have tried to be different from each other in their linguistic, religious, cultural and historic way looking from aside they seem to be the same. Modern Europe is still looking to the West Balkans as a stereotype and in a negative way, as the place of the constant conflicts and crisis, forgetting the tremendous cultural and historical heritage and artistic production created and developed in this region, without which the European identity of diversity is not complete.

Therefore the culture could be one of the ways for a shared change of the bad image of the West Balkans countries.

South-East European countries and nations should develop and build interactive multiculturalism of the European type. This means free existence of the various autochthonous cultures with shared and common civilization values. This is also the relationship between the different nations and their cultures based on the equality, emphasizing the similarities existing between the close and similar cultures, rather than pointing to the differences.

In the globalization era the cultural identity and cultural autonomy become a validity of key importance for every individual, ethnic and cultural community. From that background there was the resistance of small cultures to the more expressed cultural unification of the world, which represents the direct threat to the opulence of the diverse cultures. In such circumstances the ideal of many minority cultures and groups is a new motto – „Work in global economy – live in local culture“.

Let me conclude with a symbolic comparison. Ivo Andric, a Croat born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who lived and worked in Belgrade, novelist and the Nobel Prize laureate for literature, once said: “There is nothing more important the human being is making and building in the world, than bridges“.

Building the bridges of culture between our peoples and countries will be our most valuable contribution to the common European future.

Stjepan Mesić*President of the Republic of Croatia*

It is my great pleasure to greet you today in Bucharest where we are meeting for the fifth successive time guided by the idea of mutual cooperation and regional dialogue in culture.

Over the past years we have often heard that Europe is tired of integration. Concerned about the speed of changes and effects of globalisation Europeans are afraid of not only losing economic security but also identity.

European institutions are also aware of this and they advocate ever more strongly the role of culture placing it at the very core of the European project. Documents of the European Commission testify to this and refer to culture that “can instil human dimension into the project of European integration”.

Prerequisites for speedier economic development and for finding a place on the global market for countries that have just become EU members and those that are about to are investments in education and science. Culture as an important part of the process provides an opportunity to present ourselves and not to lose. A European official nicely put it by saying “if the economy is a necessity of our lives, then culture is the very thing that makes our life worth living”.

In the southeast of Europe, culture and in particular cultural diversity was too often abused for spreading intolerance.

Culture can be both a factor of peace and a factor of war. In the region where I come from we experienced both. During the war we heard enough theories about the clash of cultures. The clash of civilisations was eagerly accepted by many as a lightly explanation for the roots of the war.

Both foreign observers and domestic warmongers used these simplified theses to explain the causes of the war. However, the war was neither initiated nor waged by different cultures. The war was initiated and waged by individuals with names and surnames, their own very pragmatic goals in which culture, religion and nation served only as a means to homogenise citizens and use them as a tool.

Cultural heritage, which was the target of destruction in those years, is a universal wealth of humanity.

However, since culture is one of the key elements for defining cultural identity it is frequently misused for erecting walls instead of building bridges among cultures and instead of laying a foundation for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation.

For this very reason, Croatia very well understands the significance of cultural diversity. Diversity is what needs to be preserved – for, preservation of cultural diversity is a prerequisite for preserving the entire heritage of epochs and generations that make up the fabric of such diversity.

Promotion and protection of cultural diversity are the basic principles built into the Croatian cultural policy. Croatia ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression as the fourth country in the world.

Croatia stimulates cooperation in the region in the field of culture as well, aiming thus at constructing destroyed bridges and establishing lasting peace and stability in the region.

New forms of mobility and migration also introduced a new dimension for evaluation of cultural heritage as a precious earnest for the culture of the future.

New avenues of exchange and communication are being born and developed wherein cultural heritage occupies the central place and represents an authentic expression of cultural diversity.

Cultural diversity is at the same time proof of different possibilities and a dimension of human heritage and creative endeavour throughout the centuries. As Indian Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen put it: culture does not only consist of traditional heritage but is rather focused on the future.

Young generations will be those that will be exponents and creators of the culture of the future expressed through cultural diversity. Already today they participate in intercultural communication which makes possible better understanding of historical and contemporary phenomena.

Understanding – this is the key for reducing conflicts that marked the area of Southeastern Europe in the late 20th century.

The young in this region encouraged networking of cultures and forging of bonds that testify to cultural pluralism and diversity as a chance for tolerance and interaction.

For, it is clear to everybody that conflicts as well as attempts at cultural homogenisation are the main obstacles to cultural diversity and to preservation of tangible and non-tangible cultural heritage.

A number of new phenomena organised by young people strengthened intercultural communication and dialogue and promote cultural diversity.

With assistance of new information and communication technologies, cultural creativity has become detached from its territorial surrounding bringing new challenges for the culture of the future.

Digital culture in which the young take the initiative comprises a virtual, territorially unbound space where the principles of exchange and presentation of cultural identities, products, production and consumption processes are free and accessible to all.

If we accept the fact that new generations truly live and communicate in a completely new way that does not restrain them or define them by their origin or country but rather by their common interests and affinities for new knowledge and notions then we shall understand that the culture of the young, digital culture and new technologies are currently the most concrete bridge between cultural heritage and the culture of the future.

And finally, when we refer to cultural diversity as a bridge between cultural heritage and the culture of the future, I cannot help recalling a reflection of a great writer from our region – Nobel prize winner Ivo Andrić – a man whose work is a reflection of cultural diversity of the region I come from, an artist who was during the last war equally claimed and rejected by three different cultures.

In his essay on bridges written in the 1930s he claimed that there is nothing more sacred or more important than bridges.

Because he says and I quote: “They belong to all and treat all alike; they are useful, always built for a purpose, at a spot where most human needs entwine...

Thus, everywhere in the world, wherever my thoughts wander or stop, they encounter faithful and silent bridges like an eternal and ever insatiable human desire, to connect, to reconcile, and to join everything that challenges our spirit, eyes and feet, to stop division, contradiction or parting.”

Branko Crvenkovski

President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Thank you for the opportunity to address this eminent forum, dedicated to issues I personally believe are of particular significance for our presence, but nonetheless for our shared future.

The answers to the questions related to personal and collective identities have probably never been more complex than today. What we name as “commitment to multiculturalism” ceased to be subject of debate and contestations since it became a profound inner need of every individual.

People living in this part of the world have absolved particularly well the importance of mutual communication and the necessity of better understanding of those different than us. The recognition of legitimate needs and traditional beliefs of the people living on the same territory has become a prerequisite to a successful cohabitation and development of countries and of national and religious groups as a whole.

If our common vision is to see Southeast Europe as an equal part of the unified Euro Atlantic community, then we must agree on the fact that the borders of our countries do not only feature a territorial dimension. It has long been known that the toughest barriers that shape to a great extent our positions, thoughts and acts, are in fact drawn by our mindset.

We live in a dynamic world striving towards development and prosperity that changes continuously and becomes interdependent. Our region is part of the modern global tendencies, and one of the overriding modern civilization tasks is to overcome prejudices and dissolve stereotypes that do not add to development and prosperity. In this sense, understanding the specificities and needs of others has never been a unidirectional process. The principles of non - discrimination and respect of the rights and freedoms of all citizens are the only way towards achieving a productive solution to problems emerging from the individual and collective cultural specificities and needs.

However, the primary aim of true multiculturalism is not to stay isolated within the borders of one's own nation or religion under the pretext that we protect the rights of our group, but on the contrary, to stay open towards each other and to jointly contribute to a better future. Collective rights, values and convictions should indeed be cherished, but not placed above tolerance and dialogue which solely hold the potential to protect the freedom and integrity of all.

My words might as well be taken as yet another theoretical observation on some of the challenges related to today's topic, if it didn't contain the practical experiences my people had endured in the past years. The foundations on which the Republic of Macedonia was established and built in the past, and even more today, consist of the experiences of cohabitation among various nationalities, as well as of mutual respect and coexistence on an equal footing of different cultural matrices. The model of a functional multiethnic society that we promote without alternative has contributed to the reinforcement of the internal cohesion of our society, as well as to the strengthening of its potentials to offer creative responses to the challenges that we are facing in this globalization era. We are deeply convinced that this particular model of cohabitation has sufficient credibility and legitimacy to represent a positive example and a contribution to structuring a larger and more democratic Europe of the 21st century.

The past of European peoples, but moreover, the perspectives for a shared future have always been closely intertwined. Therefore, if our strategic aim

is to become a part of Europe without borders, than we should not only intensify our cooperation, but also agree on the frameworks of our joint cultural strategies. This shall not in any case imply the proposal of uniform solutions, since at the same time, our specific local parameters and cultural horizons are to be fully respected in the formulation of common solutions.

According to an old saying, we need not follow the same path, for it is much more important to reach the same goal one day. And the closer and more sincere our cooperation is, the sooner shall we realize our own national priorities.

The strategic decisions will probably not be made today, but we agree for sure that if we start considering them tomorrow, it will probably be too late. This is due to the fact that we not only have a policy, but above all, a moral and historic duty to contribute to the creation of a more different and more just world for our children to live in. In this sense, Europe simply does not have the right to repeat the mistakes from its past.

At the end, allow me to express my personal impression that I believe is shared by all of us present here. The host country and President Basescu have invested huge efforts and contributed to the excellent organization of today's meeting, and for that I would like to express my sincere compliments.

Filip Vujanović
President of the Republic of Montenegro

Even though it is the smallest country in the South East Europe, Montenegro has rich cultural heritage owing to its long and substantial history. This cultural heritage has been a testimony to multiethnic and multi-religious coexistence through the centuries, within three great civilizations and three religions - Orthodox, Islamic and Catholic, which have left their respective tangible and spiritual values on the territory of the present-day Montenegro.

Cultural heritage of Montenegro has been rooted in the first traces of social life, which is confirmed by large amount of archaeological evidence. Extensive history of Montenegro has presented it with such cultural heritage that it may be proud of and which could be presented to the international community with particular pleasure. At the crossroad between East and West, imprints of several civilizations have been interwoven, contributing to the richness of cultural diversity. Impact of the Illyrian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic and Slavic culture has worked out an exceptional mosaic, which at the same time reflects recognizable specific qualities, and the beauty of unity. The richness of diversity indicates the coexistence of religions and nations, but also calls for harmony of religious and ethnic relations, which is the greatest asset of Montenegro.

In order to preserve, valorize and promote its cultural heritage, Montenegro participates in various regional programs, including the Regional Program

for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe, supported by the Council of Europe. The objective of the Program is to improve cultural heritage in the region through new approaches in conservation, restoration, documentation and promotion. The Program also includes establishing of methodology for development of cultural corridors in South East Europe.

The Program has recognized the value of cultural corridors, which has also been affirmed by established regional Summit of Heads of State of South East Europe on this topic. It has been demonstrated here that culture is not divided by state boundaries; that culture establishes ties between people and nations; and that South East Europe can present its cultural heritage to the international community as a cradle of civilization, which deserves maximum respect and esteem.

In addition to the Council of Europe Regional Program, Montenegro also participates in the UNESCO Regional Program, in the project called Cultural Heritage- a Bridge towards a Shared Future, which has also been focused on preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. Under the said Program, a Guide-book for Montenegrin Museums and Monasteries is to be published at the end of this month. With the assistance of the UNESCO and ICOMOS, Montenegro has also prepared a comprehensive Management Plan for Protected Area of Kotor, which is the first document of this kind.

Montenegro also takes an active part in the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe, as well as in projects which have been implemented in the framework of the Council.

Activities relating to accession to the Conventions of the UNESCO and Council of Europe have been prepared, which is very important in terms of harmonization of the national legislation with the EU rules and standards.

Declaration to be adopted today, which promotes preservation of cultural heritage and cultural diversity and improvement of regional co-operation in this field, is very important for all participating countries as it will serve as one of imperative starting points both regarding overall integration of the countries

in the region into wider European structures and enhancement of their bilateral and multilateral co-operation. Encouragement and strengthening of the regional co-operation in the field of complex cultural heritage preservation and management will certainly contribute to further social and economic development as well as to the political stability of the South East European countries.

I use this opportunity to express my appreciation to the President of Romania, Mr. Basescu for excellent organization of the Summit of Heads of State, allowing us to discuss our cultural corridors over again.

Boris Tadić,
President of the Republic of Serbia

We gather today in Bucharest to discuss how we can improve the lives of our citizens, through harnessing all the possibilities offered by the cultural diversity that binds us to one another.

I am confident that I speak for all the countries represented in this room that our goal is to transform the Balkans through European and Euro-Atlantic integration—but also through greater regional cooperation.

Success will require a considerable shift in thought and action. We as regional leaders must accelerate our aim to form a community for a common democratic future based on shared values. We must lead in the conscious rejection of the corrupted spirit of the past and instead embrace a future of openness, pluralism and prosperity.

We must cultivate and respect our common European heritage—but we must also view diversity as a source of strength and a force of cohesion. As such, the cultural identity and cultural rights of national minorities must remain our special concern. Programs must be constructed with a view to that end. In Serbia, we have made strides in that direction.

To move rapidly toward regional cooperation and European integration, we need to do a better job of reminding our fellow Europeans that the Balkans

was from the beginning a part of Europe: the place where the culture and thought of the classical period was created, where Hellenism and Byzantium thrived, Christianity spread and Islam progressed, and where old nations were born again in the 19th century. In short, the Balkans are the crossroads of Europe.

Humanity owes a lasting debt of gratitude to the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region. Therefore the region rightfully expects the support, primarily of the European Union, to continue to develop all its creative potentials and cultural plurality.

Religion is an active component of national and cultural identity. Religious diversity requires that our region develops an ecumenical dialogue—and we support it. One of the important prerequisites of peace and cooperation in the Balkans is the consolidation of religious, cultural and ethnic tolerance.

Another prerequisite is reconciliation. Democracy cannot flourish without a full and open account of the past.

We cannot undo what was done in the 1990s, but we can work together to make sure that never again does our region produce more history than it can consume.

That is why the Republic of Serbia is strongly committed to full and immediate cooperation with the ICTY. All indictees must be located, arrested, and extradited.

This is not only our international obligation; it is our moral duty—to our neighbours and the world, of course, but foremost to ourselves.

Only by breaking with our recent past can true justice be served. It is the European way forward.

We wish and we want to live together—and not side by side. We do not want to create linguistic, cultural, ethnic, political or economic barriers. And we

must not use our pluralistic cultural heritage to promote political, religious or ethnic divisions.

We reject the culture of violence and intolerance, we abhor the manipulation of cultural and religious identities, and we condemn most vocally the destruction or theft of the cultural heritage of others. There is simply no justification for the burning of more than 150 monasteries and churches in Serbia's southern province of Kosovo since the United Nations began its administration in June 1999. There is no excuse for the overwhelming lack of results in bringing those responsible to justice.

The preventative measures that need to be taken to ensure that more Serbian holy sites are not destroyed, truly do not belong to this century, to this era of integration and cooperation. All four of UNESCO's designated World Heritage Sites in Kosovo and Metohija are today protected by many hundreds of heavily-armed KFOR troops. We are grateful of the protection they afford, but remain deeply concerned about the future.

The Republic of Serbia supports the work of the Council of Europe's Reconstruction Implementation Commission for Serbian Orthodox Religious Sites.

We also support the already two year old contact between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo. It is difficult work, but it is essential that it be continued.

We must continue working together, as a region, on the prevention of the trafficking in cultural heritage by fully implementing the recommendations we ourselves adopted in 2006.

Serbia will continue to work fully on the implementation of the Action Plan on Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe. We have already started implementing a number of projects in our country within the framework of the Pilot Project for Local Cultural Development in South-East Europe as

well as the Project of Rehabilitation of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage in Serbia.

With the kind assistance of Italy, we are working to establish a new institution that we hope will become the primary regional conservation hub: the Central Institute for the Conservation of Movable and Immovable Cultural Heritage. As the project progresses, your suggestions will be more than welcome.

As you can see, I feel that it is of significant interest for all of us to move forward on a number of projects involving regional cultural corridors. That is why I expect that this meeting will build on the Strategy on the Identification, Preservation, and Sustainable Use and Promotion of the Region's Cultural Corridors—adopted last year in Opatija. And why I expect that it will contribute to the integration of the Regional Program for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South-East Europe, which was offered jointly by the Council of Europe and the European Union, as a major instrument of regional cooperation.

In this context, allow me to propose that we establish a Danube Cultural Corridor. To put it simply - the Danube is a symbol of interdependence, it is a symbol of shared destiny.

I believe that you will accept such an initiative.

Serbia strongly believes that greater regional cooperation is a pre-requisite for increased cultural cooperation but also sustainable economic growth, for strong consolidated democracies, for regional prosperity, and for the achievement of our full European and Euro-Atlantic membership perspective.

Already, our sense of regional solidarity has grown, to the common benefit of all our citizens.

By placing an emphasis on cultural heritage as one of the bridges to a better tomorrow, we can put a divisive past behind us and embrace our common future.

Part II
Statements by Heads and
Representatives of Heads of
Intergovernmental Organizations



Koïchiro Matsuura*Director-General**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*

As the title of today's Summit suggests: it is by drawing on the diversity of human heritage that we can better understand the present, and thereby shape a clearer vision of the future.

The vast diversity of cultural heritage is now widely recognized, and a broader – more dynamic – conception gaining ground. Heritage is no longer understood solely as the built environment. It is seen to encompass all aspects of human creativity: including landscapes, movable heritage, as well, of course, as our intangible heritage. The latter is perhaps the most fragile, but also the most cherished by people as representing the deepest expression of their cultural identity.

This is why there is an urgent need for the rapid and broadest possible implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. I am particularly pleased to see that this Convention has been ratified extensively in South-Eastern Europe, thus opening new and promising opportunities for regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Drawing on this heritage, human creativity can invent new forms of expression that will become, in turn, the legacy for the future.

Cultural industries are an important means for sharing and nurturing such cultural diversity. In this respect, the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is another major tool, which should enable broader access to and exchange of cultural expressions.

Again, I am pleased to see the broad interest that this Convention has gained in this region.

As you reflect on strategies for bridging the heritage of the past and the culture of the future, one promising area for focus is that of cultural tourism.

Cultural tourism is not only a means of bringing different forms of heritage together and communicating their value. It is also an important source of income generation, and a concrete path for regional integration.

Our approach must be open and innovative. It must also be inclusive of the multiple actors who help to keep our cultural diversity alive. Archaeologists, historians, philosophers, as well as architects, writers and filmmakers: all have a role to play in the rediscovery, communication and creation of cultural heritage.

Cinema has a particular power to bring the past alive in ways that broaden our perspective of the future. We see this to brilliant effect in the film by Romanian director Christian Mungiu, “4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days”, set in the final years of communism. Winner of the prestigious Palme d’Or, the film attests to the vitality of cultural life in Romania today.

These annual Summits have emerged as a major force for regional cooperation and renewal. More broadly, your work has demonstrated the critical importance of culture to international understanding, development and peace.

This is of particular significance in the current context of UN reform, where UNESCO is strongly advocating that culture must become a major policy concern in the development efforts of each and every country.

The overall strategy is to develop a “roadmap” for positioning culture in international and national development frameworks, including UN-system common country programming exercises.

As the only UN agency with a mandate in culture, UNESCO’s well-founded expertise in this domain has made it possible for us to demonstrate practically that culture not only generates income and employment, but also offers measurable and long-term social and educational benefits; promotes innovation, creativity and diversity; and enhances the quality of life. Culture is indispensable for sustainable development and – perhaps most importantly – has the potential to create bonds among peoples of the world, thereby enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and peace.

This, you are showing here today in the most compelling way. The achievements of the leaders and peoples of South-East Europe carry lessons of relevance beyond the region, to the international community as a whole. I am confident that this Bucharest Summit will move us forward still further. Together, let us preserve and promote our cultural diversity, and thereby lay the foundations of a better future for all.

Terry Davis
Secretary General
Council of Europe

In March 2004, during the riots in Kosovo, several Serb Orthodox sites were damaged by groups of extremists. It is the most recent, but it is far from being an isolated incident targeting cultural and religious heritage in the Balkans in the past fifteen years. People on opposite sides of the conflicts have deliberately targeted churches, monasteries and other religious and cultural monuments. The Ferhadija Mosque in Banja Luka, the ancient bridge of Mostar and the city of Dubrovnik – irreplaceable parts of our heritage - were all targeted by criminals blinded by hatred who were trying not only to kill people, but also erase their memory and their legacy.

I also remember seeing for myself – in the South Caucasus – the statues of poets and artists which had been deliberately treated as targets by people from another community. And there are reports of the deliberate destruction of monuments in graveyards in the South Caucasus and elsewhere.

If we are looking for a compelling proof of the importance of cultural heritage for intercultural dialogue – this is it. If culture and history did not have such an enormous potential for openness, dialogue, tolerance and understanding between people – then the people opposing these values would not try so hard to destroy them. These people may only represent a small minority, but they

destroy – or try to destroy - something which belongs to all of us, and which is a part of the collective memory of humankind as a whole.

The religious sites damaged in Kosovo are today being repaired by Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians working together. The good news is that the reconstruction of physical damage in Kosovo has now been turned into an opportunity to rebuild multi-ethnic relationships and confidence.

The Council of Europe has a leading role in this operation. We chair the “Reconstruction Implementation Commission for Serbian Orthodox Religious Sites in Kosovo”, which was established together with the European Union at the request of UNMIK to oversee the reconstruction process. The Commission includes representatives from the Serbian Orthodox Church, experts from both Belgrade and Pristina, and representatives of the Serbian government and the Provisional Institutions of Self Government of Kosovo. I want to use this opportunity to pay tribute to all involved and encourage them to continue to support this project, the importance of which goes far beyond the physical reconstruction of the 34 sites under the mandate of the Commission.

This Kosovo experience is a good illustration of two very important points: the importance of cultural heritage for multicultural dialogue and understanding, and the imperative of action. Declarations are fine, but they will not do much good if they stay on paper.

Of course, the work of the Council of Europe in preserving cultural heritage and promoting cultural diversity is not limited to post-conflict situations.

Since 2003, the Council of Europe “Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe”, implemented with the support of the European Commission, has helped the participating countries to prepare the legal and institutional framework and build up the expertise which is essential for a modern regional heritage policy which in turn treats heritage as a resource for sustainable economic and social development. Council of Europe projects such as “Cultural Corridors” or “Intercultural Cities” are

creating opportunities to move from declarations to practice, from managing intercultural tensions to developing intercultural governance and policies, and to turn diversity into an asset, rather than a threat.

Council of Europe programmes like the European Heritage Days, which will this year be launched in Serbia, and the European Cultural Routes are practical tools for raising awareness about diverse cultures and heritage within and across our borders. Last year, during the European Heritage Days, 20 million people across Europe took the opportunity to learn about their heritage and more than 5 million people visited sites of the European Cultural routes –which focus on shared heritage and cross-border heritage education and exchange.

All these Council of Europe programmes and activities have a common underlying principle. They bring cultural heritage to the people, and help them to learn about themselves and about others. They enable people of different cultures and different ethnic origins, who live side by side, to do things together, to discover each other, to accept each other and to respect each other.

I should like to thank our Romanian hosts for organising this conference and to express, on behalf of the Council of Europe, our readiness to co-operate with all participating countries and organisations in the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, cultural diversity and inter-cultural dialogue. To conclude, I should like to repeat once again: today we have words, tomorrow we must have actions.

René Leduc*

Conseiller au Cabinet du Secrétaire général de la francophonie

His Excellency, Mr Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of the Francophonie has asked me to thank warmly the Romanian authorities, organizers of this Forum, for having invited the Francophonie to participate. He also asked me to convey to you his regrets for not having been able to take part in the Forum personally.

The protection and promotion of cultural diversity constitutes but some of the major lines of action taken by the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF).

Indeed, the Francophonie was born from the ambition of its founding fathers to develop a network of exchanges between countries having French in common, a network animated by the principles of integral humanism and dialogue of cultures.

Léopold Sédar Senghor, the poet and former President of Senegal and cofounder of the Francophonie was able, in fact, to define the Francophonie thusly:

“It is an integral humanism woven around the Earth: A symbiosis of ‘dormant energies’ from all continents and races waking up to their complementary warmth.”

This idea of synergy and complementarity of energies that lay dormant in our collective imaginations formed the basis of a reflection on the much-needed dialogue between cultures and identities, consisting of the assets of the past and the creative force preparing the future.

On the strength of its numbers and its variety, the OIF brings together States and Governments representing the five continents and all levels of economic development, all political systems and all religions, organized around the eminently cultural notion of language and the values of sharing – the whole is experienced as a true laboratory of cultural diversity.

What could be more natural than to find amongst our members some of the pioneers in the fight for the adoption of an international convention on the diversity of cultural expressions? They were quickly joined by a large number of States, particularly European States, whose voices rose to denounce the cultural standardization that loomed as a possible and probable consequence of globalization: difficulty reaching an understanding and accepting the legitimacy of the Other, isolationism — these are reactions no one predicted as consequences of cultural globalization and which could be factors of destabilization.

Indeed, the need felt by members of a reconstituted and widened European space, to implement a true “Europe of culture,” places the European continent at the heart of this debate.

More than twenty European countries are members of the OIF, including 14 members of the European Union. European and Francophone strategies are bound to converge and mutually enrich each other in order to respond to questions relating to the cultural identities which constitute our entities.

The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by UNESCO in October 2005 which came into force on 18 March last, is a convention for which Member States and Governments of the OIF actively supported, making it possible to introduce culture, as such, for the first time in international law, thus guaranteeing the

specificity of cultural goods and services; the equal dignity of all cultures; the legitimacy of specific cultural policies that support pluralism of expressions; and the necessary rebalancing of cultural exchanges through intensification of co-operation and development policies.

The Francophonie can boast that 31 of its Member States, exactly half of those who have done so, have deposited their Instrument of Ratification of this Convention. I announce - with some pride by the way - that eight Member States of the OIF present in this room have already done so.

One could argue that the Francophonie, with its various structures, did not wait for the adoption of the convention on cultural diversity to take concrete action aimed at implementing its principles: assistance for the production of cultural works, the circulation and promotion of artists and works, training activities ...

The Francophonie also develops a certain number of specific actions intended to support the creation of genuine networks of cultural industries in the book music, and images trades. Culture forms an integral part of a State's richness, including economic; it unquestionably takes part in sustainable development objectives. It is indeed advisable to support the constitution and development of truly viable economic circuits in the cultural sector.

This sector-based approach would be coupled with actions in vital crosscutting areas, notably the use of information and communication technologies, especially for the development of a genuine policy to preserve and digitize written heritage of francophone countries of the South. All of these programmes are open to Member States and Governments, and could be made accessible to members of this Forum in concertation with another international organization such as UNESCO, for example.

Lastly, the Francophonie participates indirectly in the effort to safeguard heritage through the reinforcement of capacities of public institutions in response to the implementation of cultural policies and through assistance in

the preparation of digitalization plans, the only action likely to safeguard a fragile and threatened heritage.

The Francophonie is represented in a permanent manner in Romania. Our representative, Mr Eric Thibeault, is also accredited to Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Our capacity to demonstrate that cultural and linguistic diversity is not a vain word, a fashion that one tires of like all others, depends on the success of our efforts so that this ever-evolving world listens to all the voices expressed in it. As René Depestre said so well at the Sorbonne in 2006: “remember, faithful to Léopold Sédar Senghor and Aimé Césaire, it is not utopian at all to happily make contagious the idea of a universal brotherhood as the “single and obvious relationship between men”

Let us guarantee that the Francophonie could be the instrument of this movement.

Part III

Other Statements



Mehmet Aydin

Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey

It is a great pleasure for me to address once again such a distinguished audience, this time in Bucharest. As we have agreed in Opatija last year, we now gathered together in Bucharest to follow up on the resolutions and declarations, to take stock of what we have achieved and to build upon them with a view to enhancing our vision and deepening our cooperation in cultural matters and heritage. Following the Opatija Declaration on “Communicating Heritage” a new set of principles and provisions to guide our cooperative actions in “cultural diversity” is now in our agenda to go forward.

Our theme in this Summit cannot be more apt and relevant in every aspect. UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity has entered into force in March of this year. The Convention reaffirms respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal dignity of cultures, equitable access and openness of cultures to the world and seeks to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.

Dialogue among cultures is an indispensable corollary to the recognition of cultural diversity. The universal acceptance and assurances of cultural diversity fits perfectly within the framework of the principles and purposes of the alliance of civilizations initiative of the UN Secretary-General. The High-Level Group, where I took part as co-Chair, submitted its report to the U Secretary-General in November 2006, in Istanbul.

The Alliance of Civilizations aims at establishing a continuous harmony and dialogue among mankind by emphasising the common values of diverse cultures and religions.

The Council of Europe, on the other hand, has initiated an important consultation process with a view to preparing a White Paper on the Intercultural Dialogue and UNESCO, which was designated as the lead agency in the dialogue among civilizations, set up a task force for guiding and coordinating UNESCO's contribution to the dialogue among cultures. I warmly welcome both undertakings.

The process of Summit meetings among the countries of South East Europe which began in Ohrid, Macedonia in 2003 to foster mutual respect in our region and to promote prosperity and solidarity on a common platform of culture and cultural heritage is ever relevant.

Preserving and conserving tangible and cultural heritage by employing the best available technologies, training technical staff, preventing illegal trafficking of cultural assets, promoting cultural tourism and exchanges between public-private partnerships are prerequisites for a region-wide, meaningful cooperation, as well as raising awareness in public and media and in schools regarding diverse and unique cultural heritage of our region. These are ideals and objectives we should vigorously pursue. On behalf of the Turkish Government, I would like to reiterate our commitment to the cooperation in the fields of culture and heritage in South East Europe.

Speaking of communicating heritage and cultural diversity, I cannot but express my sincere admiration for the history and culture of Romania and its invaluable contribution to the common heritage of humanity. I look forward to joining the excursion tomorrow to Sibiu, European Capital of Culture for 2007, to be organized generously by our distinguished hosts.

As Istanbul has been elected, together with Pecs and Essen as the European Capital of Culture for 2010, I am glad that this trip will give us the opportunity

of having some information from the city authorities about their experience in preparing Sibiu as a European Capital of Culture.

Before concluding, I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent organisation and warm hospitality by our Romanian friends.

Katalin Bogyay*

Secretary of State for International Affairs

Ministry of Education and Culture of Hungary

An embarrassment of riches to share

I see the European Cultural Space as a multi-layered treasure; a magic box, full of unsuspected jewels. The process of inspiration, of joint creativity is the most beautiful aspect of this varied cultural space. What is exciting about this new European cultural patchwork is that its unity is in its diversity, its diversity in its unity. I envisage a European cultural space where diversity is not a burden, but a source of inspiration. For a culture to open its doors wide, it must believe in its own strength, knowing that it is rich enough to nourish other cultures, yet sensitive enough to benefit from foreign influences.

The strength of Hungarian culture lies in the fact that it is at once traditional, drawing on ancient roots, and modern, looking towards the developed Western world, drawing inspiration from progressive ideas. This duality characterizes our literature, our visual arts and our music. Take Bela Bartok, for example, who created the universal language of modern music out of the most ancient folk roots. Anyone committed to promoting Hungarian culture in Europe and the world, as I am, must take care to present these motifs, since neither one can exist without the other.

Sharing our culture in practice

As a Hungarian citizen, I lived for more than ten years in a country that belonged to the European Union while mine was outside. So, I learned what it was to be outside the club while living in London. But, I was still there when my country joined the EU. In response, I arranged the *Magyar Magic - Hungary in Focus* festival in 2004, with the aim of showing of the 'dowry' Hungary was bringing to its new family. Anyone trying to exhibit his or her own culture in London is more than just engaging in a dialogue with British cultural traditions: in that great metropolis cultures grow out of each other, obliging Hungary's culture to rub shoulders with many others as I competed for attention.

Magyar Magic lasted for 17 months, and it showed us which of our culture's many genres could win the respect of our British partners. During this period, I worked with more than 300 of these, trying to establish how best to present our culture to the world; where we should do it; and what we should choose to exhibit. Together with our partners, we used Britain's cultural space in order to find places where local audiences could enjoy exposure to Hungary's creative life. The collaboration also bore fruit in the shape of an innovative space where British and Hungarian artists, producers, and managers, along with British audiences, could create events, moods and knowledge, enriching all involved. Together we proved that cultural actors and products can, together, really add value, and produce something quite original.

This is the way I see the new European cultural space. It is a model that could work anywhere and demonstrates conclusively that each national culture has something to offer to the others. It would help pave the way for a new layer of 'European culture' which would in no way dilute the rich cultural heritage of each of its national components. The two would continue to exist in parallel.

Cultures need to cross-fertilise if they are to adapt and survive, and fulfil their function on behalf of the societies from which they grow. That is why it is so important that the Member States of the European Union learn about each other's cultures.

Hungarians believe that our culture can make itself felt in other EU countries. Conversely, encouraged by the dismantling of barriers, the cultural heritages of other Member States will make themselves felt in Hungary according to our national rhythms. The people in our arts and our cultural space believe in the importance of a European dialogue between the audience and the artist, between artists, and between audiences.

By exploiting its adaptability, its heritage, its intellectual capital and its geographical location, Hungary can promote cultural dialogue and play an effective part in the European integration process.

A lever for change

The current European situation is reminiscent of the ‘melting pot’ of the United States, from which an American Dream emerged. We could, with profit, think about how we can mobilise each European culture’s best features to develop a European Dream of our own that can overcome or bypass the weaknesses of our existing dreams. We are now, after all, in a position to learn from these.

The global community is currently witnessing the American and Islamic dreams. It does not need to see yet another mighty culture pitted against the existing ones. It needs one that is in conflict with neither, but which is better suited to meet challenges that are even greater than this cultural confrontation, and that will need to be tackled over the next 50 years. These include:

- Global warming and climate change;
- Demographic trends; and
- Growing discrepancies between the earth’s bio-sustainability and our consumption of raw materials as we seek continuing material growth for all.

Cultures comprise attitudes and behaviours, and we need to recognise that it is our attitudes and behaviours that have created the conditions which now

threaten the survival of all cultures. These will need to change – and we can change them.

As one of the most recent unions of nation states, we Europeans are well placed to adapt old attitudes and beliefs to a new culture that is capable of addressing these threats – a culture that does not result in damage to the earth, impose its values on others, encourage greed, excessive consumption, or nationalistic pride, but recognises that we depend on each other for our survival.

My European vision would involve action to preserve the uniqueness of national cultures, while at the same time mobilising each Member State's particular assets to contribute to a new, enlightened European culture that could, in turn, be directed towards the global good. Such a European Dream would inspire present and future European citizens.

* This intervention was largely drawn from this article which first appeared in: Bogyay, K. An embarrassment of riches. *European Union, the next fifty years : 50+ top thinkers set out their ideas for Europe*. Maurice Fraser (ed.), Financial Times Business. March 2007 (London), ISBN: 9780900671814, p.p. 31-32

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Photo Gallery





Back Row (Left to Right): Stefan Lambov Danailov, Minister of Culture of Bulgaria; Katalin Bogyay, State Secretary for International Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture of Hungary; Mehmet Aydin, Minister of State of Turkey; Lidia Gutu, Ambassador of Moldova to Romania; Christos Zahopoulos, Secretary General, Ministry of Culture of Greece; René Leduc, Advisor to the Secretary-General, OIF.



Front Row (Left to Right): Boris Tadić, President of the Republic of Serbia; Branko Crvenkovski, President of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO; Traian Băsescu, President of Romania; Terry Davis, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe; Stjepan Mesić, President of the Republic of Croatia; Filip Vujanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro.



President Traian Băsescu of Romania addressing the opening of the Regional Summit Forum on Cultural Diversity: A Bridge between Cultural Heritage and the Culture of the Future

Participants during the substantive session of the Regional Summit Forum on Cultural Diversity: A Bridge between Cultural Heritage and the Culture of the Future.



A working group of high-level experts discussing the elaboration of the Bucharest Declaration of the Regional Summit Forum on Cultural Diversity: A Bridge between Cultural Heritage and the Culture of the Future.



The UNESCO team: (Left to Right) Krista Pikkar, FW (Russ) Russell-Rivoallan, Katérina Stenou, Hans d'Orville, Koïchiro Matsuura, Jan Sadlak, Marie-Paule Roudil, Stoyan Bantchev.

Romanian Athenaeum
George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra.



Visit to Sibiu, including amongst others: Mehmet Aydın, Minister of State of Turkey; Katalin Bogyay, State Secretary for International Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture of Hungary; Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO; René Leduc, Advisor to the Secretary-General, OIF; Terry Davis, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.



The Director General, in the presence of the Mayor uncovers memorial plaque at the Turnul Sfatului (Townhall Tower), Sibiu. The plaque reads: "This plaque was unveiled on the occasion of the visit of Heads of State taking part in the 'South-Eastern European Countries Summit', Bucharest-Sibiu, 7-8 June 2007".

Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO during a media scrum, discuss the outcomes of the Bucharest Summit Forum.





Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO looks on as weavers demonstrate their skills, Astra National Museum Complex, Sibiu.



Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO receiving a memento from Klaus Johannis, Mayor of Sibiu.

Annexes



Annex 1 Programme

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007

10:15–10:28 **Arrival of the heads of delegations at Cotroceni Palace**

H.E. TRAIAN BĂSESCU, the President of Romania
welcomes the heads of delegations

Location: the Hall of Honour - Cotroceni Palace

10:30–12:45 **The first plenary meeting**

Moderated by: Terry Davis, Secretary-General of the
Council of Europe

Location: Unirii Hall - Cotroceni Palace.

**Welcoming address by Traian Băsescu, President of
Romania**

Addresses:

Neboisa Radmanovici,

Stjepan Mesič,

Branko Crvenkovski

Filip Vujanović

Traian Băsescu

Mr. Boris Tadić

- 11:45–12:45** **Addresses:**
Mehmet Aydin
Stefan Lambov Danailov
Suzana Turku
Christos Zahoupoulos
- 12:45–12:50** **Family photo**
- 12:50** **Departure to the Palace of the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchy**
- The Heads of Delegation, from the Hall of Honour
 - The members of the delegation, from the courtyard of the Palace
- 13:00** **Official lunch hosted by Traian Băsescu, President of Romania (by invitation)**
Location: Reception Hall – Palace of the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchy.
Buffet lunch for the members of the accompanying delegations.
- 14:30** **Departure to the Cotroceni Palace**
- 15:00–17:00** **The second plenary meeting**
Moderated by: Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO
Location: Unirii Hall - Cotroceni Palace.
Addresses by International Organizations’ Representatives and Invitees:
Koïchiro Matsuura

Terry Davis
René Leduc
Katalin Bogyai
Lidia Guțu.

Presentation and Adoption of the Joint Declaration

19:00–19:45 Special concert

Soloist: Dmitri Bashkirov and the “George Enescu
Philharmonic”

Location: Romanian Athenaeum.

20:00–21:30 Dinner hosted by the Minister of Culture

Location: Hotel Hilton

“Regina Maria” ballroom (Heads of Delegations)

“Ambassador” ballroom (members of the delegations)

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2007

The delegations will be welcomed by the President of the County Council and the Prefect

Departure to the City Hall.

The delegations will be welcomed by the Mayor of Sibiu,
Mr Klaus Johannis

10:30–11:15 Tour guided by the Mayor of Sibiu, Mr. Klaus

Johannis:

**City Hall – Piața Mare (Main Square) – Turnul
Sfatului (Townhall Tower): unveil a memorial plaque
– Podul Minciunilor – Casa Luxemburg – Biserica
Lutherană**

- 11:15–12:00** **Visit to the Brukenthal Museum**
- 12:00** **Departure to the “ASTRA National Museum”**
- 12:20–13:20** **Visiting the “ASTRA National Museum”**
- 13:20** **Departure to the “Împăratul Romanilor” Hotel**
- 13:40–15:00** **Lunch hosted by the Mayor of Sibiu, Mr. Klaus
Johannis**
Location: restaurant of the “Împăratul Romanilor” Hotel
- 15:00** **Departure of the delegations**

Annex 2

List of principal participants

Romania

Traian Bănescu
President of Romania

Adrian Iorgulescu
Minister of Culture and Cults

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nebojša Radmanović
Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Croatia

Stjepan Mesić
President of the Republic of Croatia

Božo Biškupić
Minister of Culture

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Branko Crvenkovski

President of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Montenegro

Filip Vujanović

President of the Republic of Montenegro

Serbia

Boris Tadić

President of the Republic of Serbia

Vojislav Brajović

Minister of Culture

UNESCO

Koïchiro Matsuura

Director-General of UNESCO

Hans d'Orville

Director, Bureau of Strategic Planning

Council of Europe

Terry Davis

Secretary-General of the Council of Europe

Organisation International de la Francophonie

René Leduc

Advisor to the Secretary-General

Turkey**Mehmet Aydin***Minister of State***Bulgaria****Stefan Lambov Danailov***Minister of Culture***Hungary****Katalin Bogyay***State Secretary for International Affairs,
Ministry of Education and Culture, Hungary***Greece****Christos Zahopoulos***Secretary General, Ministry of Culture***Albania****Muhamet Kapllani***Advisor to the President***Moldova****Lidia Guțu***Ambassador of Moldova to Rumania*

UNESCO Delegation

Koïchiro Matsuura

Director-General of UNESCO

Hans d'Orville

Director, Bureau of Strategic Planning

Katérina Stenou

Director, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue

Jan Sadlak

Director, UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education

Marie Paule Roudil

Head of Section, (Culture), UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE)

FW (Russ) Russell

Programme Planning Specialist, Bureau of Strategic Planning

Krista Pikkat

Executive Officer, Office of the Director-General

Andreï Chevelev

Liaison Officer, Sector for External Relations and Cooperation

Damir Dijakovic

Programme Specialist (Culture,) UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE)

Annex3

Charter of The Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe

Preamble

We, the Ministers of Culture of South East Europe,

Considering South East Europe as one of the rare regions in the world in which there is a natural and impressive blend of ancient cultures and civilisations and the highest values in material and non-material cultural heritage, together with inter-faith co-habitation;

Having regard to the fundamental changes that have taken place in the political and ideological spheres within our region.

Recognising that regional and international developments and processes of integration in various areas have created new possibilities for the countries of our region to increase their mutual co-operation and co-ordination;

Recalling the commitment of the countries of the region to work together on cultural policies within the framework of European integration and co-operation;

Realising that it is high time for us, in the context of preserving and promoting cultural diversity of the region, to create coherent well-structured opportunities for co-operation in the field of culture;

Acknowledging that cultural diversity and the exchange of cultural experiences constitute an indispensable element of societies organised and functioning on the basis of the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Considering that diversity and identity are consolidated and respected most when we come closer to one another, co-operate, exchange information and try to create an all-embracing cultural arena where everyone can find his natural place.

Recognising that sharing cultural values, exchanging experiences and patrimony constitutes a unique instrument for maintaining peace, prosperity and harmony in the region;

Affirming that our cultural heritage and patrimony is part of European culture and an added value to the principles uniting the peoples of Europe;

Aware that cultural policies and programmes could be better conceived, adopted and implemented at cross-border level, through common efforts, strategies and mechanisms;

Are resolved to establish through the present Charter a Council of Ministers of Culture for the South East Europe (hereinafter referred to as: Council), the aim of which is to create a forum for cultural freedom and exchange in the South East Europe and, for the first time, to place co-operation in the field of culture at higher political and decision-making levels in our region.

Chapter I – Objectives

Article 1

The objectives of the Council are:

- (1) to promote a prevailing spirit of dialogue, peace, understanding, integration and comprehensive cultural policies in the South East Europe;
- (2) to put together efforts towards exploring and using the potential of culture for the purposes of sustainable development in the region;
- (3) to create a new forum for dialogue and interaction between the Ministers of Culture and other government and non-government structures to construct joint cultural strategies, opportunities and projects, and to exchange information and experiences.

Article 2

The above objectives will be pursued through:

- (1) undertaking joint cultural projects, thus assisting in bringing closer the cultures of South Eastern European countries and in encouraging co-habitation and peace among them by respecting diversity;
- (2) promoting and supporting, by political, legislative and administrative structures, the co-operation and co-ordination of independent, cultural organisations and institutions in the South East Europe;
- (3) increasing the participation of civil society in cultural life, with the aim of creating areas for new experiences in the field of culture;

- (4) promoting European inter-border, inter-regional and even broader co-operation among the participating states;
- (5) promoting exchanges and studies to contribute to improvement and harmonisation in the area of cultural legislation among the Council member countries;
- (6) promoting and conceiving projects and programmes for research and surveys in the social-cultural area, with the aim of assisting in the exchange and improvement of cultural information at regional level;
- (7) creating regional management strategies for cultural needs to be defined and put into action, thus assuring the integration of cultural activities into contemporary economic and social goals, including cultural tourism;
- (8) creating joint programmes to facilitate mobility for artists and cultural professionals, as well as the exchange of cultural artefacts and art works in the region;
- (9) undertaking programmes with a view to improving cultural education for the younger generation of artists and cultural professionals in the region;
- (10) co-operating in the field of copyright protection, with a view to improving compliance with applicable international conventions;
- (11) undertaking common efforts to ensure the effective application and implementation of bilateral and multilateral international treaties in the field of culture, as agreed by the South East European countries;
- (12) employing the potential of the existing programmes of the Council of Europe, UNESCO, EU and other non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations, in order to achieve synergy between the different international initiatives to the advantage of the South East Europe;

- (13) assisting the non-EU countries to accelerate the process of integration into the European Union, through genuine cultural policies, strategies and actions in respect of values established by the E.U.

Chapter II – Membership

Article 3

The Council is set up on the basis of political will and the joint initiative of the member countries. Membership of the Council is open to all South East European countries accepting the objectives and principles of this Charter by signing it.

Article 4

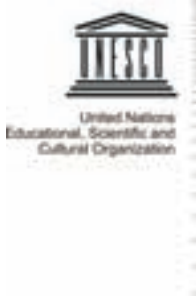
Ministers of Culture of all the countries of South East Europe can be members of the Council.

Article 5

Applications for membership are to be addressed to the President of the Council and will be presented for approval at the first meeting of the Council.

Article 6

The Council is open to the participation of other countries at the level of observer. The status of observer confers the right to participate in meetings, discussions, and debates, but not in the deliberation process, nor in the rotation system of the presidency.



Executive Board
Hundred and seventy-ninth session

179 EX/INF.18
PARIS, 14 April 2008
English & French only

Item 4 of the agenda

“THE DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURES”

UNESCO’S STRATEGIC APPROACHES AND PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS

I. BACKGROUND

1. Following the debate on the notion of a clash of civilizations in the mid-1990s and the celebration of **the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations**, also marked by the events of 11 September 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the **“Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations”** (resolution 56/6 of 21 November 2001) and assigned UNESCO the lead role within the United Nations system. **The Global Agenda** provided inspiration and a common framework for future action, stating, *inter alia*, that dialogue among cultures and civilizations is a process aimed at attaining justice, equality and tolerance in people-to-people relationships, whose objective is to bridge the gap in knowledge worldwide about other civilizations, cultures and societies, to lay the foundations for dialogue based on universally shared values, and to undertake concrete activities, inspired and driven by dialogue, especially in the areas of education, cultural diversity and heritage, science and communication.

2. In the following years, **UNESCO redefined and sharpened its own contribution** to dialogue. A series of international conferences was held to raise awareness among decision-makers and civil society stakeholders with a view to promoting the principles of dialogue, strengthening international cooperation and adopting the approach of constructive pluralism. However, it was widely felt that activities must move beyond general principles and agreements, towards concrete approaches and practical programmatic activities.

3. Several steps were taken to that end: (a) the focusing on activities as defined by the International Ministerial Conference on Dialogue among Civilizations, held in New Delhi, India, in June 2003; (b) a move from the global to the regional arena, exemplified by the “Regional Forum on Dialogue among Civilizations”, held in Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in August 2003; and (c) the emphasis on the need for multistakeholder involvement, including civil society, at various levels as well as the need to mobilize the entire range of UNESCO mechanisms and networks – field offices, National Commissions, Chairs and Fellowships. These experiences were consolidated in 32 C/Resolution 47 of the General Conference on **“New perspectives in UNESCO’s activities pertaining to the dialogue among civilizations and cultures”** adopted by the 2003 General Conference, which henceforth provided a broad framework for UNESCO’s action.

4. These new perspectives were particularly well captured in the **Rabat Commitment**, adopted in June 2005, which aimed to identify concrete and practical steps in various domains of UNESCO, which the organizations participating in the “Conference on Fostering Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Concrete and Sustained Initiatives” (Rabat, June 2005) pledged to pursue, jointly and individually from 2006 onwards, and which has since then spawned a number of individual and joint actions by the partner organizations, thereby strengthening international cooperation. A follow-up Conference, scheduled to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in October 2008, is currently under preparation.

5. In 2006, at the request of UNESCO’s Member States, the Director-General developed a **Plan of Action for the promotion of the dialogue among peoples and UNESCO’s contribution to international action against terrorism**. The Plan of Action focused on five major themes of intersectoral action: (i) Promoting reciprocal knowledge of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity; (ii) Building a framework for commonly shared values; (iii) Strengthening quality and values education; (iv) Countering violence and extremism; and (v) Fostering dialogue for sustainable development.

6. In 2007, the General Conference adopted **the Medium-Term Strategy (2008-2013)**, which is structured around five overarching objectives, one of which is **“Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace”**. This objective seeks to elucidate conditions which will enable UNESCO to demonstrate its comparative advantage in the promotion of cultural diversity and its corollary, dialogue among civilizations and cultures. In January 2008, UNESCO

also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the newly created Alliance of Civilizations, in order to maximize their complementary role.

II. UNESCO'S FRAMEWORK FOR FOSTERING DIALOGUE

7. The **notion of "civilization"** is not easy to define and can be subject to misinterpretation. At UNESCO, it denotes a universal, plural and non-hierarchical phenomenon, it being understood that civilizations are inherently intercultural, while preserving the uniqueness of identities. This is especially the case in an era of globalization where **dialogue**, as a holistic process based on openness towards others, is vital to overcome ignorance – ignorance of each other's way of life, values, language, history and heritage; ignorance which, as our Constitution states, is at the root of prejudices and wars.

(a) Promoting reciprocal knowledge of the diversity of cultures

8. Among the past achievements of UNESCO is **the elaboration of regional histories** and of **a world history on the scientific and cultural development of humankind** aimed at overcoming prejudices and ignorance. It is appropriate now to use the contents of these histories to reach out to the public at large through various abridged versions, translated in as many languages as possible, including local languages, and by informing with these contents the publication of new history textbooks, school curricula and media production. A set of new initiatives is to be undertaken to that end, both through regular budget and extrabudgetary funding. Bilateral, and multilateral academic cooperation for the revision of textbooks and the elaboration of new regional or subregional histories should also be energetically promoted, in order to get rid of hidden prejudices and facilitate the revisiting of official histories.

9. Since its inception, UNESCO has protected **linguistic diversity**, notably by promoting multilingualism as a bridge between cultures and civilizations and supporting a database on all translations published in the world and the translation and publication of major literary and philosophical masterpieces. It now maintains the *Index Translationum*, an online clearing house and monitoring tool which collects literary translations from and into lesser-used languages all over the world. UNESCO is also engaged in promoting public awareness and building local capacity for the promotion of language policies; it counsels Member States on measures to safeguard endangered languages, and to elaborate appropriate language policies (from education to culture, from administration to media and sciences), exploring the economic and social benefits of linguistic diversity as a stimulus for sustainable development. Through its *Creative Content Programme*, it supports creativity and innovation in lesser-used languages production in radio, television and the new media. The B@bel Initiative promotes universal access to multilingual information in cyberspace; formulating guiding principles; disseminating best practices; and developing online multilingual tools.

10. UNESCO has always emphasized the importance of **cultural heritage** as a common good of humankind, which deserves to be preserved for future generations. Although culture is increasingly a prime conflict target, especially in intra-State conflicts, UNESCO coordinated complex operations to safeguard heritage damaged or threatened by conflicts, always emphasizing that it can become a rallying point for former adversaries, enabling them to rebuild ties and to redesign a common identity and future together. Successful illustrations of this objective, which tends to identify cultural heritage as a place of reconciliation, can be found in action carried out by UNESCO in South-East Europe, including in the dialogue Summits which have been held in different countries in the region every year since 2003 and which have resulted in important declarations and joint commitments by the Heads of State, the Caucasus region, the Middle East (including Jerusalem and Iraq), Cambodia and Afghanistan, and North and South Korea. Likewise, UNESCO highlights the importance of a shared heritage, which does not contradict plural identities, in the context of the *Slave Route* initiative.

11. **Interreligious dialogue** forms part of intercultural dialogue: its aim is to promote dialogue between individuals and leaders of different religions, faiths and convictions, with a view to increasing mutual knowledge about spiritual traditions and their underlying values and to support the objective of a secular agenda, thus enhancing the understanding among the wider cultural communities. In recent years, UNESCO has brought together eminent religious figures from the monotheistic faiths and from different spiritual and humanistic traditions, in thematic meetings, in order to analyse the complex issues of interfaith dialogue. The objective now is to raise awareness among educators and civil society representatives about the role and value of interreligious dialogue; to build a network of UNESCO Chairs in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and to produce and disseminate pertinent guidelines and publications in view of mainstreaming their main principles into local, national and regional policies.

(b) Building a framework for commonly shared values

12. The dialogue of cultures is a process which also requires the recognition of commonly shared values such as freedom and observance of human rights, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for others and for nature, and shared responsibility, as well as commitment to peace. In other contexts, a focus on transversal values – those shared by two or several cultures – may lead to mutual learning and understanding rather than a focus on universal values. The challenge at present is to consolidate these values and to translate them into reality through concrete action, such as through the UNESCO *Peace Education Programme* that has been elaborated and implemented in cooperation with UNHCR and INEE. This forms part of a wider agenda on “the quality of education” which UNESCO supports in Member States to improve educational quality through its work in areas such as content, curriculum, learning assessments and schools management.

13. UNESCO has designed the *Power of Peace Network* to utilize new media tools to connect people of the world and thus to enhance cultural self-expression, knowledge of each other and of the values of others, encourage discussion on the issue of pluralism, and through this, enhance mutual understanding and tolerance. This network is inclusive, participatory and collaborative. It is directed at the youth of the world, while ensuring freedom of expression. It involves the Internet as well as film, radio and television, utilizing all possible delivery systems, including over-the-air broadcasting, online, wireless and satellite. The media also play an important role in linking together countries in regions torn by civil strife. An important outcome of UNESCO’s South-East Europe Strategy is the establishment of the *ERNO News distribution network*, linking South-East Europe public service broadcasters and ensuring a regular exchange of television programmes among all countries of the region. Similarly, Israeli and Palestinian journalists are being brought together through UNESCO to facilitate the understanding of their respective contexts, points of view and values.

(c) Strengthening quality education and the building of intercultural competencies

14. UNESCO is deeply committed to **quality education for all**, which means an education targeted at the learner, addressing his/her needs and aspirations and rooted in his/her specific social and cultural circumstances. Quality education should be primarily grounded on the respect for human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration and should equip the learner not only with knowledge and values to understand the other, but also competencies which are specific to openness and appreciation of diversity. UNESCO’s action supports the revision of the content of national textbooks, learning materials and curricula, taking into account diverse learning styles and life experiences, and cultural and linguistic diversity. Likewise, the role of the teacher in interpreting textbooks and developing learning materials that induce and prepare learners for dialogue, and teach them to think critically, receives high attention. An initiation into cultural diversity requires some intercultural competencies and skills, that is, the capacity to step outside one’s cultural logic and mindset, and the ability to adapt to diverse representations of the world. Perspectives, ideas and strategies are set out in the *UNESCO Guidelines on Intercultural Education and Learning from the Practice of Intercultural Dialogue – An Analysis of Tools, Methods and Approaches*.

15. **Formal and non-formal heritage education** is also crucial as it transmits knowledge and skills necessary to address the plurality of cultural heritage, and its importance for memory and identity, in particular for younger generations. The *World Heritage Education Project* represents an important strand of action, which aims to promote young people's awareness of world heritage preservation, as well as reciprocal knowledge and appreciation of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity.

16. Quality education also means a **linguistically sensitive education** which aims to give mother-tongue instruction as a precondition to improve educational quality, by building upon the knowledge and experience immediately available; the knowledge of at least one of the national languages to anchor the citizen into his/her national context; and the knowledge of a foreign/international language, which should represent the normal range of practical language skills for a citizen in the twenty-first century.

(d) Fostering dialogue for sustainable development

17. UNESCO has been designated lead agency of the United Nations system for the **United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development** (DESD, 2005-2014). Although there are differences according to local contexts, priorities and approaches, there is a need for a holistic approach which encompasses the knowledge, skills and values needed for a sustainable future. In this context, education needs to develop respect for cultural diversity and the practice of dialogue. At its 34th session, the General Conference adopted resolution 19 on "Further promotion of the United Nations Decade for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)", which acknowledged, among others, "the Decade as a unique opportunity for Member States and for UNESCO to strengthen sustainable development through educational efforts". Moreover, document 179 EX/INF.4 Rev. contains "The Ahmedabad Declaration 2007: A Call to Action Education for Life: Life Through Education"; a declaration developed over several days in November 2007, involving over 1,500 participants from 97 countries at the fourth International Conference on Environmental Education. Other activities promoted by UNESCO in the context of this United Nations Decade include the recent international workshop entitled "The Contribution of Faith-based Organizations to Education for Sustainable Development" (March 2007) and operational projects on dialogue with indigenous communities in Africa about heritage education for sustainable development. The linkages between natural disasters, climate change, migration, urbanization, social transformation and cultural change are the focus of new attention and activities.

18. Public and semi-public places, as well as special occasions such as **cultural festivals or sports events** also offer privileged venues for cultural interaction which are to be supported. Furthermore, new spaces of dialogue are also offered today by science. This includes modern science, on the one hand, as being demonstrated through action in the framework of the World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS), the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization or the SESAME project which involves scientists from the Arab region together with Israeli scientists. It also includes, on the other hand, traditional science as explored in the framework of the LINKS Project (Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems) which establishes intercultural dialogue on new ways to ensure that indigenous knowledge systems are recognized and respected in their contribution to sustainable development. Additional perspectives in this context are presented in UNESCO's programme on dialogue with and among indigenous peoples through the mapping of their intangible heritage and knowledge systems, and support to capacity-building aimed at empowering them to engage in negotiations and dialogue about the future development of their communities.

19. **Youth** is a particular target group for dialogue with respect to sustainable development. Within the framework of DESD, UNESCO and UNEP collaborate to foster "youthXchange", focusing on sustainable consumption for young people. During the 33rd session of the General Conference, the fourth UNESCO Youth Forum "Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples – ideas for action in education, the sciences, culture and communication" stressed the need for the organization of regional, national and local fora in order

to empower young people from all walks of life and in all regions of the world. The UNESCO Children's Performing Arts Festival in East Asia and the UNESCO project on intercultural dialogue through storytelling among youth from different countries in the eastern part of the Caucasus are two other examples of this effort. Intercultural dialogue, exchange and understanding targeting youth is also being promoted through public-private partnerships, such as the flagship project *Mondialogo* launched by UNESCO and Daimler in 2003. This initiative comprises three distinct action-oriented pillars: (i) the *Mondialogo* School Contest, which is the largest international schools contest in the world aiming to promote intercultural dialogue and exchange among young people; (ii) the *Mondialogo* Engineering Award which encourages engineering students from all over the world to address the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, especially poverty reduction and sustainable development; and (iii) a dedicated interactive Internet Portal (www.mondialogo.org) to serve as a platform in support of the various project activities.

III. NEW MODALITIES OF ACTION

20. Against a changing international landscape, the need to organize and manage cultural pluralism at all levels and in a democratic manner remains a vital and indispensable landmark towards achieving lasting peace. In this spirit, UNESCO intends to become a global clearing house on innovative practices that are conducive to cultural pluralism at local, national and regional levels.

21. In this perspective, two new modalities of action will be pursued during the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5):

A. The achievement of a number of expected results through a concerted action of different UNESCO sectors under the **Intersectoral Platform: "Contributing to the dialogue among civilizations and cultures and a culture of peace"**: the task team, under the leadership of ADG/CLT, will undertake a number of activities which do not cover the whole of UNESCO's contribution to dialogue among civilizations and cultures (see Plan of Action above) but are structured around a number of specific objectives for the attainment of which new modalities of action (i.e. activities carried out in close interaction between programme sectors) will be experienced. These four specific objectives are:

- (i) **The pedagogical exploitation of the Regional Histories** (led by CLT Sector), comprising a horizontal cross-reading of the Regional Histories through the prism of dialogue, beginning with the History of Africa. Activities will include ongoing ones such as the revision of textbooks and school manuals (carried out by ED Sector) but will also involve the role of historians (through SHS Sector) and will feed local contents in the media (through CI Sector).
- (ii) **The development of intercultural competencies** (led by ED Sector) in formal/non-formal educational settings with a focus on building skills necessary for living together. Action will comprise a study of the evolving concept of "intercultural competencies" over time, and a mapping of specific existing examples and practices of intercultural skills on the one hand, as well as, on the other, a focus on dialogue as a tool in "conflict-sensitive" reporting (in cooperation with CI Sector) and on the role of museums as "places of memory" (in cooperation with CLT Sector).
- (iii) **The role of the media in fostering dialogue and mutual understanding** (led by CI Sector) which will comprise activities such as the "Power of Peace Network" (on pluralistic expression) as well as intangible heritage, cultural industries (CLT Sector) and non-conflictual management of water resources (SC Sector) as areas where media can really make a difference.

- (iv) **Promoting dialogue among youth about religious diversity** (led by CLT Sector) which will focus on promoting respect for religious diversity among and within youth networks and platforms – through colloquia, and public spaces such as schools and museums – within which the teaching of religious diversity and mutual tolerance, as well as the fight against stereotypes and ignorance, can be advanced (in cooperation with ED and CI Sectors).

B. The implementation of joint cooperation with the *Alliance of Civilizations* Initiative, following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Alliance Secretariat, in January 2008: cooperation will be developed along the four directions mentioned in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, which, to a large extent, correspond to the four objectives outlined above, i.e. developing educational, cultural and scientific contents that foster dialogue and mutual understanding; intensifying intercultural exchanges among youth; highlighting the role of media in fostering dialogue and mutual understanding; establishing new multistakeholder partnerships in order to reach out to new audiences. To this end, the Spanish Cooperation Agency has provided a generous financial contribution of €600,000 for the development of projects in this regard.

The significance of this meeting as a major force for regional cooperation and renewal cannot be underestimated. Work undertaken within this framework has demonstrated the critical importance of culture for international understanding, development and peace. Culture not only generates income and employment, it also offers measurable and long-term social and educational benefits; promotes innovation, creativity and diversity; and enhances the quality of life.

Koïchiro Matsuura

Director-General of UNESCO

The role of culture in intensifying and consolidating regional cooperation is important. National heritage represents, without any doubt, an essential dimension of each country's identity and, at the same time, a decisive contribution to the identity of a united Europe. Heritage represents the specific difference of each of us and, at the same time, it offers us the basis for dialogue, mutual knowledge and development.

Traian Bănescu

President of Romania

The Council of Europe "Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe", implemented with the support of the European Commission, has helped the participating countries to prepare the legal and institutional framework and build up the expertise which is essential for a modern regional heritage policy which in turn treats heritage as a resource for sustainable economic and social development.

Terry Davis

Secretary-General of the Council of Europe

Excerpts from the Bucharest Declaration

Cultural diversity, in particular for South-Eastern Europe, underpins meaningful cultural exchanges, which foster the circulation of ideas and contribute to a better multilateral understanding, to the enrichment of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage and to its thorough handing on to future generations. Cultural diversity in our region can be maintained by heightening awareness of the importance of the rich cultural heritage of South-Eastern Europe as an essential bearer of our identity and of history to be conserved, medium for intercultural communication and a key element for sustainable development.

For further information about UNESCO's activities related to the Dialogue among Civilizations, please consult:
<http://www.unesco.org/dialogue>

