

**Director-General's Regional Consultation on the Preparation of the
Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5)**

National Commissions for UNESCO of Europe and North America

London, United Kingdom
Saturday 5 June to Tuesday 8 June 2010

FINAL REPORT

Participants

1. Forty-three National Commissions for UNESCO of the Europe and North America Region attended the Consultation. Additionally, representatives of National Commissions from other regions, the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO of the United Kingdom, representatives of the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of Denmark and Greece, the Leader of the Independent External Evaluation team, and a representative of the UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee, took part as observers. Officials from the UNESCO Secretariat also participated in the meeting. The full list of participants is at Annex 1.

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

2. Mr Walter Lerouge, Honorary President of the Flemish (Belgian) Commission for UNESCO, opened the proceedings by formally handing over the presidency of the Consultation on behalf of the Commissions of Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, which had hosted the previous Consultation. He congratulated the United Kingdom for continuing the approach initiated in 2008 and expressed his good wishes for a fruitful outcome to this important event.

Opening of the Consultation

3. The Consultation was officially opened by Mr W. John Morgan, Chair of the Commission for UNESCO of the United Kingdom. Mr Morgan welcomed the participants and thanked the preparatory team, particularly Mr Alec Boksenberg, and the UNESCO National Commission Section, for the work done in bringing the Consultation to the United Kingdom. He expressed his wish for the outcome of the Consultation to have impact and make a difference and invited the delegates to concentrate on key priorities and messages, which may require them to put aside personal and national interests.

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure and the Agenda

4. The delegates unanimously accepted the Rules of Procedure and the Agenda, which had been distributed in advance.

Election of the Bureau

5. The delegates unanimously confirmed the appointment of Mr Morgan as Chair and Mr Lerouge as Vice Chair. Mr Boksenberg, Chair of the Sciences Committee and Member of the Board of Directors of the Commission of the United Kingdom, and Mr Harry Reeves,

Secretary-General of the Commission of the United Kingdom, were confirmed as Operational Chairs to facilitate the proceedings.

6. The delegates unanimously confirmed three Co-Rapporteurs for the Consultation: Secretaries-General Mrs Marjutka Hafner of the Slovenian Commission, Mrs Manuela Galhardo of the Portuguese Commission and Ms Dagnija Baltina, of the Latvian Commission.

Intervention of the representative of the Director-General

7. Mr Hans d'Orville, Deputy Director-General a.i. and Assistant Director-General, Bureau of Strategic Planning, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Director-General. He referred to the two already completed and two forthcoming Consultations of the Director-General with National Commissions of the different regions and urged on the delegates that consensus of the region focused on a small number of priorities is the key formula to enhance the impact of the region's recommendations.

Overview of the planning process and introduction to the 36 C/5 by the UNESCO Secretariat

8. Mr d'Orville introduced the process by pointing out that the 36 C/5 comes at an important juncture: it is the final C/5 of the current Medium-Term Strategy, which gives the opportunity to build on the assessment of Strategic Programme Objectives attained and those in need of more attention. Secondly, it is the first C/5 under the leadership of the new Director-General, who has already announced her intention to build on relevance, visibility and impact. He also explained the procedure of integrating the results of the Consultation processes with National Commissions, governments of Member States, NGOs and IGOs into the drafts and final version of the C/5.

Statements by National Commissions

9. Forty-three National Commissions took the floor to reflect and elaborate on their views and interests regarding the preparation of the 36 C/5 and general issues of importance to many National Commissions. Full statements received in writing are at Annex 2.

10. National Commissions unanimously expressed their strong belief in the vision of UNESCO, their wish for it to become a more effective and valued agency at national, regional and global level and their readiness to contribute to this task. National Commissions underlined UNESCO's constitutional aims and in particular its role as a standard-setter.

11. Regarding the 36 C/5, National Commissions favoured the development of a focused, clear, precisely worded, concentrated, concise document with a low number of selected priorities which will provide well-targeted guidance and secure the added value of UNESCO. In this context many National Commissions noted the need for analytical and critical evaluations to be carried out in a timely and comprehensive manner to inform the planning process in the future.

12. National Commissions highlighted the need to regain the impact of UNESCO programmes within the United Nations system, and to enhance the role and relevance of UNESCO in achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other international development goals. Furthermore, education and culture programmes were emphasised as the key areas of action for UNESCO in promotion of social cohesion and peace.

13. National Commissions emphasised that according to the Constitution they are an integral part of UNESCO and a truly unique instrument within the UN system. The role of the National Commissions within the Organisation must be highlighted so as to advance the overall reestablishment of the high profile of the Organisation in a rapidly changing global context. In order to increase the impact, credibility and visibility of the Organisation closer cooperation and communication between the Secretariat and the National Commissions must be developed. National Commissions as true liaison bodies between UNESCO and its Member States are the key instrument to catalyse intellectual cooperation, to establish UNESCO at the grass root level, to ensure visibility and recognition of the Organisation at local, national and international level, to channel information and policy advice, to exercise multi-sectorality, as well as to mobilise civil society, the private sector and all other stakeholders in areas central to UNESCO's mandate.

14. At inter-regional, regional and sub-regional levels the need for further cooperation among National Commissions as well as between National Commissions and various UNESCO-related organisations was stressed. Also emphasised was the importance of better cooperation with the European Union and European Commission in common priority areas, and of enhanced cooperation with the private sector.

15. Following the statements of the National Commissions of the Europe and North America region, representatives of National Commissions from other regions took the floor. Mrs Touriya Majdouline of the Moroccan Commission underlined the growing need to clarify and strengthen the role of the National Commissions within the context of the UN reform process as well as emphasising the important role National Commissions play in fostering dialogue among cultures, for example Euro-Arab dialogue. Mr Augustine Omare-Okurut of the Ugandan Commission introduced and explained the main priorities for the Africa region, especially highlighting education as well as capacity-building, and expressed his thanks for the support received. Mrs Susan Shurland of the Commission of Trinidad and Tobago summarised the role of National Commissions in Latin America and the Caribbean as important vehicles for promotion of peace, intercultural dialogue and harmony within societies. Mr Alisher Ikramov of the Commission of Uzbekistan reflected upon the ethical role of UNESCO, being not only intellectual, and especially the role of UNESCO in implementing the Millenium Development Goals.

Other statements

16. Mr Bernard Loing from the UNESCO NGO Liason Committee highlighted the 330 international NGOs in official relations with UNESCO and expressed the wish for improved cooperation with National Commissions in programme delivery.

17. Acknowledging the importance of National Commissions in programme delivery and the overall presence and recognition of UNESCO in the field through their work, Mr Elliot Stern, leader of the UNESCO Independent External Evaluation team, expressed his interest of working in cooperation with the National Commissions so as to help bring coherence to the programme and elaborate on what position UNESCO should assume in the future.

Presence of the Director-General

18. The Director-General Mrs Irina Bokova joined the assembly during the course of the above proceedings and was warmly welcomed by all.

DEBATING SESSIONS

Address by the Director-General

19. At the beginning of the debating phases of the Consultation Mrs Bokova addressed the National Commissions of the Europe and North America region. She recalled that 65 years ago in the same Great Hall in London UNESCO was established as an organisation to enable free and mutually enriching exchange of ideas and achievements and sharing of creative skills and knowledge among peoples of the world. Nowadays the fragility both of humanity and the planet and the global challenges we face call for improved cooperation: no country can shut itself away from the global threats – we have to choose to live together.

20. Mrs Bokova acknowledged the important role that National Commissions play within UNESCO and the overall UN system as the nodes for worldwide networking of all the various partners and for the involvement of all people in UNESCO's programmes. Mrs Bokova showcased how, through their ability to mobilise such UNESCO programmes as World Heritage, Biosphere Reserves, and many others, UNESCO exists and develops as a truly global, fully inclusive and visible organisation. Through its presence in the field UNESCO has become relevant and recognised.

21. Taking into account current global challenges Mrs Bokova emphasised that despite changing realities the need for UNESCO still remains – to mobilise international solidarity, to secure inclusive quality lifelong learning for all, to promote open access and dialogue within sciences to ensure that sciences serve the development of humanity, to establish culture at the heart of development, and to promote freedom of expression to ensure diversity. Yet more needs to be done to increase the visibility of its work and ideals at the national, regional and global level by including more partners in its actions and enhancing cooperation with our global strategic partners UNDP, EU, and all others.

22. During the Question and Answer session that followed, discussion evolved around the possibilities of how to enhance various partnerships and thus raise the importance and acknowledgement of the Organisation, the overall positioning of UNESCO as an intellectual and ethical guardian through well-planned action, the importance of continuing to strengthen the role of National Commissions in relation to the overall implementation of UNESCO's programmes, as well as the necessity of better communication strategies targeting civil society and governments and the implementation of inter-sectorality as an approach rather than as separate platforms. At the conclusion of this session Mrs Bokova warmly thanked the assembly, wished the proceedings well, and took her leave. The Director-General's full address is at Annex 3.

Introduction of the adopted World Café process

23. Mr Boksenberg reiterated the purpose of the Consultation which was to provide recommendations to the Director-General for the 36 C/5, possibly with a view on a trajectory to the next C/4, so as to make UNESCO relevant and help the Organisation to do what it does – and what all agree is important – in a better and more focused way. The Consultation was arranged in a *World Café* format developed from the approach introduced in 2008 by the Commissions of Flanders (Belgium), Luxembourg and The Netherlands. The new format uses a series of progressively converging multi-table debating phases each covering the five major programmes and the inter-sectoral platforms, with associated plenary sessions. The different phases of the process were explained: a prior Purpose and Parameters phase to

inspire a mindset; the Inventory phase establishing an initial list of priorities by bringing together the ideas from all tables; the Analysing phase beginning a process of prioritised convergence to focus down on main modalities and programme areas; followed by Digging Deeper to Convergence where the process continues. In the plenary sessions between the different phases the important messages are shared. The final aim in a concluding plenary is to produce a consensual proposal for a balanced C/5 across the major programmes and inter-sectoral platforms in one single package.

Purpose and Parameters phase

24. Mr Boksenberg introduced the phase by showing in a short film the historic scene from the inaugural conference of UNESCO in 1945 in the same room where the current Consultation was taking place. This Consultation might contribute to the direction in which UNESCO will go in the years to follow to fulfil its original mandate which remains relevant even in an altogether different world context.

25. Participants discussed the relevance of UNESCO's mission as explained in 1945 and as given in a current statement introducing UNESCO obtained from the UNESCO website. There was a general consensus that UNESCO's original mission is still relevant but has to be complemented with some new elements, with the examples: aspects of information and communication; environmental issues; the concept of a new humanism; equality; and sustainability. The mission statement as formulated in the Medium-Term Strategy presents UNESCO well, yet UNESCO's mission still needs to be clarified, modernised, and presented in a more appealing way both to the general public and to decision makers – there should be clear messages on how different fields of action contribute to fulfilling the mandate of UNESCO and how dialogue leads to concrete actions.

Main debating phases

26. Mr Boksenberg introduced in turn the six rounds of each of the programme debating phases as the Consultation progressed, with specific information and guiding questions for each phase. The outcomes from this process now follow.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2012-2013 (36 C/5)

General observations

27. The National Commissions of Europe and North America agreed that the 36 C/5 should aim to raise UNESCO's global impact and standing as an organisation – with sister bodies of the UN system, with governments, and with society. UNESCO should therefore focus on core issues of major importance, exercise its convening power and role as global policy-driver, drop the mass of minor endeavours which lack impact and distract effort, and more fully realise its potential for increased effectiveness both through use of in-house and field resources and through mobilisation and coordination of its large array of distributed badged facilities, groups and networks externally resourced by countries. UNESCO should rationalise and enhance its role in the UN system by avoiding overlaps with UN bodies or other international organisations whose efforts are more suited to the role, and enhancing strategic partnerships, including with the private sector.

Proposals for phasing out or discontinuation

28. While evaluating the overall programme delivery participants also considered the possibility of phasing out or discontinuing some of the existing programmes and activities but did not reach specific consensus. Notwithstanding, it was agreed that critical evaluation of existing programmes and phasing out of programmes which do not or can not deliver the results expected will allow a better focus on the main priorities. UNESCO should concentrate only on major efforts and discontinue minor programmes and activities that do not contribute to the fulfilment of its mandate, have little or no impact, are not considered to be a priority or only benefit few. The participants agreed that there was need for this issue to be addressed seriously, thoroughly and without delay.

Role of National Commissions in programme delivery

29. UNESCO should at the same time foster and draw upon the experience, the competences, the intellectual resources, the mobilising capacities and the networks of the National Commissions for the definition and implementation of its programmes, at all levels. That implies political commitment and support for the National Commissions by the Member States and the Secretariat, through official and firm recognition of their relevance and contribution. That implies also an effective involvement of all National Commissions in the fulfilment of the Organisation's priorities.

Global priorities and specific target groups

30. The National Commissions of Europe and North America support Africa and Gender Equality as the two global priorities for the 36 C/5. Special attention should be given to programmes for and with youth and NGOs.

Programme Recommendations

EDUCATION

31. Wide agreement was reached on a few overarching aspects of education. Education is the key to self-development, to the building of societies, and is a human right. In addressing these aspects, quality is an essential cross-cutting dimension. The major priorities agreed upon are: Education for All (EFA); Education for Sustainable Development (ESD); and Technical and Vocational Education (TVET). In addition, ASPnet, UNESCO Chairs and the UNITWIN programme are important tools and should be given more support with a view to enhancing international coordination and effectiveness.

32. **Education for All.** EFA is of paramount importance because it promotes democracy, social cohesion and responsible citizenship. UNESCO should strengthen its leadership and coordination role within EFA as well as its normative function and ability to offer policy advice to member countries. To accelerate the progress towards EFA, high quality teaching is essential, as is institutional capacity development. Teachers are at the very heart of the educational process and teacher education and training should thus be given more emphasis, especially through improved and relevant content and methodology. Efforts to enhance access to universal primary education should be pursued on the basis of the principles of inclusiveness and equity. It is likewise important to address and build bridges between all levels of education including lifelong learning and the informal and non-formal sectors. Higher education is of key importance to the quality of the entire educational system.

Information and communication technologies are also a means to achieve the EFA goals and to raise the quality of education and training. Their use in the provision of support for teachers and in reaching students who would otherwise be excluded from education should be enhanced. Open Education Resources (OER) have become increasingly important tools for the provision of education: their use to this end should be further emphasised.

33. Technical and Vocational Education. TVET provides training that builds and reinforces capacity for the large number of primary and secondary school students who do not have vocational skills when leaving school. Research has shown that TVET plays a part in helping to reduce drop-out rates from primary education because parents recognise that there are opportunities for post-primary education and training if they keep their children in school. The type of TVET training provided should be relevant to the specific developmental needs, and to the context, of each country.

34. Education for Sustainable Development. The recommendations agreed to at the UNESCO World Conference in Bonn should be put into action. ESD encapsulates a qualitative approach towards global education which enables sustainable development to become a reality for all. The world economic crisis has slowed the fight against poverty and famine; a strong commitment to ESD is needed in order to reduce poverty, provide sustainable livelihoods, mitigate the impact of climate change and incorporate social responsibility. ESD should become an integral part of quality education and international cooperation for capacity building in ESD should be strengthened in this regard. Perspectives for the implementation of ESD beyond 2014 should be developed. The synergy and inter-linkages between ESD and EFA should be explored and expanded.

NATURAL SCIENCES

35. The two highest priorities agreed for the natural sciences are: monitoring and sustainable management of natural resources focused on major challenges such as climate change, biodiversity, freshwater and coastal zones; and strengthening science policy advice and capacity building for achieving more effective science and technology (ST) policies in countries of most need. These two priorities are also critical for achieving the MDGs. UNESCO's engagement in water issues should be one of the highest priorities not only in science but in all sectors. The delegates welcomed reinforcement of the intellectual role of UNESCO by establishing a high level scientific advisory panel, as planned by the Director-General, to help tackle the major current and future social and scientific challenges from both a specific and global perspective. They stressed the need for the establishment of networks comprising the academic world, National Commissions, the private sector, policy and decision makers, NGOs, etc., in order to enhance reflection, ensure intellectual monitoring and prospective thinking, and translate ideas into actions. Innovation policy was not discussed, but its role should be addressed in the context of related ST policy advice.

36. Sustainable management of natural resources focused on major challenges such as climate change, biodiversity, freshwater and coastal zones. The environmental Intergovernmental / International Science Programmes (IOC, IHP, MAB and IGCP), with engagement of the existing globally distributed, UNESCO-badged, research and monitoring sites, institutes, centres and expert groups – such as biosphere reserves, water sites, global ocean observatories, category 1 and 2 centres, National Committees, UNESCO Chairs and Networks, etc. – should be strengthened as the mechanisms through which UNESCO can achieve this. UNESCO should strongly focus its resources on facilitating these core environmental programmes and coordinating mutual activity among their distributed related

centres and bodies. Equally important, a new culture of cooperation, coordination and common focus among these programmes on the priorities identified is urgently needed, as stressed in the Overall Review of Major Programmes II and III, as well as close connection with other priority areas such as ESD. UNESCO's engagement should also pay specific attention to other social and economical aspects of natural resources management. Climate change is one of the world's major challenges and UNESCO's actions to address it should be based on a generated scientific knowledge base, clear communication and awareness raising. The need for implementation of UNESCO's climate strategy, interaction with other UN agencies and strengthened research networking at regional and global level was emphasised.

37. Strengthen science policy advice and capacity building for more effective ST policies. More focus should be given to ST policy activities. Science policy advice should be strengthened to help build human capacity and create adequate national, regional and global infrastructures, bringing together all stakeholders, public and private, and engaging the work of the National Commissions. These activities should be related to the environment and natural resources as well as to basic and engineering sciences. Activities should include ethics in science and research.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

38. Social and human sciences embody the full range of values at the very heart of UNESCO and, having close links to all UNESCO programmes through various synergies, contribute to the goals of peace and development. The inter-sectoral character of its mandate reflects the holistic and humanistic approach the Organisation takes to addressing and understanding new emerging global challenges. The advancement of human rights and gender equality are the cornerstone to the success of all its programmes. The role of the social and human sciences in ethical standard-setting ensures its continued relevance and potential in today's ever evolving world. Social and human sciences serves to enhance the work of other sectors (especially natural sciences) in their priority areas through improved horizontal cooperation.

39. Strengthening the focus on ethics in all the programmes while promoting inter-cultural dialogue. UNESCO is the only organisation that explicitly focuses on ethical issues world-wide. Therefore this is an area where UNESCO delivers and can add further value, including through philosophical reflection. Mobilising the expertise and networks available, the work undertaken by ethics committees (e.g. bioethics) should be increasingly linked to the implementation of standard setting and policy development. Furthermore there is a need to increase awareness and foster wider discussion in the global arena on specific ethical issues among different stakeholders.

40. Reinforcing the role of UNESCO in giving relevant policy advice in the field of social transformations with a particular emphasis on human rights issues and improved response to relevant needs. Social transformations are a reality of today's world which impact on all areas of work (e.g. culture, education, etc.) and link them inextricably together. Therefore they need to be assessed in all their complexity and an overarching approach must be adopted towards addressing them. Anticipation of evolving social transformations implies the improved ability to set appropriate agendas by mobilising necessary and regionally relevant expertise. In order to improve the efficacy of the social transformation programmes within UNESCO, the recommendations of the critical evaluation of the MOST programme must be implemented.

CULTURE

41. UNESCO plays a unique intellectual role in addressing the major challenges faced by contemporary societies. Cultural diversity is an overarching goal for UNESCO to contribute towards peaceful, just and stable societies. Culture and cultural diversity are major drivers of social cohesion and individual well-being. The highest priorities agreed for Culture are: preserving and promoting cultural diversity including linguistic diversity, tangible and intangible heritage; and advocating and promoting the role of culture and cultural diversity for sustainable development.

42. Preserving and promoting cultural diversity including linguistic diversity, tangible and intangible heritage. The effectiveness and visibility of UNESCO in the field of cultural diversity should be increased. To this end UNESCO should promote and encourage synergies in the implementation of the Culture-related Conventions, enhance cooperation between their governing bodies, and facilitate improved cooperation between the Secretariats for the three main Conventions (1972, 2003 and 2005). UNESCO should also support Member States in using these instruments to inform policy making by providing platforms and arenas for sharing experience and best practice. UNESCO should work with Member States to devise an effective mechanism to safeguard cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict situations. UNESCO should continue its promotion of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and further utilise ASPnet for awareness-raising purposes. To encourage intellectual dialogue on culture and cultural diversity, participants supported the High Level Panel on Inter-cultural Dialogue and Peace established by the Director-General.

43. Advocating and promoting the role of culture and cultural diversity for sustainable development. UNESCO should work with its sister organisations in the UN family to advocate strengthening the role of culture in both national and international frameworks. For this purpose UNESCO should use the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions as a tool, among other things to emphasise and make the contribution of culture to economic development better known.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

44. The two highest priorities agreed for communication and information are: Freedom of expression, press freedom, safeguarding and developing pluralistic and independent media; and open and permanent access to and freedom of information. The delegates stressed that the issue of open access is a major global challenge, closely linked to development, human rights and democracy, in which UNESCO must better define its role and apply a clear inter-sectoral approach. Access to documentary heritage via, for example, the Memory of the World Programme, and by ensuring the digitalization and preservation of archives and cultural heritage, is an important UNESCO activity. It also plays a key role in UNESCO's visibility and is an important tool for the other programmes.

45. Freedom of expression, press freedom, safeguarding and developing pluralistic and independent media. UNESCO should work fully to develop internationally-recognised legal and professional standards through which the governments and other stakeholders shall be sensitised about press freedom in traditional and new media. Capacity building of media professionals and media institutions is critical in this process and the Media Development Indicators, developed by the IPDC, significantly contribute. UNESCO should work closer with other UN agencies to ensure better monitoring and stronger mechanisms for the safety of journalists.

46. Open and permanent access to and freedom of information. Engagement in internet standard-setting and policy advice is critical for the fulfilment of UNESCO's role. This includes encouraging national policy makers to incorporate media education in the school curricula. UNESCO activities in this field should also include media and ICT development, by capacity building, promoting media literacy and information, media accountability, and strengthening the use and role of ICT in education. IFAP should act as the information society observatory to provide expert advice on information strategy and dissemination; notwithstanding of the need, there was a debate whether the programme should respond to the results and recommendations of the recent review or whether it should be phased out or discontinued.

INTER-SECTORAL PLATFORMS

47. Given UNESCO's very nature, multi-disciplinarity lies at the core of all of its programmes and offers a key way for the Organisation to carry out its mandate. Evolving cross-cutting themes require new ways of thinking, and new dynamism in their implementation through a multi-disciplinary approach. In order to promote multi-disciplinarity as a fundamental principle for horizontal management, the effectiveness of the already existing inter-sectoral platforms needs to be assessed, criteria for the multi-disciplinary approach created and financial and human resources mobilised to ensure its grounding.

48. The current coordinating inter-sectoral platforms in the C/4 – Africa, Small Island and Developing States, support to countries in post-conflict and post-disaster situations – should be maintained by, later on, integrating them in the overall multi-disciplinary programme implementation. Other cross-cutting themes – like gender equality, human rights, ethics, sustainable development – ought to be mainstreamed across all UNESCO programmes from the next C/4 on.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2008-2013 (34 C/4)

49. Mr Lerouge opened the session by introducing the United Kingdom National Commission's Fact Sheet on UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy.

50. There was a general agreement that the objectives and priority areas as set out in 34 C/4 are well formulated. The language of the C/4 should be refined, less technocratic and simplified, making it more user-friendly and accessible to external stakeholders, civil society and the public at large. The overarching objectives, especially words like attaining, mobilising, addressing should be made clearer. This will help raise the profile of UNESCO and enhance its visibility. A four-year programme cycle was also suggested.

51. "Delivering as One": common country programming exercises should be fully incorporated into the C/4 and better linked with regional efforts and priorities.

52. Following an exchange on the possibility of preparing a shorter, abridged and more user-friendly version of the C/4 it was recalled that this idea has been discussed earlier, in the context of the preparatory work for the previous C/4.

ADOPTION OF THE FINAL REPORT

53. Mr Morgan chaired the session. The presentation of the Draft Final Report was followed by discussion during which some amendments were presented and agreed upon. The final

version would be circulated electronically. The French-speaking National Commissions requested that the French language version of the report be revised after receiving the final draft of the report in the English language version.

54. Mr Morgan warmly thanked the Co-Rapporteurs and the members of the organising team for their work.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

55. Mr Morgan reiterated that it was a great privilege for the participants to the Consultation to have the Director-General spend so much time with them. Her willingness to listen to what the National Commissions of Europe and North America have to say was a very encouraging sign and she could rely on their support and help to carry out the very positive agenda she has set out.

56. Mr Jacques Rao gave a short overview of the current status and future plans of the Division of Relations with Member States and National Commissions and particularly the National Commissions Section. He outlined the distinctive aspects of specificity, continuity and novelty of UNESCO's cooperation with the European and North American National Commissions. He stressed the importance of the National Commissions and their projects for the Organisation and underlined the role of National Commissions in implementing UNESCO normative documents through well planned long term activities. Additionally he highlighted the important role National Commissions will play in the forthcoming process of mapping all the partners for UNESCO worldwide.

57. All participants expressed their warm thanks to the Commission of the United Kingdom for the excellent organisation of the meeting and hospitality.

58. Representatives of the Commissions of Austria, Hungary and Slovakia reconfirmed their readiness to organise the next Consultation in 2012.

59. The representative of the French Commission announced that France is willing to host the Consultation in 2014.

60. Mr Morgan closed the meeting.

Annexes

1. List of participants
2. Opening statements by National Commissions for UNESCO of Europe and North America.
3. Address by Mrs Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the opening of the Director-General's Regional Consultation on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5) with National Commissions for UNESCO of Europe and North America.

ANNEX 1 - PARTICIPANTS

	National Commission			Position
1	Albania	Eni	Jucja	Secretary General
2	Andorra	Joan Miquel	Armengol Petit	Secretary General
3	Armenia	Vahram	Kazhoyan	
4	Austria	Gabriele	Eschig	Secretary General
5	Austria	Maria	Walcher	Head of the National Agency for the Intangible Heritage, Austrian Commission for UNESCO
6	Azerbaijan	Gunay	Afandiyeva	First Secretary
7	Azerbaijan	Leyla	Hajiyeva	
8	Belarus	Elena	Krasovskaya	Secretary General
9	Belgium	Jan	De Bisschop	Secretary General
10	Belgium	Marien	Faure	Secretary General
11	Belgium	Pascal	Gregoire	First Secretary of Embassy
12	Belgium	Walter	Lerouge	Chairperson (President)
13	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Biljana	Camur	Assistant Minister for Science and Culture
14	Canada	Axel	Meisen	President
15	Canada	David	Walden	Secretary General
16	Croatia	Rut	Carek	Secretary General
17	Cyprus	Stylianos	Georgiades	Member of Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, 2nd Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
18	Cyprus	Loukia	Mouyi	Officer/Secretariat
19	Czech Republic	Milan	Kuna	Secretary General
20	Denmark	Linda	Nielsen	Chairman
21	Denmark	Bodil Mørkøv	Ullerup	Secretary General
22	Estonia	Marika	Valk	Secretary General
23	Finland	Zabrina	Holmstrom	Secretary General
24	Finland	Tapio	Markkanen	Chair
25	France	Jean	Audouze	President p.l. de la CNFU
26	Georgia	Ketevan	Kandelaki	Secretary General
27	Germany	Roland Josef	Bernecker	Secretary General
28	Germany	Alexander	Leicht	Head of Secretariat
29	Germany	Verena	Metze-Mangold	Vice President

30	Germany	Anna	Steinkamp	Senior Programme Specialist, Division of Culture, Memory of the World
31	Greece	Maria Aikaterini	Papachristopoulou	President
32	Greece	Charilaos	Pappis	Attache (Culture)
33	Greece	Virginia	Stergiou	Counselor (Education)
34	Hungary	Laszlo	Karvalics	Vice-Chair, National UNESCO Commission, IFAP National Commission, Chair
35	Hungary	Gabor	Soos	World Heritage and International Cooperations Officer
36	Israel	Daniel	Bar-Elli	Secretary General
37	Latvia	Dagnija	Baltina	Secretary General
38	Latvia	Baiba	Molnika	Education Programme Director
39	Lithuania	Ruta	Ambrasuniene	Communication Programme Coordinator
40	Luxembourg	Paul	Klein	Secretary General
41	Luxembourg	Jean-Pierre	Kraemer	Chair
42	Montenegro	Marija	Raznatovic	Secretary General
43	Netherlands	Nico	Evers	Secretary General
44	Netherlands	Els	Jacobs	Senior Policy Officer
45	Netherlands	Greetje	van den Bergh	President
46	Norway	Vigdis	Lian	President
47	Norway	Stig	Pedersen	Secretary General
48	Poland	Tomasz	Komorowski	Project Coordinator
49	Poland	Slawomir	Ratajski	Secretary General
50	Portugal	Fernando	Andresen Guimaraes	President
51	Portugal	Maria Manuela	Anselmo Tavares Galhardo	Secretary General
52	Republic of Moldova	Constantin	Rusnac	Secretary General
53	Romania	Serban	Ursu	Secetaire General
54	Russian Federation	Grigory	Ordzhonikidze	Secretary General
55	Serbia	Jasna	Zrnovic	Secretary General
56	Slovakia	Aurélia	Füle	Counsellor
57	Slovakia	Ludovit	Molnar	Chair
58	Slovenia	Marjutka	Hafner	Secetaire General
59	Slovenia	Tomaz Gasper	Hrastelj	Undersecretary
60	Spain	Luís Ignacio Ramallo	Massanet	President
61	Sweden	Mats	Djurberg	Secretary General
62	Sweden	Emma	Jansson	Clerical Officer
63	Switzerland	Francesca	Gemnetti	President
64	Switzerland	Nicolas Rene	Mathieu	Deputy SG

65	Switzerland	Madeleine	Vivani-Schaerer	Secretary General
66	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Lidija	Topuzovska	Secretary General
67	Turkey	Nabi	Avci	Chairperson
68	Turkey	Nihat	Zal	Secretary General
69	Ukraine	Roksolana	Ivanchako	Deputy Secretary General
70	Ukraine	Oleg	Yatsenkivskyi	Secretary General
71	United Kingdom	Alec	Boksenberg	Board of Directors, Sciences Committee
72	United Kingdom	Sue	Davis	Board of Directors, Culture Committee
73	United Kingdom	John	Morgan	Chair, Board of Directors
74	United Kingdom	Harry	Reeves	Secretary General
75	United Kingdom	Tim	Williams	Board of Directors, C&I Committee
76	United States	David	Ostroff	Senior Advisor for Communications

	Observers			Position
1	Faroe Islands	Aki	Johansen	Representative of the Faroes in London
2	Morocco	Touriya	Majdouline	Secretary General
3	Trinidad & Tobago	Susan	Shurland	Secretary General
4	Uganda	Augustine	Omare-Okurut	Secretary General
5	Uzbekistan	Alisher	Ikramov	Secretary General
6	UK Ambassador to UNESCO	Matthew	Sudders	UK Ambassador to UNESCO
7	UNESCO Independent External Evaluation (IEE) team	Elliot	Stern	Head
8	UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee	Bernard	Loing	President

	UNESCO Secretariat			Position
1	UNESCO Secretariat	Irina	Bokova	Director-General
2	UNESCO Secretariat	Frederique	Aubert	Programme Specialist, Culture Sector, Executive Office
3	UNESCO Secretariat	Dendev	Badarch	Director, UNESCO Moscow Office
4	UNESCO Secretariat	Xiaolin	Cheng	Chief of National Commissions Section
5	UNESCO Secretariat	Paul	De Guchteneire	Chief of International Migration and Urbanization Section, Manager Intersectional Platform on Strengthening National Research Systems
6	UNESCO Secretariat	Hans	d'Orville	Deputy Director-General a.i., Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning

7	UNESCO Secretariat	Astrid	Gillet	Chief a.i. Strategic Planning & Monitoring Unit, Executive Office, Education Sector
8	UNESCO Secretariat	Bernard	Hadjadj	Director, Bureau of Field Coordination
9	UNESCO Secretariat	Lynne	Patchett	World Heritage Centre, Programme Specialist, Partnerships
10	UNESCO Secretariat	Ann-Belinda	Preis	Senior Programme Specialist, Bureau of Strategic Planning
11	UNESCO Secretariat	Jacques	Rao	Director, Relations with Member States and National Commissions
12	UNESCO Secretariat	Engelbert	Ruoss	Director, UNESCO Venice Office
13	UNESCO Secretariat	Mogens	Schmidt	Deputy Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information
14	UNESCO Secretariat	Bobir	Tukhtabayev	Programme Specialist, National Commissions Section
15	UNESCO Secretariat	Yolande	Valleneff	Director, Bureau of the Budget
16	UNESCO Secretariat	Peter James	Wells	Director a.i., UNESCO-CEPES (UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education / Centre européen pour l'enseignement supérieur (CEPES))

UK National Commission and Newsroom Staff			Position	
1	UK National Commission	Lore	Arthur	Education Committee
2	UK National Commission	Natasha	Bevan	Senior Programme Specialist (Sciences)
3	UK National Commission	Anne	Breivik	Programme Specialist (Culture), ASPnet National Coordinator
4	UK National Commission	Alba	de Souza	Senior Programme Specialist (Education)
5	UK National Commission	Thelma	Henderson	Education Committee
6	UK National Commission	Isabelle	Uny	Programme Specialist and Fundraiser
7	UK National Commission	Ian	White	Communications Officer, Programme Specialist (C&I)
8	Newsroom	Francesca	Carnibella	Newsroom Staff
9	Newsroom	Rebecca	John	Newsroom Staff
10	Newsroom	Beth	Kreling	Newsroom Staff
11	Newsroom	Amanda	Millhouse	Newsroom Staff
12	Newsroom	Vanessa	Moore	Newsroom Staff
13	Newsroom	Frances	Peto	Newsroom Staff
14	Newsroom	Sian	Toogood	Newsroom Staff

ANNEX 2

Opening Statements by National Commissions for UNESCO of Europe and North America

Déclarations liminaires des commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO d'Europe et d'Amérique du Nord

Armenian National Commission for UNESCO Commission nationale arménienne pour l'UNESCO
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Mr Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our hosts: to the United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO and the Secretariat. I am confident, that with your leadership this forum will become a significant step towards the next General Conference and will assist tremendously to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget 2012/2013.

Since the first day of its membership to this Organization, Armenia's policy in cooperation with UNESCO has pursued the goal of benefiting from its enormous capacity, and adding value through contribution by its own cultural values, scientific and educational potential in the achievement of UNESCO's noble goals.

We welcome the policy of the Organization in the context of the overall UN reform, to bring its offices close to the regions it deals with and become a more active member of the UN country team in the implementation of "One-UN" concept. The conclusion of the UNESCO Country Programming Document of Cooperation between UNESCO and the Republic of Armenia in March 2008 provides with ample opportunities to extend its activities in Armenia by developing inter-sectoral country programmes linked with and complementary to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

Armenia has developed vast cooperation with UNESCO in all areas of its interest, implementing multiple programmes and initiatives. Armenia attaches great importance to all of UNESCO's initiatives in the region. We believe, that in UNESCO, we might have better chance in achieving our objectives, because the fields of interest are those that should have cross the borders and frontiers naturally, despite differences and distances and despite histories and memories. Unfortunately, sometimes, politics has interfered in the noble goals, with disastrous results for the humankind's cultural heritage. We have to have courage to face the challenging truth and be able to overcome these obstacles.

I assume, many of you will agree, that we need new, contemporary approaches in the formation of the National Commissions – a unique institution, where the intellectual and responsible representatives of the nation are working together on elaboration of priorities and programmes for their respective countries. No other UN Agency has such a consultative body composed of the best representatives of the society.

Dear colleagues,

As I am a newly appointed Secretary General of the Armenian National Commission for UNESCO, I am very much keen in the flawless continuation of our work and would like to learn about best practices and success stories in the other countries, the representatives of which are present at this Regional Consultation.

I thank you Mr Chair.

Andorran National Commission for UNESCO Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO

La Commission nationale andorrane pour l'UNESCO, basée à Escaldes-Engordany, est un organe semi gouvernemental de coopération avec l'Organisation créé en 1996, trois ans après l'adhésion de l'Andorre. L'objectif principal de la Commission nationale est d'établir un lien entre la société civile et l'UNESCO.

Elle coordonne les activités du Gouvernement andorran liés à l'UNESCO, mais aussi celles de différentes organisations andorranes issues de la société civile se consacrant à promouvoir les programmes et les idéaux de l'UNESCO (organisations non gouvernementales, associations à but non lucratif, fondations...). Elle assure la liaison entre les différents acteurs des activités en cours et permet le partage des informations.

Très au fait de l'activité sur le terrain et des besoins dans les différents champs d'action de l'UNESCO, la Commission nationale a également un rôle de conseil auprès des autorités andorranes, conçoit des plans d'actions, propose des projets, conduit des recherches. Elle élabore les orientations de base de l'action de l'Andorre vis-à-vis de l'UNESCO et effectue les analyses et recherches nécessaires à l'avancement de grands projets (comme les questions liées aux conventions internationales). Elle aide également l'UNESCO à évaluer l'impact de ses activités.

Tous les deux ans la CN organise, en alternance, une rencontre internationale d'artistes peintres appelé Art camp. L'année suivante la CN réunit une vingtaine de jeunes venus du monde entier dans le cadre du Camp international de la vallée du Madriu-Perafita-Claror, paysage culturel inscrit à la Liste du Patrimoine mondial en 2004. Dans les deux cas la collaboration des autres CN pour la sélection de participants est essentielle.

Cette année la CN organise le 2e Art camp qui réunira près de 40 artistes venus de plus de 20 pays différents entre le 18 et le 29 juillet. Cette rencontre donnera lieu à une exposition itinérante que nous serons heureux d'envoyer dans tous les pays désireux de la recevoir.

La Commission nationale fait également bénéficier les représentants de l'Andorre à la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO de son expérience sur les sujets débattus dans ces instances.

La Commission nationale est actuellement présidée par Mr Joan Peruga, professeur et écrivain.

Austrian Commission for UNESCO
Commission autrichienne pour l'UNESCO

The Austrian Commission for UNESCO is honoured to engage in the Regional Consultations for the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget 2012-2013.

UNESCO's future will be determined by its performance today. Let me share some of our Commission's considerations to the subject.

1. The core areas of UNESCO's activities should be global activities, namely policy advice and standard setting. UNESCO should help countries to translate objectives into effective policy and action in the field rather than carrying out small scale projects itself.
2. Looking at the actual Draft Programme and Budget, it is obvious that we, the Member States, once again were asking UNESCO to do too much with too little resources. The 35 C/5 Approved is ambitious. We need to be more realistic in order to narrow the gap between expectations and achievements.

Therefore the Austrian Commission emphasizes a more rigorous focus on priorities and quality results. Top priorities need proper allocations – take the example of Gender Equality. Activities of less relevance need to be dropped.

3. "UNESCO National Commissions, one of UNESCO's faithful allies, also deserve full support and recognition for their remarkable work. No other UN institution has established such a mechanism. It is unique to our Organization and anchors UNESCO at national level. I therefore intend to reinforce our ties with National Commissions ..."
(quoted from Mrs Bokova's speech of investiture at the General Conference on 23 October 2009).

Via National Commissions UNESCO could achieve greater responsibility and involvement of Member States in programme implementation. Closer cooperation of National Commissions with the Secretariat would further increase the impact of the Organization. Therefore the institutionalisation of this cooperation should be a critical element of the next C5 and Medium-Term Strategy. This is also relevant in working towards "One United Nation" at country-level as well as in the context of decentralisation.

4. The Regional Consultations are a very important moment for National Commissions to contribute to the strategic planning of the Organization. In order to make our voice better heard Austria would like to see the five reports of the five Regional Consultations be summarized in one document.

National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO
Commission nationale de la République d'Azerbaïdjan

Dear Mr Chairman,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me express my gratitude for the invitation to participate at this meeting and on behalf of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO to thank the organizers of the event. I am sure that, this meeting will achieve its intended objectives, and will contribute to further deepening of relations between UNESCO and Member States.

Azerbaijan, having been a member of UNESCO since 1992, has significantly expanded its relations with the organization. Cooperation between our country and UNESCO in such areas as culture, education, science, communication and information technology is rapidly developing. Azerbaijan acceded to more than 10 Statutory Acts of UNESCO within the last years. At present, large-scale projects such as Education for all, Man and Biosphere, International Hydrological Programme, Bioethics, World Cultural Heritage, Information for All, Fight against illegal import and export of cultural values, Information technologies, Fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property, Associative Schools, UNESCO Chairs, Development of vocational education are successfully implemented in Azerbaijan.

Certainly, speaking about the development and deepening of relations between UNESCO and Azerbaijan, it is necessary to note that activities of Heydar Aliyev Foundation and its president – a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador – Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva who made an immense contribution to national cultural heritage and the report of this cultural heritage to the world community. Also, I am pleased to note that on April 28, 2010 at the meeting with the First Lady of Azerbaijan Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva the newly elected Director-General of UNESCO Mrs Irina Bokova commended Mrs Aliyeva's activities as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and expressed interest in the further cooperation, as well as noticed her intention to visit Azerbaijan in the near future.

The cooperation with UNESCO Moscow Office has also a positive role in the developing relations between Azerbaijan and UNESCO, as well as with other UNESCO National Commissions. Decentralization helps facilitating the realization of projects more effectively and gives fruitful results. Azerbaijan National Commission implements several projects with the support of the UNESCO Moscow Office. The role of the Office in organizing of the UNESCO experts' visit to Baku in order to provide recommendations for the preparation of the Azerbaijan National Science and Technology Strategy should be underlined. Within the framework of UNESCO's competence, the Moscow Office took an active stance in UNDAF process in Azerbaijan and implementation of UCPD.

As stated above, Azerbaijan Government and National Commission for UNESCO attaches special importance to the cultural, educational, scientific, information and communication spheres and implement lots of activities in this direction.

Activities undertaken in the framework of cooperation between Azerbaijan and UNESCO in the field of culture are of significant importance. Several projects on the fields of music, painting, literature, arts education, preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage are implemented and is planned to be implemented in the next years in Azerbaijan. Our country, under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev pays special attention to the protection of cultural heritage. But, unfortunately a large number of cultural, historical, architectural and archaeological monuments of Azerbaijan have been damaged during the military operations, and most of them still remain under occupation of the neighbour country. Thousands of historical artefacts and manuscripts have been lost in recent years. Azerbaijan has repeatedly proposed to establish a special mission composed of UNESCO

experts in this field. An approval was received from the organization, but unfortunately, the issue is dragging on and cannot find a solution.

I hope UNESCO will assist in finding and restoring of these cultural properties. As Director-General of UNESCO Mrs Irina Bokova said, guided by the Concept of New Humanism: "Culture is the best way to promote the strengthening of peace and tolerance". I believe these noble ideas will find their implementation.

I would like to inform you that rapid economic development of Azerbaijan has created conditions for the implementation of different projects in the sphere of education as well. It would be appropriate to conduct relevant trainings and seminars in Baku for successful implementation of those projects. This also includes education reforms for the purpose of further integration into European space of higher education, implementing a structuring of academic degrees in higher education and devoting attention on the development of the system of secondary education by UNESCO.

Azerbaijan supports the policy of UNESCO conducted in the field of sciences and carries out active work in this direction. The "National Strategy on Science Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2009-2015" and relevant State Programme have been adopted by Presidential Order of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this regard, activities in natural, social and human sciences, biodiversity, water sciences, climate changes, biosphere reserves are still implemented by the Government and relevant institutions of the country.

Coming to the information and technology sphere, I would like to stress that reforms in this sphere are also maintained. Free and independent communication, as well as universal access to information has always been an important cornerstone for Azerbaijani society. In this regard, trainings and seminars by UNESCO experts would be of significant importance for Azerbaijan and promote development of cooperation between Azerbaijan and UNESCO in this priority direction of the organization.

Summing up, I would like to express my confidence that this regional meeting will create better opportunities for the expansion of cooperation among the countries through exchange in the fields of science, education, culture and the information and will strive for the adoption of strategy of the Organization for 2012-2013.

<p>Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO Commission nationale de la république de biélarus pour l'UNESCO</p>

In Belarus the Questionnaire from the Director-General on the draft programme and budget for 2012-2013 was discussed together with governmental and non-governmental (NGOs) organizations of Belarus, the answers was summarized and we reached the following overall results.

Regarding basic principles of programming: nothing to be add for the structure document 36 C/5 where by each Major Programme would have one principal priority and a limited of other priorities. In each Major Programme two-years sectoral's priorities should be maintained.

As for intersectoral platform: in our opinion, it is more, than enough – 12 intersectorality activities. UNESCO should proceed pursuing the intersectoral activities by: – priority ranking and effectiveness; – activities at regional and inter-regional level; – involvement of a wide spectrum of partners.

Programme priorities. On May 18-20, 2010 a cluster consultations with National Commissions of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and Russian Federation of the UNESCO Moscow Office was held in Chisinau (Moldova) to discuss the Programme Priority areas for 2012-2013. The Cluster countries position according the above priorities will be presented by Secretary-General of National Commission for Russian Federation.

Concerning the visibility of UNESCO. To improve the visibility of the UNESCO and further the role of National Commissions the following measures are required:

- increasing the volume of the Participation Programme;
- coordination of the implementation of national projects (including cluster level) with the relevant National Commissions;
- fostering day-to-day collaboration between National Commissions and the UNESCO Secretariat;
- promoting collaboration between National Commissions and the UNESCO Secretariat regarding the implementation of bi- and multilateral projects;
- strengthening the role of National Commissions on a country level, development and strengthening partnerships with state institutions and NGO's, widening fields of activity;
- strengthening National Commissions through regular training, provided by relevant Cluster Offices and Headquarters.

I would like to draw your attention that after Consultation it is necessary to analyze all kind of National Commission's proposals to include them in 36 C/5.

Belgium: Flemish – and French and German speaking Commissions for UNESCO

Déclaration commune de la Belgique: Commission belge francophone et germanophone et Commission flamande pour l'UNESCO

The two Commissions for UNESCO of Belgium want to express their sincere appreciation for the Director-General's "New positive approach" towards National Commissions as a constitutional part of UNESCO, and as a valuable and important instrument of the Organization.

On the occasion of this year's Regional Consultation, for the first time with the presence of Director-General Mrs Bokova, we call for a "Time for Further Action", and we ask for concrete measures to strengthen the links and to enhance the cooperation between the Organization and the world wide network of 196 National Commissions, unique in the UN-system.

National Commissions can play a key role in order to enhance the intellectual and operational mission of the Organization on the international stage. We therefore stress the

need to receive clear guidelines of what services our Commissions can render to the Secretariat and its renewed senior management team in the context of UN Reform and the “Delivering as One” approach. Capacity building measures for National Commissions to face this challenge are required, in order to be able to provide adequate support to the Secretariat in its activities.

As the two Belgian Commissions for UNESCO present here we are also particularly well placed to stress the importance of cultural diversity and to ask that it remains central to the Organisation’s mandate. Acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity are essential to the dialogue among civilizations and cultures.

Le lancement de l’Année internationale du Rapprochement des Cultures nous donne l’occasion de rappeler notre attachement à ce que les conditions d’un dialogue ouvert et respectueux soient établies et renforcées afin que chacun puisse entendre « l’Autre » dans son expression identitaire, dans sa différence et s’enrichisse ainsi mutuellement.

Toutefois, la diversité culturelle ne peut prospérer que dans un environnement où les libertés fondamentales et les droits humains sont respectés. Que serait l’affirmation de la diversité sans que soient garanties la liberté d’expression, d’information, de communication? Car les différences culturelles ne peuvent contrevenir à l’universalité des droits humains. Nous souhaitons donc encourager l’Organisation dans ses efforts pour la création d’un environnement favorable à la libre expression des droits culturels.

Mais la culture de l’Autre est aussi et souvent dans les pays développés celle de l’Autre présent sur nos territoires, dont la diversité et les droits humains doivent être également reconnus. Nous voudrions donc que l’UNESCO s’engage résolument à travers ses activités dans le secteur des sciences sociales à la gestion des questions, voire des conflits, que peuvent faire surgir la mondialisation et les phénomènes de migrations qu’elle a fait naître.

Enfin, il est un pan des activités de l’organisation qui nous semble aujourd’hui encore insuffisamment développé, c’est celui de l’éthique entendue comme un ensemble de principes et de valeurs partagés par l’ensemble de l’Humanité.

A cet égard, nous voudrions apporter notre plein soutien aux initiatives actuellement menées au sein de l’Organisation, au travers des travaux du Comité international de bioéthique ou de la Commission mondiale d’éthique des connaissances scientifiques et des technologies, ou encore via la rédaction dans le cadre du Programme Information pour Tous, d’un projet de Code d’éthique pour la société de l’information. Leur adoption constituerait pour nous un progrès majeur dans le domaine de l’éthique.

As Commissions for UNESCO in Belgium we most welcome the Director-General’s decision to establish in Brussels a liaison office for cooperation with the institutions of the European Union. This office will enable UNESCO to create new partnerships, and set up joint initiatives in common fields of interest.

I thank you for your attention.

Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Commission canadienne pour l'UNESCO

Moving from the C/4 to the C/5

The UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2008–2013 (34 C/4) represents a genuine attempt to take an intersectoral approach to the work of UNESCO, while the subsequent Programmes and Budgets to implement it have emphasized the administrative structure of UNESCO – the programme sectors – and not the goals of the Organization. The draft 36 C/5 offers one last opportunity to change this.

A Strong Intersectoral Approach

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO is committed to intersectorality and takes an interdisciplinary approach to many of its activities when implementing UNESCO programme activities in Canada. It is possible therefore to work across sectoral boundaries but this will require a “culture shift” within UNESCO.

The Commission favours the inclusion of a limited number of thematic intersectoral platforms in the next Programme and Budget, with clear objectives, attainable results, and adequate resources to enable them to achieve their objectives. The contribution of the programme activities to the advancement of the “coordinating intersectoral platforms” (Priority Africa, gender, SIDS and Support to countries in post-conflict situations) should be a key factor when determining whether or not they are retained.

Education

UNESCO must actively play its coordinating role in education and work collaboratively at the country level through the activities of UN country teams. It must do this under the leadership of the Member States and respond to their priorities and realities with a view to developing and implementing effective, inclusive policies and actions to enhance the quality of education, and with it, contribute to improved health, economic development, and poverty reduction.

Teacher training, capacity building in lifelong learning, and an enhanced role for TVET must remain as priorities. Greater emphasis should also be placed on North-South cooperation and international exchanges.

Natural Sciences

Continued emphasis should be placed on promoting inclusive science – including women, youth, local and traditional knowledge – through the development of partnerships. The sharing of good practices and lessons learned from UNESCO networks, particularly Biosphere Reserves, should be encouraged in promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration and engagement in sustainable development.

A reduction in the number of programme activities is required to maximize impact, and UNESCO must resist the temptation to become involved in the administratively-heavy processes of designating new types of “special areas” (such as Geoparks, model urban areas) and managing a series of isolated programmes. Instead, the focus must be on UNESCO’s role as a convenor, facilitator, and builder of capacity.

Social Sciences

Special efforts should be made to facilitate the sharing of research studies from networks like MOST and the Coalition of Cities Against Racism, and in rapidly changing fields such as bioethics, with the other sectors to identify and analyse trends, and to develop comprehensive responses and action plans. Similarly, internal mechanisms should be established whereby the other sectors and UNESCO networks seek the expertise of the social sciences and humanities on issues such as climate change, sustainable development, cultural diversity, and ICTs, all of which have strong social implications.

Culture

UNESCO must continue to promote its seven normative instruments in culture but must also learn to manage the expectations of Member States with respect to the designation of World Heritage Sites and Intangible Cultural Heritage to maintain the integrity of these programmes.

Emphasis should also be placed on the promotion of culture and heritage as a driver for economic development. This should be seen as an intersectoral activity that also involves education, societal transformations, and sustainable development. Cultural diversity is both fundamental to, and implicit in, this approach.

Communication and Information

Freedom of expression must remain at the heart of all UNESCO's programme activities. UNESCO must move beyond the artificial separation of communication and information-sharing as the responsibility of one sector and recognize that information and communication technologies present ethical, social and legal challenges that have an impact across programme areas. Without a transversal approach that horizontally integrates these responsibilities, UNESCO will not be able to achieve its goals in education, the sciences and culture.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

UNESCO possesses significant expertise in many areas but its potential in policy development is not being realized. If UNESCO is to play a key role in strengthening dialogue and sharing of experiences among government decision makers, researchers, civil society, business, the UN system and regional institutions, it must use this expertise to facilitate the development of high quality policy responses for the attainment of the MDGs related to UNESCO's mandate.

Culture of Peace

Culture of peace must be more than a slogan and instead become the unifying force that brings together UNESCO's diverse activities. As a renewed objective, it must become fundamental to the concept of "learning to live together" manifested in UNESCO's priority areas: sustainable development, cultural diversity, education for all, ethics, human rights, gender equality, and freedom of expression and freedom of information.

Visibility of UNESCO

The UNESCO "brand" remains strong, as does the convening power of UNESCO. The real problem may be more one of not receiving credit for what is done than lack of visibility. New media and the use of "multiple platforms" for information-sharing must be used to reach younger audiences. Greater attention must also be paid to including UNESCO's

name in programme titles such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, etc.

Activities to increase UNESCO's visibility should also be concentrated in the Northern Hemisphere as UNESCO continues to enjoy a much higher profile in the South.

National Commissions

National Commissions must strengthen their role as national coordinating bodies and place greater emphasis on the unique relationship they enjoy as the link between the UNESCO Secretariat and the Government of their Member State.

Intra- and inter-regional cooperation between National Commissions should be enhanced through joint projects, partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building.

Many National Commissions in the North need to be better informed of the challenges faced by their counterparts in the South, and to play a role in transmitting relevant information to institutions and organizations in their countries that are involved in international cooperation and solidarity.

Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO Commission nationale chypriote pour l'UNESCO

In today's turbulent world, UNESCO's vision of promoting peace is more pertinent than ever before. In order to respond effectively to the challenges of our times, UNESCO should reclaim its role as the leading global agency in its field of competencies.

Cyprus strongly supports the promotion of a bottom-up approach, investing in the multitude of stakeholders that work along National Commissions to advance UNESCO's vision and goals on a state, regional and international level, such as UNESCO Category II Centres, UNESCO Chairs and the Associated Schools Network. With a systematic dialogue process, the Organization will be able to identify issues of concern to civil society that need to be addressed, as well as receive feedback on the actual effect that its current activities have on the ground. Furthermore, the allocation of funds to a wide spectrum of activities should be re-examined, with the aim of providing targeted funding for actions in key areas of UNESCO's competence.

We are of the opinion that National Commissions should be more involved in the implementation of UNESCO's programme and be encouraged to create stronger networks of cooperation, in order to better fulfill their mandate. Particular focus should be placed on inter-regional cooperation, especially in areas that play the role of meeting points for various cultures and civilisations, such as the Eastern Mediterranean. In this respect, it is extremely important for UNESCO to build on the results achieved through initiatives such as the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2010, with the aim of enhancing further inter-regional cooperation in the context of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue.

UNESCO must also ensure that the inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach launched in the biennium 2008-2009 is further strengthened, with National Commissions contributing to the process.

As an ending note, we underline the importance of enhancing visibility for UNESCO's work and actions. In order to achieve this, UNESCO could develop and implement a more targeted communication strategy to reassert the importance of its mission on a global level and exploit the leverage of its vision so as to mobilise people and states.

Danish National Commission for UNESCO
Commission nationale danoise pour l'UNESCO

These years UNESCO is moving in a promising direction. The organisation has been slimmed and the programmes are more goal-oriented than before.

35 C/5 has been significantly improved. However, UNESCO should continue in 36 C/5 to give more focus to its programme activities, and the C/5 still needs to be significantly shortened and improved in substance. The human rights-based approach is a key word for UNESCO's activities. The regular budget resources and extra budgetary resources need to be better linked to each other and made visible.

We support the results-based programming approach as such and appreciate clear indication of the expected results at the end of the biennium. It is of utmost importance that the Director-General's report on the execution of the programme contains information more conducive to an assessment of UNESCO's capacity to deliver; achieved key results, main challenges, differences between expected results and results achieved and actions regarding the achievement of the expected results.

However, UNESCO must make greater and more targeted efforts to ensure that quality outcome indicators as well as baselines and benchmarks are used throughout the process of drafting C/5 documents in order to support more qualitative outcome-based reporting in future C/3 documents.

It is important to secure that the shortfalls identified by IOS in document 35 C/3 are seriously considered by UNESCO.

UNESCO's function as policy adviser, standard-setter and capacity-builder is important and must be central to the programme delivering. UNESCO needs to define what capacity-building means in UNESCO context and ensure that the organization is working towards the same goal as Member States. Capacity-building is closely linked with the ability to give policy advice at country level. UNESCO staff needs to strengthen its competence in advocacy, analysis, communication skills and cooperating with other UN organizations.

The need for an external evaluation of UNESCO was acknowledged by all Member States last year at the General Conference. We welcome the information the external Evaluation Team has provided during recent briefings, and we expect that the Evaluation Team will provide us with constructive recommendations to be used on the future strategic directions for UNESCO and its position within a reformed UN system.

We support the priority given to Africa and to gender equality and empowerment of women. A gender perspective should permeate all activities of UNESCO.

Estonian National Commission for UNESCO

Commission nationale estonienne pour l'UNESCO

We believe the main aim of the future 36 C/5 should be to contribute to the attainment of the MDG's and other internationally agreed development goals by focusing on UNESCO's competencies. We appreciate the work done in improving the design of the recent C/4 and C/5 documents, but Estonia would still like to see a clearer list of priorities in more user-friendly wording. The intersectoral and interdisciplinary initiatives of UNESCO are not yet effective enough; we seem to have so many priorities that our focus gets blurred. UNESCO work is not widely known in its Member States and improvement is necessary in public relations and the media. The latest reports show that overall progress has been too slow to achieve the key goals of EFA and MDG's by 2015

UNESCO has always stressed the importance of civil society's involvement in programme delivery and in policy advice. This is probably one of the reasons why during recent years the empowerment of National Commissions for UNESCO has become an important issue. The new approach taken in the Director-General's last consultations with the National Commissions of Europe and North America has demonstrated clearly the increasing potential of them. Estonia strongly supports the enhancement of National Commissions and their networks, and we encourage UNESCO to take further steps in clarifying the role and the status of National Commissions.

During recent years Estonia has become increasingly engaged in UNESCO's activities and we are ready to contribute even more in the future. We believe that UNESCO's main function should be policy advice and capacity development. Thus we wish to foster the involvement of experts from different countries and especially to develop North-South cooperation.

Issues of central importance to UNESCO, such as high quality inclusive education, education for sustainable development, cultural diversity, ethics, heritage, to name just a few, are becoming more important in our own national policy and we are looking forward to regional and international cooperation in these fields. Estonian experts are already internationally active in ICT in education, bioethics, cultural heritage, lifelong learning, Man and the Biosphere Programme.

Finnish National Commission for UNESCO

Commission nationale finlandaise pour l'UNESCO

- Clear preference for longer four year programme cycles, budgets to be adjusted on shorter intervals.
- Human rights based, interdisciplinary and flexible modes of programmes (gender, sustainable development & climate change, intercultural dialogue...).
- Core programmes need core funding from regular budget. Substantial savings to be made: reallocations from administration to programmes, stronger discipline and a more focused C/5.
- Expectations on External Evaluation.

- Continued comprehensive approach to programme review: means of addressing relevance of activities, and phasing them in and out. This, with increased intersectorality, supports approach to allow UNESCO itself to "deliver as one".
- Centrality of UN Reform Process. Cooperation within the UN to be intensified and overlaps avoided in "grey" areas.
- Policy advice, capacity-building and standard-setting: foremost functions in programme design and delivery throughout sectors.
- Progress in programme and strategy development, BUT still: too many MLAs, fragmented action and a myriad of performance indicators. Too big a project portfolio.
- Need for analytical reporting, needs assessment, impact analysis, monitoring, benchmarking, follow-up and verification (re. 184 EX/Part II). Difficult to see how action has benefitted individual or groups of Member States at large etc.
- Most artificial if two MPs on Science are maintained.
- Need for development and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative indicators.
- Statistics are crucial, incl. gender aggregated.
- Mainstreaming generally leads nowhere if no one is in charge. There must be a clear sense of ownership of overarching issues, including resource allocation -> fewer, but better resourced intersectoral platforms.
- Need to show results and positive, offensive action and cooperation.
- Effective branding of UNESCO for visibility and credibility profile.
- Urgent to improve decision making processes -> sub-committees for each programme area in addition to improvement of working methods of EXB and GC.
- Absolute programme priority: EFA, imperative to achieve global momentum. It is not yet maintained -> MDG review.
- Recommendation to the DG to present a more succinct and 'bold' first Draft C/5 to the EXB. The present process and format open up for inclusion of less relevant activities.

French National Commission for UNESCO **Commission française pour l'UNESCO**

La Commission française pour l'UNESCO (CNFU) félicite la Commission britannique et en particulier le Professeur Alec Boksenberg pour l'excellence de l'organisation de cette réunion importante. Elle tient également à exprimer ses remerciements envers le Secrétariat de l'Organisation pour la qualité des documents préparatoires qui vont être discutés ici à l'occasion de la discussion et de la réparation du 36 C/5. Elle se félicite de la réaffirmation fréquente par Madame Irina Bokova du rôle indispensable des commissions nationales dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des programmes de l'UNESCO.

La Commission française est en cours de réorganisation : le nombre de ses membres passe de plus de 200 à 66. Le (la) futur(e) président(e) doit être nommé(e) après une élection qui se tiendra le 6 juillet prochain et un nouveau secrétaire général doit prendre ses fonctions le 1er septembre. Malgré ces changements profonds, la Commission française a répondu au questionnaire envoyé aux Etats membres par la Directrice générale. Cette réponse sera incorporée en totalité ou en partie dans celle de la France qui sera officiellement adressée à l'UNESCO par Madame l'Ambassadeur, Représentante permanente de la France.

La position de la Commission française peut être résumée comme suit : la CNFU approuve les priorités essentielles proposées par l'UNESCO (contributions à la culture de la paix, aide renforcée au continent africain, prise en compte accrue des demandes formulées par les jeunes et des actions en faveur de la parité.

En matière d'Education, la CNFU reprend à son compte les trois priorités exprimées dans ce domaine: éducation pour tous en mettant l'accent sur la formation des enseignants et le soutien à leur apporter, éducation technique et professionnelle et éducation au développement durable. Concernant les sciences exactes et naturelles, priorité doit être donnée au renforcement des capacités liées à l'amélioration des politiques scientifiques et à la gestion des ressources naturelles (dont l'eau potable) et des énergies et plus généralement à la protection de l'environnement, ainsi qu'au soutien des grands programmes (COI, MAB, PHI, PICG et PISF). Les considérations liées à l'éthique (en relation avec la COMEST et le CIB) doivent être la priorité du secteur Sciences Humaines et Sociales avec celles qui concernent les Droits de l'Homme.

La gestion des patrimoines matériels et immatériels revêt une très grande importance dans le domaine de la Culture ainsi que la préservation et la promotion de la diversité culturelle. Enfin, en matière de communication, la CNFU souhaite mettre l'accent sur la liberté de la presse et des médias et sur la liberté et l'équité concernant l'accès aux nouvelles techniques de l'information.

La mise en place de plates-formes intersectorielles telles que celles qui pourraient concerner l'éducation artistique ou l'éducation aux sciences apparaît très prometteuse. La CNFU, enfin, réaffirme l'importance des réseaux des chaires UNESCO et des Ecoles associées.

La CNFU souhaite renforcer ses liens avec les ONG oeuvrant dans les domaines qui viennent d'être mentionnés. Elle souhaite que le secrétariat se concentre sur quelques éléments de programmes qu'il pourrait réaliser rapidement et concrètement. Elle est heureuse de participer à cette réunion rassemblant l'ensemble des commissions européennes et d'Amérique du Nord. Elle souhaite renforcer ses liens et envisager des collaborations avec ces dernières. Enfin, elle propose d'accueillir la réunion de 2014 de ces commissions nationales, idéalement en collaboration avec une ou deux autres commissions nationales francophones.

National Commission of Georgia for UNESCO
Commission nationale de géorgie pour l'UNESCO

It is my honour and privilege to be engaged in the regional consultation on UNESCO's main programme orientations for the next biennium and on behalf of the Georgian National Commission for UNESCO to present some considerations on the C/5 document.

We see the need to precisely scrutinize over Organization's programme priorities and activities, as well as to focus on development and effective use of operational capacities of the Member States, especially through the National Commissions. We welcome the extremely positive approach that Director-General is holding towards the role of National Commissions and deem it essential that the Organization continues and intensifies its

assistance to the capacity building of NatComs. National Commissions should be considered as the key partners in programme evaluation, delivery and execution and their role should be clearly delineated in order to ensure their effective involvement.

UNESCO should focus on standard setting, policy advice and its implementation. At the same time such activities as sharing best practices, enhancing cooperation between the Member States, as well as exchanging information on accomplishments made in the framework of UNESCO programmes would significantly increase the impact and visibility of the Organization.

Considerations along UNESCO Major Programmes:

Education sector should support capacity building and sharing best practices for achieving Dakar goals. Concentration on quality higher and vocational education is important in terms of contribution to poverty alleviation and economic growth.

Effective response to increasing environmental challenges: climate change, biodiversity, water resources management and ethics in science and technology are the key issues for the Sciences programme. UNESCO could also reinforce its role in assisting countries in national science policy priority formulation aimed at development of innovative technologies and researches.

We express our support for priorities of the culture programme, namely for safeguarding and preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and the dialogue of cultures. UNESCO should aim to advance the application of the standard setting instruments related to these issues and the incorporation of their principles in national policies of the States. Strong emphasis should be placed on the preservation and protection of cultural heritage in case of armed conflicts. We would like to stress the crucial role of museums in delivering UNESCO ideals around the world and see the need for establishing strong link between museum programme and education. Taking into account culture's fundamental role in building more sustainable strategies for development, we deem it essential to foster integration of culture and heritage studies in educational programmes.

As regards to Communication and Information sector programme priorities, we see the need to reinforcement and increasing visibility of the Memory of the World Programme. Freedom of the press, media and information literacy, as essential prerequisites for advancing democratic knowledge societies should remain the key priorities.

In closing, let me also stress the need for enhancement of UNESCO's role in protection of human rights in the spheres of the competence of the Organization, especially the right to education in native language and cultural rights in general.

German Commission for UNESCO
Commission allemande pour l'UNESCO

UNESCO's mission to build peace in the minds of men today remains more relevant than ever. An efficient, dynamic and strategically focused UNESCO can make an essential

contribution to shaping globalization with a human face – by promoting equity, diversity, and sustainability. Equity encompasses the equal respect and dignity of all persons, and equal access to essential goods for all. Diversity promotes respect for individual and cultural differences, and fosters dialogue between contrasting views on the basis of shared values. Sustainable development entails a life that does not endanger the life prospects of future generation and that ensures justice on a global scale.

On that basis, allow me briefly to share some key strategic orientations and priorities that we see for UNESCO in the coming two years:

We highly welcome the increased attention that the new Director-General has given to UNESCO National Commissions. National Commissions are indeed an integral part of UNESCO. They are the key agents for giving relevance and visibility to UNESCO's programme at the national level, in particular, by ensuring a multi-stakeholder approach bringing together politics and civil society.

We remain convinced that Education for Sustainable Development is crucial for ensuring humanity's progress towards a just future for all. Societies and individuals need to learn how to contribute to a development that integrates environmental, economic and social concerns. The UNESCO World Conference last year in Bonn forcefully emphasized this key priority and also called upon better synergies with the Education for All agenda, which rightly remains the top priority of the Organization. We see Inclusive Education as a further important priority for UNESCO and an important contribution to quality education.

In the Natural Sciences we see the construction of national scientific infrastructures as a decisive element on the path to sustainable development, together with the areas of freshwater, oceans and terrestrial ecosystems management. In the Social and Human Sciences, the global ethical-philosophical discourse on scientific progress and its consequences is an area where UNESCO needs to position itself.

The UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions will become fully operational with the operational guidelines finalized and adopted. The Convention will set new milestones for cultural policies and cultural cooperation globally. It has already given new impetus to integrate culture within development policies. Its dynamic implementation needs to play a central role in the coming years. This is of interest for the European region as well. Therefore, we welcome the newly intensified relations between UNESCO and the European Union.

Regarding the Communication Programme, freedom of expression and freedom of information are indispensable human rights. They are conditions for a democratic society and for civic participation. UNESCO is the only UN Organization that has the mandate to defend the human right of freedom of expression and freedom of the press. It is hence of great importance that it does so with a strong voice. The complex question of access to information should be accorded more importance in the future, and the question of freedom of information in a digital world.

As a cross-cutting issue we would like to emphasize the importance of partnerships with the private sector. UNESCO's unique organization structure is able to create excellent conditions for the internationalization of public private partnerships. On the assumption that corporate social responsibility is increasingly becoming an important aspect of strategic

business management, UNESCO is currently enjoying a comparative lead over many other organizations.

Finally, especially with regard to the discussions of the coming days, we would also like to draw attention to the necessity for our National Commissions of the Europe and North America Region to better discuss and define our relation to European and especially European-integration processes. Of equal importance is our cooperation in a spirit of partnership with the National Commissions of the other world regions.

We hope that on the basis of the priorities for the new UNESCO programme sketched out here, the Organization will manage to assert its voice to promote a globalization in human dignity.

Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO
Commission nationale hellénique pour l'UNESCO

Dear Mr President,
Dear friends,

It is a great pleasure to be here with all of you distinguished people, who work hard and believe in the ideals of UNESCO.

Particularly during this period of economic and environmental crisis, resulting to poverty, immigration, energy problems and ethical issues at stake, the role of UNESCO seems to be more crucial than ever and it should move from theory to concrete action.

To implement these actions we need intellectual, as well as new financial partners since I believe that the extra budgetary funds of UNESCO will be influenced by the current crisis.

We should all bear in mind that working with governments and civil society, private sector institutions and foundations is critical. Moreover, City and Parliamentarian Networks should be included in UNESCO's priorities and a monitoring mechanism for its programmes should be formulated.

Bridging the gap between policy makers, researchers, scientists and practitioners is an added value and it should be included as a priority in all fields of UNESCO's competences.

I am very pleased to see that within UNESCO's priorities Africa and gender issues are included. Basic education should be activated increasing the relevant funding and the necessary staff at UNESCO Headquarters.

In Europe, special focus should be placed in quality and inclusive education. Additionally, human rights, multicultural education and education for sustainable development should be strengthened and included in educational curricula.

For culture, priority should be placed on Cultural Heritage as a key driver for sustainable development. Furthermore, community involvement, conservation, safeguarding of cultural properties and intercultural dialogue should be promoted.

Emphasis should additionally be placed on museums' development, protection of cultural objects, creative industries, diversity of cultural expressions, as well as in relevant policies and indicators. At the same time, UNESCO should focus on the link between culture and sustainable development, taking in consideration the global environmental and economical crisis.

We believe that the system of Focal and Contact Points from each Member State, regarding the seven Conventions and especially the World Natural and Cultural Heritage, should support sustainable transmission of information, in relation to the implementation of its different aspects.

Furthermore, UNESCO should create a database of specialists and experts at the national level to further create Forum on various cultural topics in order to diffuse information through seminars at all three levels (national, regional, international). This way capacity building and sharing of expertise will be attained.

Taking into account the growing recognition that climate and environment-induced migration is likely to become one of the key challenges of the 21st century, UNESCO and IOM can catalyze international co-operation through the adoption of a comprehensive and pro-active approach, that includes research, policy and programmatic activities, with a view to assisting and protecting people affected by climate change.

On the other hand, the impact and visibility of UNESCO's action in the field of information and communication is of great importance. Special focus should be placed on UNESCO accrediting media at national level through formulating a specific procedure to achieve that. National Commissions will act as facilitators in order to promote UNESCO's programmes and priorities and to increase public awareness about UNESCO's mission.

<p>Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO Commission nationale hongroise pour l'UNESCO</p>
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Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting is taking place at a crucial moment, if not at the crossroads in the life of this organisation to which we are all firmly attached. Indeed, we attach great hopes to the new Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs Irina Bokova and to the ideals and aspirations that she so eloquently expressed in her installation speech last October. Also, with a Medium-Term Strategy coming to its close, the Organisation is facing a period when it will have to re-define itself in a rapidly changing global context in which information and knowledge-based societies are becoming more wide-spread than ever before. The question for UNESCO (and for the Europe – North American region in particular) is how to translate in the terms of the 21st century the noble mission for which the organisation was created in 1946: that is “building the defences of peace in the minds of men”. If I had to capture in one single phrase what that would mean today (and would mean increasingly as the years go by), I would say “connecting people”. It is not only for a clin d’œil towards our Finnish friends but also a firm conviction that prompts me to suggest that interconnectedness and interaction of

human beings is the basis of mutual understanding, of knowledge production, and ultimately of peace. It seems to us that the best “defences of peace in the minds of people” are the minds of other people. The interconnectedness I have in mind is not simply a matter of technical solution but one which requires new modes of access to information, and a new way of involving people in action. This will require a systemic change in the way the Organisation operates, a greater emphasis on involving sub-state actors in our programmes and a more determined effort towards inter-sectoral programming and action proper (and not only inter-sectoral coordination at best). Therefore the systemic challenge I see before us is the following: how shall UNESCO become the promoter and key actor of global interactive knowledge-societies? What kind of conceptual, structural and technological changes this shall require? For example, on the technical level, to become a world organisation able to face the challenges of the digital revolution, UNESCO should take steps to use advanced paperless technologies in its back-office work, and turn to the latest generation teleconferencing solutions to reduce the travel costs. I also think that the European and North American region has a lot to contribute to finding the answers to these questions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I shall not even attempt to further elaborate let alone answer these questions in the one and a half minute I have left but would like mention very briefly, however, a number of issues that we shall bring to the roundtable discussions underpinned to some extent by the above considerations. I should also add that we confirm the priorities as stated in the Medium-Term Strategy and would wish to complement and reinforce some of them in particular with regard to the way they are implemented.

[Education / Culture]

- A few words about the culture of peace as we see it. For a number of years UNESCO has been promoting the understanding and development of intercultural dialogue and peace through various initiatives. We would like to propose a more inter-sectoral approach in this area linking education – culture and the sciences in order to make more impact on cultural diversity and dialogue. In our view, the very basis of dialogue is knowledge about the other. Knowledge begins in the classroom and in other educational contexts. Therefore embrace culture – education – science in a truly inter-sectoral programme (and not only platform); capitalise on the vast network of UNESCO involving WHSs, ICH elements, Biosphere Reserves, Memory of the World, Geoparks, and use them in teaching, in connecting teaching communities. UNESCO should become the forum where educational curricula building on the diversity of cultures is developed and thus knowledge, as the very basis of dialogue, about each others’ culture is strengthened on both regional and global levels.

[Culture]

- World Heritage / Intangible Cultural Heritage and sustainable tourism. The World Heritage label has proven to be a globally recognized brand of outstanding heritage value. One of the pressing questions now is how to manage tourism and make of it an ally in the achievement of the 1972 Convention’s goals? In order to find answer to this, the World Heritage Committee has launched the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Initiative. What is at stake is whether UNESCO will be able to efficiently influence global tourism practices and trends. Find the right partnerships and alliances for “virtuous circles”, that is to say, to channel benefits from tourism to the preservation and safeguarding of heritage values and to involve local communities in the decisions concerning their development. We also think that we

need to also act upstream and devise similar models for Intangible Cultural Heritage elements (as recognised in the Convention of 2003) as well. UNESCO must make a coordinated effort and capitalise on the fact that it administers both conventions.

- Another field where we see the need for coordination between the WH and ICH conventions is education and the outreach to youth in general. The separation into tangible and intangible heritage may have its own logic in terms of legal and institutional histories. But when we want to involve younger people in the appreciation and safeguarding of heritage in all its forms, then we see no reason to separate these fields. Therefore, a joint education kit of both WH and ICH would be most appropriate. In Hungary, we have recently gained some experience in this regard and would be ready to share with you our experience.

[Natural Sciences]

- Hungary is committed to the “open” paradigm (as Open Science, Open Access, Open Data) and promotes the new relationship between science and education. In our view public education should be more and more the place of participatory and collaborative knowledge-production instead of passive dissemination of scientific knowledge.

- We are happy that the World Science Forum organised biannually in Budapest since 2003 has proved to be a success and there is a growing interest for its regional rotation. The aim of these fora is to enhance the quality of the dialogue on the new roles and challenges of scientific knowledge within today's global society. We see a need to make this forum even more open and to involve more thoroughly both scientific communities and policy-makers. One of the successes of last year's Forum was the establishment of COSTIS, the Consortium of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South. (The consortium will seek to promote scientific capacity building through scientific exchange and networking. It will also encourage the sharing of innovative experiences in the use of science and technology to address critical concerns and, more generally, seek to better integrate the scientific and policy communities through both South-South and South-North cooperation.)

[Social and Human Sciences]

- The issue of climate change is among the most pressing issues facing humanity in the 21st century. We agree that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary forum where this issue must be dealt with, there are, however, a number of issues where UNESCO must take up a prominent role. We think in particular of the ethics of climate change. UNESCO, with its interdisciplinary focus, can bring about a change in this area because at the moment, neither natural scientists and engineers nor social scientists have yet fully gauged the importance the ethics of climate change. Hence, special attention should be given to this topic both in the Natural Sciences and Social and Human sciences side and ethical aspects should be appropriately included in national and global policy advice. If we are to respond efficiently to the global challenge climate change poses to us, it should be based on universally accepted ethical preferences and values. Only a clear choice of and commitment to values can yield concerted and efficient action.

[Information and Communication]

- In the field of communication and information we highlight the importance for UNESCO to find for itself an agenda-setting role towards the academic community as well as its awareness-raising role towards policy makers. We propose to design innovative ways for implementing Information Society Studies into higher education curricula and fostering the acceptance of a new profession (community information expert, Information Society mentor)

and to set up an international network of IS-mentors training service. It is important to make the National IFAP Committees the Observatory's 'news agencies', providing a continuous upstream of local news. We have to give greater importance to the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

[Intersectorality]

- As a corollary to the suggestions made above, we would like to propose that our very programming takes a more resolute inter-sectoral aspect in order to achieve well-determined high-level objectives and results, matched with appropriate budgetary sources. We therefore suggest to merge inter-sectoral platforms into issue-driven, operative inter-sectoral programmes upstream: that is to say, conceive of high-level objectives and programmes already in inter-sectoral terms rather than coordinating diverse objectives in "platforms".

Thank you for your attention.

Latvian National Commission for UNESCO **Commission national de lettoni pour l'UNESCO**

It is indeed a golden opportunity we now all share together – to live the change we wish to see through our mutually strengthened and agreed action as well as our clear vision of UNESCO's place and role in the 21st century. The upcoming 36 C/5 is one of the tools in our hands with which we have the possibility to:

- clearly define our priorities in balance with the global needs, current challenges through globalisation and real capacities of UNESCO,
- mobilise wisely all the resources, knowledge and instruments we already have,
- raise the quality of the overall performance of the Organisation as the best source for visibility and credibility.

The answer of the question of how to do this, taking into account that we don't have much time and day-by-day we lose our influence, nor we have enough financial resources, is – decentralisation of the overall management of the organisation and strengthening of the network and performance of the National Commissions.

UNESCO's framework goes far beyond its Headquarters. That are the people on national and local level which contribute their time and expertise thus proving the relevance, the need as well as belief in ideals UNESCO defend in various situations and places. Unfortunately we do not take the full benefit from this. To overcome this we have to be brave and open in highlighting the drawbacks in cooperation and communication between the UNESCO Headquarters/ Secretariat and its National Commissions and all the networks at their disposal and work to improve them. In the European region this is especially important so as to secure sound and lasting partnership also with the European Union and European Commission which we find must become a much more important and recognised partner as it has been until now.

To mention the major priorities of Latvia:

1. In Education as the most important aspects we find: continuation of the work for inclusive quality education in life long learning perspective, promotion of arts education and dealing with meta-content of education;
2. In Natural Sciences – streamlining the experiences of the Man and Biosphere programme;
3. In Social and Human Sciences – reestablishment of UNESCO global leadership role in ethical questions;
4. In Culture – implementation of main cultural conventions in service for strengthening national cultural policies;
5. In Information and Communication – promoting of the media and information literacy including the development of quality content as well as promoting access to information and preservation of the documentary heritage;
6. As for the Intersectoral programmes – we believe that the work of UNESCO should be based in teamwork – each priority area complementing the other securing a truly multidisciplinary approach in programme implementation with the current intersectoral programmes as a basis for overall stand, attitude and position of the organisation.

At the end I just want to say – UNESCO will be as strong as we will allow it to be. So I hope we will not miss this opportunity.

<p>Lithuanien National Commission for UNESCO Commission nationale lituanienne pour l'UNESCO</p>

Rethinking its objectives, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO prefers creative approach, striving for different field aspirations in synergetic ways. Let me draw your attention to the potency of the wider concept of arts education, so far, being a rather lateral area.

Referring to the recent World Conference on Arts Education in Seoul last week we wish to imply that the narrow accent put on arts education is decreasingly relevant in the context of changing needs for education and the society. As a key advocate for arts education in the world UNESCO has reached the point to widen the field and introduce the concept of creativity education.

Education systems worldwide share the same priorities – achieving high academic standards and equipping young people with skills that meet the demands of the contemporary world. One of the challenges is the speed of change - nobody has a clue of what the world will be like when the pupils starting school this year will be graduating. The contemporary world relies on people having a flow of ideas and capacity to implement them. Ability for creative thinking has become essential. Without creative approach many of the peace promotion campaigns or heritage awareness - raising strategies will not reach society to the core of the issue.

We believe that teaching of arts as means of promoting creativity should be given key instrumental role in the process. We see here our role and duty as of the National commission to raise this issue globally and a field to act locally. To uphold the statement I would like to mention that the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and other partners has initiated the project aimed to create and apply a locally adapted methodology for training creative competencies of all Lithuanian pedagogues. The ultimate expectation would be the improvement of the provision for creative and cultural education in the general curriculum.

The set of values and competencies the future decision makers will bear relies on our courage to change the balance between core and lateral subjects, choosing creativity education. One is clear- creative society confesses culture of peace in organic way, because it is in its nature.

In its nature, UNESCO is the house of ideas and should remain like this. For the closing greetings let me share an insight recently told by one Franciscan monk. In his Monastery's refectory the Franciscans have old deer horn –antler on the wall as a symbolic reminder of annual renewal. Let us keep this spiritual symbol in front of our eyes in order not to digress too far from the essential when we rethink our priorities.

Luxembourg National Commission for UNESCO
Commission nationale du Luxembourg pour la coopération avec l'UNESCO

L'avis de la Commission nationale luxembourgeoise pour l'UNESCO concernant le programme et le budget de l'UNESCO pour 2012-2013 est le suivant:

Le Luxembourg, sensibilisé au changement climatique et soucieux du développement durable encourage l'Unesco d'intensifier ses efforts pour contribuer au règlement d'un problème d'une complexité sans précédent.

Nous pensons qu'il ne suffit pas de trouver des solutions techniques aux problèmes créés par la technique, mais qu'il faut opérer un véritable changement des mentalités et redéfinir la relation entre l'homme et la nature.

Suite à une grande demande de jeunes, le Luxembourg recommande la réactivation et le suivi du programme des jeunes professionnels, pour permettre d'intégrer davantage de jeunes aux activités de l'Unesco.

Le Luxembourg a déjà proposé à maintes reprises la valorisation et le renforcement de l'unité chargée du réseau du système des écoles associées de l'Unesco ; et de charger cette unité de l'élaboration d'un programme phare dans le domaine de l'éducation au développement durable. Le Luxembourg suit avec attention les projets qui sont prévus dans ce cadre.

La culture est le domaine dans lequel l'Organisation joue le rôle d'acteur mondial principal. La mise en œuvre des trois grandes conventions de 1972, 2003 et 2005 a contribué, au-delà de leur finalité propre, au dialogue des cultures comme condition essentielle d'un

monde plus pacifique. Le Luxembourg recommande dans ce contexte de ne pas dévaloriser la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel.

Le Luxembourg continue à appuyer la stratégie intersectorielle sur les langues et le multilinguisme, et préconise une politique cohérente des langues, tenant compte de toutes les facettes.

Dans l'intérêt d'un impact réel, une coopération efficace s'impose entre les cinq consultations régionales avec les Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO, avec l'aide du « steering committee », afin d'aboutir à un consensus, du moins sur certains points importants, au sujet de la préparation du Projet de programme et de budget pour 2012-2013.

Finalement le Luxembourg encourage l'UNESCO à relancer et renforcer leur coopération avec le monde intellectuel, scientifique et philosophique.

Je vous remercie.

Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO
Commission nationale des Pays Bas pour l'UNESCO

As its sister Commissions in the world, the Netherlands National Commission strongly supports the mission of UNESCO contributing to the building of peace, human security and sustainable development through education, sciences, culture, communication and information.

In 65 years that have passed since UNESCO was founded here in London, the world changed substantially. Large parts of the world have enjoyed a period of exceptional growth and prosperity. Hundreds of millions of people can enjoy the benefits of development. The spectacular growth of science and technology and the expanding scope of education are major driving factors. However, still millions and millions of children cannot go to school. The human impact on the natural world has led to unforeseen effects such as climate change and difficult ethical dilemmas. The world is faced with new types of violence and must therefore seek new ways to create peace. International and intellectual collaboration is indispensable to meet the challenges of the present time.

The Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO would like to argue that the Member States of UNESCO should develop the Organization's actions on the strength of two key principles:

UNESCO should focus on overarching its fields of competence rather than selecting its objectives within the separate domains. UNESCO's strength is its broad mandate. Its added value lies in connecting its different fields of competence. For example, UNESCO contributes impressively to reconstructing and safeguarding cultural heritage in Afghanistan, during the present complex and fluid situation since the major combat actions have stopped. In one concerted effort, UNESCO should assist in safeguarding cultural heritage and advise on how to rebuild the education system at the same time as well as how to create a free

flow of information. After all, culture, education and communication are indispensable pillars of peace and development.

UNESCO should strive to involve intellectual and professional communities more powerfully in its activities and actions, so that UNESCO can genuinely act as a worldwide platform for intellectual cooperation, addressing key challenges in education, sciences, culture and communication. As the Organization's outpost in the Member States, the National Commissions should and will act as the major liaison with these communities. Enhanced collaboration between National Commissions can multiply the intellectual impetus, and thus the power of UNESCO. National Commissions should strive to strengthen their mutual cooperation. For the coming biennium, the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO invites its sister Commissions to join forces on themes like life long learning, ethical principles in relation to climate change, sustainable access to information, reflection on the 'other' dimensions of water management (those not stemming from the natural sciences), and on the role of UNESCO in post-conflict and post-disaster situations.

Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO **Commission nationale norvégienne pour l'UNESCO**

1. Welcome the development of the Programme and Budget, particularly changes in the 35 C/5. Look forward to seeing how the programmatic changes focusing upstream on policy advice and capacity development will result in improved impact of UNESCO's cooperation with Member States.
2. Education: EFA must remain first priority. Time to find new ways of leading and coordinating EFA. Policy advice and capacity building up stream should be the main emphasis in Member States. Increased efforts on minimizing the teacher gap, financing gap and the equity gap. Merge MLA 2 and MLA 3 with MLA 3 as the main approach.
3. Science: MP II and III should be merged. Concentrate resources on policy advice and capacity building. Reduce number of projects/small activities without policy impact.
4. Culture: Give priority to implementation of conventions. 1) Promotion of living culture: The 2005 Convention. 2) Promotion of tangible and intangible Cultural heritage: The 1954, 1972 and 2003 Conventions. Delete MLA 5 as a separate MLA and integrate into the other MLAs. A separate programme for culture of peace would not be our priority. This important perspective should be integrated in all major programmes. There are too many performance indicators.
5. Communication: Give priority to normative function. Build UNESCO's capacity to give policy advice on media policy. Press freedom and the right to know/information are essential to promoting democracy and ensuring respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
6. In order to measure impact of UNESCO's programme, need to see more analytical reporting (Draft C/3, 184 EX/Part II). Develop indicators that measure impact of policy advice and capacity development provided by UNESCO. Advocate for longer budget cycle (4 years) and synchronising with other UN agencies.

7. Expectations on external evaluation as guide for change (good governance, efficiency and deliverance on major programme activities)
8. Overarching goals such as gender, human rights, sustainable development/climate change, and intercultural dialogue should be integrated in major programmes/activities. Need for more concentration within all major programmes, less project approach.
9. There is still room for savings within the administrative parts of the budget for the benefit of programme activities.
10. Recommend the DG to present a more succinct and bold first Draft C/5 to the EXB. The present process and format open up for inclusion of less relevant activities.

Polish National Commission for UNESCO
Commission nationale polonaise pour l'UNESCO

The vision of a renewed UNESCO should result in strengthening its intellectual role within the UN System. Efficient use of experts' potential through programmes and networks, especially the National Commissions, would strongly encourage attaining this goal.

We expect the 36 C/5 to focus on UNESCO's five functions and further the intersectoral approach. A crucial question is to empower adequately the bodies in charge of specific intersectoral activities.

We also support retaining the five-sector structure of the programme and Secretariat and maintaining the existing programme priorities, including the global priorities for Africa and gender equality.

We fully support mainstreaming human rights to all programmes.

In the MPs we particularly endorse:

- MP1: EFA, access to quality education, especially concerning Africa, girls and women; teacher training; lifelong education; education for sustainable development, intercultural education, arts education;
- MP2: policy and capacity building orientation; sustainable management of freshwater, oceans and terrestrial resources; disaster preparedness and mitigation; poverty eradication. We note the role of engineering sciences and ISPs, including IBSP;
- MP3: continuation of the present priorities while emphasising human rights, migrations, ageing, contributing to dialogue among cultures. Responding to the rapid global change requires strengthened support from the SHS to all MPs and regarding the SPO 14;
- MP4: promoting awareness of culture's impact on social and economic sustainable development, diversity and dialogue; policy advice in implementation of UNESCO's cultural conventions;

- MP5: focusing on policy advice, freedom of expression and information, journalists' safety, media development; documentary heritage preservation and accessibility. We expect a sound intersectoral approach concerning Open Access.

Culture of peace and climate change issues require particularly thorough, balanced intersectoral reflection.

Field presence can be assured primarily through National Commissions. Their position at the crossroads of UNESCO, state administration and civil society predestines them both to ensure UNESCO's visibility and consolidate the countries' contribution to UNESCO's programmes. The National Commissions should be fully informed by the Secretariat and regarded as a necessary stakeholder of every activity, including coordination of UNESCO networks.

Other UNESCO networks, centres and national committees should also be used extensively as contributors to the Organisation's capacity and field presence.

Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO Commission nationale portugaise pour l'UNESCO

The most significant challenge to cope with for the next biennium, while already anticipating the period ahead, to be covered by the following Middle-Term Strategy, is to put UNESCO on the map.

This does not mean an investment in image and visibility alone, but rather a much needed, profound change in attitude. A mere facelift will not do.

Let us examine the whats and the hows.

As for the whats, knowledge, relevance and effectiveness are most certainly able to provide a sound key. Accordingly, we propose that we ask ourselves which programmes work well at UNESCO, and which are the programmes and activities where the Organisation does make a difference. A more focused approach is thus recommended, which entails here and there both more concentration and better articulation. And perhaps we might as well seriously think of what could be left behind.

As for the hows, we believe in decentralisation, cooperation and accountability.

In this light, we might say as an example that global priorities should be more effectively mainstreamed (e.g. Africa, women, youth), as much as participation in the "UN as One" process should be further pursued, and decentralisation of UNESCO's activities should rely more on the articulation and cooperation with both Field Offices and National Commissions. We would also of course like to mention the cooperation with different networks and partners - Category 2 Institutes; ASPnet schools; UNESCO Chairs; UNESCO Libraries; Parliamentarians; NGOs; private sector.

Programme delivery and implementation should in turn be the object of a transparent process of evaluation, with the contribution of all stakeholders concerned, like the National

Commissions. A sharp evaluation of the actual results of the work of intersectoral platforms should be conducted, so as to properly assess whether they are complying with the goals that justified their very creation. All this should be wrapped in a strong, coherent public information policy, more “aggressive” and targeted, devised in close cooperation with Member States.

Romanian National Commission for UNESCO **Commission nationale de roumanie pour l'UNESCO**

The Romanian National Commission for UNESCO considers that it is important to keep for the period 2012-2013 the priorities established by the Organization through the 2008-2013 Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4). In this general context, we consider necessary to focus on programmes and their results, likewise on ensuring consistency across the United Nations system. At the same time, given the increased dynamics of changes, we consider emphasizing the following priorities:

- Due to the global crisis, the Organization should consider to concentrate its work on policy formulation in its fields of competence with finality in alleviating the crisis in the short and medium and long-term prevention of recurrence of such events. As directions for action we consider necessary to focus on youth development in entrepreneurship (inclusive in areas such as education, cultural industries, natural and cultural heritage, museums) and on the MOST Programme, on creating platforms for action that brings together research in social sciences Civil society - as a citizen - and policy makers.
- The dynamics of global change requires an increased role of science in all programmes of the Organization. Scientific and complex research interaction between nature and society models are the tools that can foreshadow a sustainable future. We believe that UNESCO should encourage efforts manifested in various countries for multidisciplinary research, and research focused on solving problems through transdisciplinary approaches. UNESCO's mandate and its potential for interdisciplinary activities and international activities may be an important support for increasing the role of science in the sustainable development of the planet.
- The increasing the role of science in UNESCO's work must start from the creation and promotion of science education programmes. In this context, we believe it would be important as one of the UNESCO's education institutes to be dedicated to the production of know-how in this field, to assume the role of global resource center for promoting science in education for all scheme, adult education, education for sustainable development.
- Based on the need to increase the visibility of UNESCO's programmes and actions, we believe that both the Organization and the National Commissions must have designed programmes/communication plans. For the National Commissions/decentralized units an important role will be the creation of Information and Documentation Centers on the activities of UNESCO, as it is, for example, the Center of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO.

Slovak Commission for UNESCO

Commission slovaque pour l'UNESCO

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me firstly express our appreciation to the team of the UK National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Secretariat for the excellent preparation of these consultations. We will rely and draw from your experience together with the Austrian and Hungarian Commission when preparing the consultations in 2012.

We gathered here in our common interest to support and to help our new Director General, Madame Bokova, to fulfil her mandate to make our organization stronger and its actions more effective. Madame Bokova has our full support in her endeavour to move from a quantitative to a qualitative strengthening of the organization, making full use of UNESCO capacities and aligning them with the programme priorities of UNESCO that are agreed and will be agreed upon in the future.

UNESCO, like other international organizations and the States, has to face new global challenges and problems. We are persuaded that UNESCO holds all the keys to provide intellectual and humanist response to globalization and the current crisis. We have to concentrate and focus our actions on key strategic objectives/challenges before us within the core responsibilities and the mandate of the organization. Our task here is to revisit and if necessary to re-focus existing programmes in order to deliver quality programmes that respond to the challenging reality and have the necessary impact. The relevance, the visibility and the credibility of UNESCO rely and depend on it.

UNESCO, within its mandate, has a significant role in the process of fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, in helping to overcome the current difficulties related either to suppression of analphabetism or poverty, or negative impact of climate change, just to mention a few. Their achievement is a real threat. With UNESCO's intellectual and interdisciplinary expertise we have to find ways how to help to progress especially those countries that are lagging behind.

The same concerns EFA (Education for All) goals. The deadline approaches and much progress still have to be made. We share the opinion that we have to focus on Africa and on the issue of gender equality in this context. But the actions should be better targeted without splitting them in too many in order to ensure their effective impact. We are facing other challenges as well, such as Education for Sustainable Development, Lifelong Learning and improvement of the Quality of Education. The quality of education and education of minority groups, with special focus on Roma, is Slovakia's priority for already quite a long time. Building on our experiences we have a concrete suggestion on specific targeted interventions towards Quality Education for all socially, health and other disadvantaged children and youth. Supported by other countries in the region facing the same problems of disadvantaged children, we propose to implement the Bratislava seminars into the major programme of UNESCO and organize periodically in each biennium the UNESCO regional conferences on Quality Education for socially, health and other disadvantaged children. The

conferences would take place in Bratislava that is not only strategically a very important site, but also a source of knowledge, findings and experience.

Concerning culture, probably the most visible area of competence of UNESCO, we have to cherish and fully exploit its capacity to promote dialogue between the cultures and religions – to know better – to understand better – to have respect for diversity and tolerate should be our common objective. In the area of culture we have brought with us several proposals how to try to enhance the role of culture and make the best use of her potential.

Science as one of the main pillars of UNESCO is crucial in achieving sustainable development. It is not pure coincidence that we celebrate this year the International Year of Biodiversity. UNESCO scientific projects should preferably focus on biodiversity protection, ecological and close-to-nature management of resources (water, underground water, forests, countryside) and on sustainable development. The activities in the area of bioethics and ethics of science and technology are not less important looking for responses to new developments.

In the field of communication and information, Slovakia supports the UNESCO irreplaceable role in promoting universal respect of justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Specifically the press freedom and freedom of expression need to be strengthened. Concerning ICT's, we are persuaded that as the drivers of knowledge-based societies they are not only a subject of education but an important tool at the service of sustainable development, innovation and progress.

Concerning the programme and budget for 2012-2013 that will be discussed lately, we should be realistic. It is evident that in the current situation when financial and economic crisis in the world are even deepening with not having a clear way out, it will be quite a challenge to get more money from the Member States for their contributions. We have to make best use of the full potential that UNESCO offers us - to eliminate what is unexploited and ineffective and transfer the resources to identified and agreed priorities. To seek innovative ways and means of financing remains still valid.

To conclude I would like to stress that the visibility of UNESCO should be the result of the quality of its work, the capability to respond in a timely and flexible manner to emerging challenges and of its active presence where UNESCO interventions are needed and asked for.

Thank you.

Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO
Commission nationale slovène pour l'UNESCO

We believe that UNESCO should focus on key areas of its mandate, and engage only in the projects where it has impact and added value, as well as comparative advantages to other United Nations agencies and to global and regional governmental organizations.

Priority themes should be gender equality and human rights in education, culture and science as well as ethical principles of human development, including the ethics of science and climate change.

Members of the UNESCO family, including member states and national commissions should be fully aware of the limitations of the organization regarding human and financial resources; same goes for the UNESCO stakeholders in the member states; we cannot play a leading role in the whole range of activities. This has been and still is the main UNESCO's flaw at all the levels- trying to do too much with too little resources.

UNESCO is at this time again subjected to the external evaluation process; we welcome it but at the same time wish the results and impact of this evaluation will be stronger than that of the science review.

Co-operation and sharing of the responsibility with other agencies and governmental organizations is the key for the global international role and position of UNESCO; to fully use the potential the organization has in the field, including the National Commissions is the solution for stronger presence at the regional, sub-regional and national level.

For Europe and North America Region we have to stress the need for closer co-operation with European Union and to fully utilize the possibility of developing common activities and the use of EU funds, especially for the projects for South-Eastern Europe, Mediterranean as well as in Africa and Arab Region.

UNESCO should – in all the main fields of actions: education, culture, science, communication and information – find its original aim, which is building global peace and understanding through international co-operation and solidarity.

In that regard we cannot overemphasise the importance of the action in the field of intercultural dialogue and the need to move from political correctness and high level meetings to grass root projects and programmes.

Swedish National Commission for UNESCO **Commission nationale suédoise pour l'UNESCO**

1. Strong preference for four years programme cycles, budgets to be adjusted on shorter intervals.
2. Core programmes need core funding from regular budget. Reallocations from administration to programmes, stronger discipline and a more focused C/5 - substantial savings to be made.
3. High expectations on external evaluation outcomes and follow-up process.
4. Continued comprehensive approach to programme review: means of addressing relevance of activities, and phasing them in and out. This, with increased intersectorality, supports approach to allow UNESCO itself to "deliver as one".

5. UN Reform Process to be intensified -> more cooperation to avoid overlaps in "grey" areas.
6. Core activities: policy advice, capacity-building and standard-setting - foremost functions in programme design and delivery throughout sectors.
7. Recognizing progress in programme and strategy development, however still too many MLA's, fragmented action and numerous performance indicators. Too large project portfolio.
8. Need for analytical reporting, needs assessment, impact analysis, monitoring, benchmarking, follow-up and verification (re. 184 EX/Part II). Difficult to see how action has benefitted individual or groups of Member States at large etc.
9. Need for development and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative indicators.
10. Statistics are crucial, including gender and age aggregated.
11. Human rights based, interdisciplinary and flexible modes of programmes (gender, sustainable development & climate change, intercultural dialogue...).
12. Risk that mainstreaming leads to invisibility. There must be a clear sense of ownership of overarching issues, including resource allocation - fewer, but better resourced intersectoral platforms.
13. Need to show results and positive, offensive action and cooperation.
14. Effective branding of UNESCO for visibility and credibility profile.
15. Urgent to improve decision making processes - sub-committees for each programme area in addition to improvement of working methods of EXB and GC.
16. Recommendation to the DG to present a more concise first Draft C/5 to the EXB. The present process and format open up for inclusion of less relevant activities.
17. Absolute programme priority: EFA, imperative to achieve global momentum. It is not yet maintained - MDG review/summit.
18. Necessary to fusion the two MP's on Science.
19. Increase efforts for freedom of expression

<p>United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO Commission nationale du Royaume Uni pour l'UNESCO</p>

1. The UK National Commission is committed to advancing UNESCO's aims by promoting the organisation within UK civil society, making the case to the UK Government, and participating in efforts to make it a more effective and valued organisation within the UN

2. That process should begin by reaffirming the role of UNESCO within the UN and amongst international agencies. UNESCO needs to demonstrate its authority and leadership in its areas of competence, and its relevance to the broad UN agenda. Higher standards of education, social and cultural inclusion, scientific approaches to policy and the free flow of information are essential if actions by national and international agencies to promote peace and sustainable development are to be effective.
3. The current C/4 goes some way in defining the role and key responsibilities of UNESCO, and the UK National Commission supports the broad priorities that are set out. We believe, however:
 - that the document needs to give a sharper account of the role of UNESCO;
 - that the work programme needs to be more focused on delivering the priorities;
 - that all work programmes should have clear and measurable objectives; and
 - that priority should be given to monitoring and reporting on the achievement of those objectives.
4. The latest C/5 is better than before at the level of the key objectives but we are not confident that the whole programme is focused as it should be on achieving the stated objectives.
5. We welcome the acknowledgement in the preamble to the Questionnaire that “the number of programme areas for UNESCO action ... is rather wide” and of the need to phase out certain areas of activity (para 11). A number of smaller projects with little impact on the key priorities should be terminated. Programmes, large or small, in areas where UNESCO has no clear comparative advantage should also be considered for termination. Programmes which have been valuable in the past but which may no longer represent a good use of resources need may no longer justify the resource commitment.
6. Thorough, transparent and timely evaluation of all programmes is essential if informed decisions are to be made and prompt action needs to be taken where a programme is not delivering. Many national governments are likely to demand increasingly clear evidence of the effectiveness of the programme if they are to continue to support the organisation.
7. The UKNC acknowledges that there is much that is excellent in the work of UNESCO, and that this should be built on as models for other areas. The Cultural Conventions provide an excellent tool for awareness raising, and the work of the World Heritage Centre in standard setting and monitoring is very strong. But the work in the area of culture is unsystematic. UNESCO should provide a comprehensive account of the cultural challenges we face and guidance on best practice. Its monitoring should extend to the whole of the cultural agenda. UNESCO cannot do everything but it can set out the problems, set goals, urge resources to be mobilised, set standards, assess our efforts, and provide targeted help in countries which are struggling.

8. The UK National Commission continues to believe it would be helpful to use the model of the Education GMR to help reassert UNESCO's leadership in its other Sectors, both by clarifying exactly what its role and responsibilities are, and what that means for its detailed work. In these areas UNESCO articulates a clear view of what our collective objectives are, identifies deficiencies in provision and plays a constructive part in suggesting how the issues should be addressed.
9. UNESCO should provide this kind of leadership across all of its Sectors: defining the challenges and objectives; promoting good policy and research; setting standards; monitoring efforts; and helping to build capacity in country where it is most needed. The Overall Review of the Sciences Programmes, strongly welcomed by Member States, clearly pointed to this kind of reform. But we question whether UNESCO has yet translated this advice into specific action which has shifted the Organisation onto the lines we have set out above.
10. UNESCO is unique in the range of subject matter which it brings together. No other organisation embodies expertise in all of these areas of competence. This creates the possibility of strong multidisciplinary approaches to issues of peace and development. Yet the organisation structures its work overwhelmingly around its sectors, and does not take full advantage of its multidisciplinary asset. Serious thought should be given to increasing the emphasis on Inter Sectoral Platforms and devoting significantly more resource to that work. Consideration should also be given to how a more multidisciplinary approach might be adopted to all work programmes.
11. The UK National Commission looks forward to working with Commissions of the European and North American to develop specific recommendations based on the principles we have set out, in support of the Director General's aspirations for a more effective UNESCO.

<p>National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO Commission nationale ukrainienne pour l'UNESCO</p>

Mrs Irina Bokova proclaimed the promotion and implementation of the idea of a "new humanism" to be a key-vector of her policy as the Director-General of UNESCO. That envisages the recognition and respect for the right of peaceful coexistence, preservation of common heritage and cultural diversity as well as respect for the equal dignity of every individual, in particular in decision-making and consensus reaching, as well as facilitating multicultural communication ethics, tolerance, solidarity, mutual trust and recognition, social and economic responsibility and democracy development.

This is an idea the Director-General will be following while developing strategies for countering global challenges.

The basis of all sectoral policies, programmes and activities of UNESCO is a wide range of specific challenges the world community is facing in the present time. Ukraine shares and joins the internationally coordinated efforts of resolving the abovementioned issues and reaching goals of substantial development.

Subsequently, the nature of cooperation between Ukraine and UNESCO is determined by international context and global challenges that considerably affect the agenda of the Organization.

Today, expressing the desire to integrate into the international community, showing commitment to learn the best from other cultures, we find it necessary to spare no efforts for maintaining sustainable development in the fields of UNESCO activity in conformity with the main priorities and goals of the Organisation. In particular, promoting the Education for All initiative, cooperation in the fields of science and innovations, safeguarding, restoration and worldwide representation of Ukrainian tangible heritage richness and people's spiritual treasury.

While entering into a new era of globalization world gains some considerable advantages but in the same time - faces a danger to have its cultural and artistic diversity harmed or even annihilated.

Managing World's increasing cultural diversity - rooted in the history of some continents and enhanced by globalisation - in a democratic manner has become a priority both for national and international major powers in recent years. How shall we respond to diversity? What is our vision of the society of the future? Is it a society of segregated communities, marked at best by the coexistence of majorities and minorities with differentiated rights and responsibilities, loosely bound together by mutual ignorance and stereotypes? Or is it a vibrant and open society without discrimination, benefiting us all, marked by the inclusion of all residents in full respect of their human rights?

The National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO believes that respect for, and promotion of, cultural diversity on the basis of the values on which the Organisation is built are essential conditions for the development of societies based on solidarity. Intercultural approach offers a forward-looking model for managing cultural diversity. It should be based on shared fundamental values, respect for common heritage and cultural diversity as well as respect for the equal dignity of every individual.

Within the scope of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures Ukraine Side initiated the organization of a number of cultural, artistic and scientific events, namely International Scientific and Practical Conference Interculturalism as main strand of modern society-building, Kyiv International Festival "Youth" (Molodist), International Festival of Contemporary Art "Gogolfest" etc.

In the framework of the International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World proclaimed by the UN Ukraine has been hosting The International Children Festival "Let's Change the World for the Better!" since 2001. The Festival is held in the International Children Centre "Artek" - one of the largest recreation centers for children in Ukraine being as well an establishment under the auspices of UNESCO. The purpose of the Festival is to contribute to the formation of the principles of tolerance, equality of rights, pluralism of thoughts among children of different nationalities and religions through the life skill-building in the multicultural environment. Last year, during the 8th International Children Festival, the International Children's League of Nations was founded by the representatives of 50 countries.

Fourteen UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN have been created and are operating in the leading institutes of higher education in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Odessa, Lugansk and Simferopol. Ukrainian UNESCO Chairs are actively involved in the development of such an important component of international activities as inter-university research, scientific contacts and joint research exchange programmes. This process promotes the establishment of new education and research capabilities, experience and knowledge etc. The activity of UNESCO Chairs in Ukraine covers both humanities and "exact" sciences.

Ukraine is an active member of UNESCO, which makes a significant contribution to the rule-making and policy activities of the Organisation, determining its policy line for the medium as well as short term prospective.

The National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO in cooperation with Ukrainian national institutions concerned works on strengthening and enlarging the number of relevant fields of interaction with UNESCO, inter alia, together with Ministry of cultural and tourism of Ukraine, organization of the scheduled for the year 2011 international workshop "The Religious Communities in the Management of World Heritage Cultural Properties", facilitating the comprehensive and qualitative elaboration of a joint project (Ukraine, Italy, France and Greece) of transnational nominations called "Fortified settlements along Genoese trade routes: From the Mediterranean to the Black Sea" for its inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List"

Notwithstanding the abovementioned positive advancements, it should be objectively noted that Ukrainian institutions generally do not use in full the opportunities the cooperation with UNESCO can bring. Main reasons for this state of affairs are insufficient funding of their participation in the programme activities of UNESCO and lack of specialist with high proficiency in working languages of UNESCO.

Several other problematic points within the framework of UNESCO-Ukrainian cooperation should be mentioned. In particular, the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO has repeatedly expressed concern about the state of preservation of Ukrainian cultural heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, namely, St. Sophia's Cathedral and related monastic buildings, Kiev Pechersk Lavra, the Ensemble of the Historic Centre of Lviv. The main reason for such an anxiety is the construction project undertaken or planned to take place in the protected zones of these objects. In essence for UNESCO this means that our country is not able to preserve these sites and therefore evades the compliance with the provisions under the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Therefore it is of the utmost importance for the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, Ukrainian ministries and institutions concerned to remove the abovementioned issues from the agenda.

On the other hand, the experience in cooperation existing between the Ukrainian institutions and UNESCO and the participation of Ukraine in the Organisation's governing and working structures allows promotion of such cooperation to a greater extent thereby giving to it a relevant impetus and a meaning content. Positive outcomes of the international cooperation are obvious: the availability of obtaining an information on the developments in science, education, information and communication, establishment of a broad partnership, conduction of joint researches, implementation of innovations, creation of scientific potentials, an exchange of the best experiences, promotion of Ukrainian cultural heritage

and traditions, participation in numerous UNESCO events and in the end - making sure that the reputation of our state among the countries of the world is growing.

Education: cooperation in this area aims at promoting reform of the education system of Ukraine, its diversification and integration into the all-European educational process, enhancing international educational exchanges, introducing of life-long education initiative, participation of Ukraine in the UN Decade on Education and sustainable development. Science: strengthening cooperation in intergovernmental programmes in science, such as "Man and Biosphere, the International Hydrological Programme and other projects to support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine at the national and regional levels to prevent disasters and reduce their impact, support international cooperation Ukraine, aimed at minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster; Culture: Ukraine's accession to international legal documents, ratification of a number of relevant conventions of UNESCO, submission of Ukrainian objects to the World Heritage List, prevention and combating of illegal export of cultural values and facilitate their return; Communication and Information: the use of global scientific experience to strengthen national capacities for development and application of information and telecommunication technologies for their further implementation in the areas of science and education.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
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la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of the Regional Consultation with
National Commissions for UNESCO in Europe and North
America on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and
Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5)**

LONDON, 6 June 2010

Professor John Morgan, Chair of the UK National Commission and Chairperson of
the Regional Consultation,

Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions from Europe and
North America,

Ambassador Matthew Sudders, Permanent Delegate of the UK to UNESCO,

Dear Friends,

It is a great honour to be with you today to open the Regional Consultation of the
National Commissions for UNESCO in Europe and North America in this most
historic of settings for our Organization.

I am extremely grateful to the United Kingdom National Commission for hosting this
event, here in the Great Hall of the Institute of Civil Engineers, providing us with
such a sense of occasion.

Sixty-five years ago, in this room, Archibald MacLeish galvanized those present
with a fresh sense of purpose when he made this passionate appeal:

“Now, less than three months after the first use of atomic force, the present
Conference is probably the most important that the United Nations can or will call”.

Building peace in the minds of men and women: there is indeed no more important
task facing humankind than this.

The head of the United States delegation fired the gathering with this sense of urgency; he imbued the text of the Constitution then being drawn up with the lasting power of his poetry.

René Cassin brought to our founding text the clarity of the jurist, the conciliatory spirit of the great statesman and the humanism of his home country, France.

Ellen Wilkinson, the British minister of education and Dr R.C. Wallace, head of the Canadian Delegation, opened the horizons of the nascent Specialised Agency when they argued, successfully, for the inclusion of science, along with education and culture, in the Organization's mandate.

On behalf of the French government, Léon Blum offered Paris as the site of UNESCO's Headquarters. Over those historic days, here in this room, UNESCO took shape.

And above all, Ladies and Gentlemen, that founding Conference, spurred on by these eloquent visionaries, made one thing perfectly clear:

UNESCO was to be a people's Organization.

The ordinary citizen, as well as the scholar and the expert – all those who had suffered in the terrible war – were to be able to use UNESCO as a medium to exchange ideas, skills and creative achievements.

Through this contact, a better understanding between peoples and cultures was to foster peace, not war, in the minds of men and women.

As Ellen Wilkinson said, "It is for us to clear the channels through which may flow from nation to nation, the streams of knowledge and thought, of truth and beauty, which are the foundations of true civilization".

To ensure that the people's voice would be heard, the Constitution recommended the establishment of National Commissions, drawing widely on civil society organisations as well as academic institutions and mobilising the media as a vital means of reaching and involving the public.

Still today, UNESCO's National Commissions are unique within the United Nations system.

They are the nodes of a world-wide network which link thousands upon thousands of institutions and individuals to the hub. No other international agency is so extensively interlinked with the whole social, cultural and intellectual fabric of the communities with which it works.

Without the National Commissions, the Secretariat would be hard put to work as it does with its myriad partners: the educators and researchers, the artists and journalists, the experts in so many fields who ensure that the ideas and ideals of this Organization spread far and influence 'the minds of men and women'.

Here in our host country, for example, over 250 academic institutions have links with UNESCO's Science Sector alone!

Think of the number of individuals involved; multiply that by the number of Member States of this Organization; add, perhaps, the World Heritage sites and their visitors, the Biosphere Reserve networks, and one begins to see how a relatively small institution can – and does – have world-wide influence.

Your role in making UNESCO a people's organization cannot be over-emphasised: it is pivotal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The participants in the founding Conference that was held here, 65 years ago, were impelled by an acute awareness of the dangers facing humankind.

Archibald MacLeish warned the gathering:

"The two alternatives of modern man are alternatives indeed – are inescapable alternatives – are alternatives of which one or the other must be chosen and chosen now...They are the alternatives our own advance in science, our own advance in knowledge – one dare not say our advance in civilization - have presented to us. They are these: we must choose to live together, or we must choose, quite literally, not to live".

Today, the dangers may in many ways be quite different, but our perception of humanity's fragility, and of our planet's fragility, is just as acute.

The financial crisis, the economic crisis, climate change, loss of biodiversity, pandemics, man-made disasters... - we are, if possible, even more aware today that no country can shut out global threats and seek security within its own borders.

We also have new opportunities today, new ways and means of meeting such challenges.

"We must choose to live together": when that call was made, the science that had produced the atom bomb knew no global networks.

UNESCO helped to set up the international scientific associations that are so much part of today's landscape that it is easy to forget there was a time when world-wide scientific cooperation was not the norm.

Whether one looks at the achievements of the Tsunami Early Warning Systems or the work of the International Panel on Climate Change or any of the Intergovernmental Councils of UNESCO – one sees the essential role of international scientific cooperation.

At the end of April, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a "clean energy revolution".

How can we imagine achieving the transformation of the global energy system our world so urgently needs in any other way but through international cooperation, through multilateralism?

The challenge of climate change puts us before the same alternative: we must choose to live together, or we must choose, quite literally, not to live". We must tackle climate issues together.

UNESCO will play its part in this effort. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's on-going contribution on climate science, our work on climate education, on biodiversity, all involve our partners, all involve you.

The same can be said for our foremost goal: inclusive, quality education for all throughout life – it is a universal goal, one that cannot be reached without international solidarity, one in which the National Commissions, once again, can play a catalytic role.

Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Ces consultations régionales jouent un rôle très important pour soutenir l'UNESCO dans l'élaboration de ces programmes à venir. Le mandat de notre Organisation est très vaste, et les défis mondiaux actuels sont immenses. C'est pourquoi, si nous voulons donner plus d'impact à notre action, nous devons multiplier nos partenariats, en tout premier lieu avec vous, les Commissions nationales.

Voilà pourquoi je me trouve aujourd'hui avec vous. Voilà pourquoi je me rendrai disponible pour assister à la Consultation régionale pour la Région Afrique, qui se tiendra à Kampala, en Uganda, à la fin du mois, comme j'ai assisté à la Consultation de la Région Asie-Pacifique à Séoul, en République de Corée, le mois dernier. Je tiens à vous faire part de mon engagement total envers vous, Commissions nationales, convaincue que je suis de votre rôle absolument majeur.

Je souhaiterais vous assurer que nous attacherons la plus grande attention à toutes vos idées et propositions concernant l'élaboration du prochain C/5. Les consultations telles que celle d'aujourd'hui sont extrêmement précieuses pour nous aider à établir des priorités régionales communes en ce qui concerne les activités et les programmes de l'UNESCO, ainsi que les priorités globales.

Parallèlement, j'ai très à cœur de renforcer la coordination de la participation des Commissions nationales au sein de nos efforts pour renforcer la présence de l'UNESCO sur le terrain. J'ai également très à cœur de les impliquer de manière plus directe dans le processus « Unis dans l'action » des Nations Unies.

Cela reflète le Mémoire d'accord sur le partenariat stratégique signé en octobre 2008 avec le Programme de développement des Nations Unies, qui ouvre la porte aux Commissions nationales, afin qu'elles assistent aux débats des Equipes pays des Nations Unies sur des questions de programme. Un projet-pilote

est déjà en cours en Albanie, où la Commission nationale est impliquée dans différentes activités avec l'Equipe pays des Nations Unies.

Face aux défis mondiaux considérables et de tous ordres, auxquels nous devons apporter des réponses, il est absolument vital que nous soyons plus que jamais soudés, en élaborant et en anticipant ensemble les meilleures stratégies pour notre monde et notre humanité. Après soixante ans d'existence, l'UNESCO doit réexplorer les fondements de sa mission, au cœur de laquelle réside son mandat de paix. Ce mandat est toujours d'une saisissante actualité. Simplement, au fil des décennies, il s'articule autour des grandes lignes d'un monde redessiné par l'histoire et le temps : c'est notre monde d'aujourd'hui, complexe, avec ses indéniables progrès mais aussi de vastes problèmes, jusqu'à maintenant demeurés irrésolus.

En ce début de vingt-et-unième siècle, à l'aube de mon mandat à la tête de notre Organisation, je veux prendre à bras le corps les problèmes les plus criants que connaît encore notre planète. Je veux une UNESCO engagée à résoudre les situations inacceptables pour nous tous, citoyens du même monde, citoyens du Nord, du Sud, citoyens unanimes à désirer que chaque être humain, où qu'il se trouve sur notre Terre, puisse se nourrir, apprendre, faire un choix de vie et développer tout son potentiel d'humanité.

Pour cela, j'ai la ferme intention de replacer l'UNESCO au niveau de pensée, de pragmatisme et de prospective qui lui revient et qu'elle peut parfaitement assumer. Je sais que, ce faisant, notre Organisation, creuset de savoirs, de compétences et d'expériences, va retrouver des heures de gloire, une visibilité, une ubiquité sans pareille, car nous serons présents dans la résolution de toutes les grandes problématiques actuelles. Notre mandat unique dans le domaine de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture et de la communication nous y mènent de la façon la plus naturelle.

Je veux également raffermir l'impact de l'UNESCO, en tablant sur le niveau d'excellence de nos performances, mais aussi en jouant un rôle beaucoup plus dynamique et incontournable sur le terrain, en particulier dans le cadre des Equipes pays des Nations Unies.

Nous pouvons parfaitement allier le plus fort esprit d'analyse à un très grand pragmatisme, qui réponde avec précision aux questions aiguës de notre temps. C'est pourquoi l'efficacité dans l'exécution de nos programmes est à mes yeux une priorité absolue. Des responsabilités mondiales nous ont été conférées, nous allons les tenir.

Je pense plutôt à l'Education et à l'Education pour tous : c'est en adoptant une approche holistique que nous pouvons aider les pays à bâtir des systèmes d'éducation allant du primaire au secondaire et au supérieur. Nous pouvons le faire. Notre rôle est immense, mais nous devons le remplir. Il est impossible pour l'UNESCO, une UNESCO revigorée, plus que jamais fidèle à son acte fondateur, de laisser perdurer une situation dramatique de non-scolarisation, d'illettrisme, pour tous les oubliés, les exclus de la connaissance. Le monde ne peut pas avancer dignement dans ces conditions. Il ne peut pas avancer tout court.

Egalement, comment ne pas ressentir la plus grande indignation en pensant à toutes les petites filles, à toutes les jeunes filles, exclues du royaume du savoir ? Nous, ensemble, tous ensemble, soudés et profondément concernés, nous devons adopter des stratégies, des programmes et des politiques qui changent cet inacceptable état des choses. Je n'oublie évidemment pas, dans ma plaidoirie, de redire la priorité absolue que j'accorde à l'égalité des genres. Nous ne pouvons faire l'économie de tout un pan de notre humanité, nous ne pouvons pas fonctionner démocratiquement, dignement, économiquement, sans la participation des femmes, à tous les niveaux.

Tout cela demande évidemment de dépasser des traditions, des préjugés, des habitudes. Je vais m'engager autant que je le peux à le faire, à trois niveaux : d'une part en sensibilisant les décideurs à la nécessité de changer, d'aller de l'avant ; d'autre part en exhortant les pays du Sud à allouer plus de fonds à la résolution de ces questions, et troisièmement en convaincant les pays donateurs de se montrer généreux. Je compte aussi renforcer très vigoureusement les partenariats, notamment entre les mondes public et privé, pour que toutes les chances soient réellement réunies.

Permettez-moi de dire quelque mots sur les sciences exactes et naturelles, qui sont que jamais au cœur de la problématique mondiale. Cette expertise et ce mandat scientifiques de l'UNESCO, je les ai délibérément inscrits, dès le début de mon

mandat, au cœur de notre mise en phase avec le monde d'aujourd'hui. En lançant l'Initiative sur le changement climatique, qui contient naturellement une importante part éducation, j'ai voulu recentrer notre Organisation à la confluence de la recherche, de l'échange d'informations, du laboratoire d'idées, de l'action et de l'éthique.

La Commission océanographique intergouvernementale et le Programme hydrographique international sont des bastions qui apportent leur expérience incontournable, en ce qui concerne deux questions cruciales : les océans, et l'eau douce. Je suis bien décidée à ce que l'UNESCO apporte toutes ces compétences au monde scientifique.

Quant au Programme de l'homme et la biosphère, il est le tremplin idéal et unique pour réaliser de multiples activités liées à la science : ainsi, pour mieux comprendre et gérer les conséquences sociales et humaines du changement climatique. Les réserves de biosphère permettent aussi de mieux connaître les savoirs endogènes, ou encore de tester les retombées du tourisme culturel. Utilisons-les, et mettons-les au service de l'humanité et de la science. C'est aussi l'une des raisons pour lesquelles j'ai décidé de créer un Haut Panel sur la Science, dans le but de faire avancer le rôle fondamental de la science et de lui donner la place cruciale qu'elle doit occuper, mais aussi afin de renforcer l'action de l'UNESCO dans le domaine scientifique.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

J'ai également la ferme intention d'aider encore plus les pays, notamment les pays en développement, à établir ou renforcer des politiques sur la science, la technique et l'innovation. Nous devons intensifier notre fonction de conseils, afin de soutenir les Etats dans la création de bases solides qui leur permettent de répondre aux besoins et aux crises.

Vous connaissez tous mes convictions en ce qui concerne la culture. La culture est peut-être le versant de l'UNESCO le plus connu, le plus spectaculaire. Cette aura remonte sans doute aux campagnes internationales de notre Organisation, lorsque des monuments entiers étaient sauvés, de l'oubli ou des hommes. Aujourd'hui, la réponse culturelle de l'UNESCO au monde a sensiblement changé de visage. Bien sûr, des monuments exceptionnels sont toujours protégés pour le bénéfice de

l'humanité tout entière, mais cette protection se double de préoccupations sociales et humaines, à tel point que le nombre des textes juridiques protégeant la culture, je dis « culture » dans son sens le plus large, a nettement grandi. Désormais, toutes les facettes de la culture, et toutes les facettes de la diversité culturelle sont analysées, explicitées, protégées.

Vous le savez, l'un de mes plus grands objectifs est de convaincre les pays et les institutions internationales que la culture occupe une place centrale dans le processus de développement. Ils sont absolument indissociables. Depuis ma prise de fonctions, je me suis clairement exprimée sur ce point. J'ai la ferme intention de plaider la cause de la culture comme composante essentielle du développement, lors de la réunion qui aura lieu à New York en septembre. Il s'agit d'un objectif crucial, qui pourrait changer considérablement les idées et les pratiques en termes de croissance, y compris la croissance économique et la stabilité sociale.

Je compte m'appuyer résolument sur la puissance de nos instruments normatifs. Je compte plaider auprès des Etats pour leur ratification massive, car je suis convaincue que ces textes juridiques, et toutes les rencontres et les débats internationaux qu'ils génèrent, sont des opportunités uniques pour dialoguer et pour coopérer

Je l'ai dit dans mon discours d'investiture, et je le redis aujourd'hui avec la même conviction : le dialogue est à mes yeux une clef qui permet d'ouvrir les portes de la paix. Je voudrais vous demander de partager ma volonté d'instaurer un dialogue permanent, émaillé de projets communs, dont le plus grand d'entre tous est d'atteindre tolérance et solidarité. La mission de l'UNESCO est loin d'être achevée. Un long chemin doit encore être parcouru. Faisons-le ensemble, dans le cadre de cette coopération internationale unique qui nous lie. Sachez que l'UNESCO soutiendra chaque initiative ayant pour but de faire des pas en avant. Tel est notre devoir, telle est notre mission.

Enfin, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais conclure en vous assurant de toute l'importance que j'attache à la liberté d'expression des médias. Que ce soit dans la mise en œuvre des conclusions du Sommet mondial sur la société de l'information, que ce soit en rendant Internet accessible au plus grand nombre, notamment en introduisant le multilinguisme, sachez que je m'investirai sans relâche pour parvenir à des résultats probants qui rendront le monde de l'information plus équitable. Telle

était la teneur du message que j'ai délivré à Brisbane, en mai dernier, lors de ma participation à la Journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse.

Un grand travail nous attend. L'UNESCO est une agora unique, où peuvent se nouer les partenariats les plus performants et les solidarités les plus fortes. Je vous le dis très simplement : je compte sur votre soutien, comme je compte sur votre souci de partage. Le monde a besoin de l'UNESCO, et l'UNESCO a besoin de vous pour remplir sa mission.

Permettez-moi de terminer avec cette citation de René Cassin, représentant de la France lors de la conférence de 1945 :

« Un de nos grands auteurs a dit : ' Science sans conscience n'est que ruine de l'âme '. Nous pouvons dire : les connaissances sans la morale ne peuvent aboutir qu'à la barbarie. Nous tâcherons, nous qui savons qu'il n'y a pas de démocratie sans culture, de travailler à ajouter autre chose aux connaissances : un grand idéal, à savoir la vision claire des grands problèmes qu'il s'agit de résoudre pour la paix internationale, et enfin et surtout peut-être, la maîtrise de nous-mêmes. »

I wish you every success in your deliberations and thank you for your kind attention.