

SHSviews²²

October – December 2008

UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector magazine

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Duty to be vigilant

Sixty years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), what is the climate concerning fundamental respect for all human beings, with regards to rights, conscience, freedom and responsibility? What is the situation regarding the imperious respect of human dignity and integrity, the mould from which human rights are made and implemented?

The articles and dossiers featured in this issue of *SHSviews* go some way to answering these fundamental questions, and are entirely relevant to the slogan for the campaign conceived by the United Nations to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UDHR: “Dignity and Justice for All of Us”.

Today, to defend with vigour and conviction the ideals and aims included in the UDHR, is, before anything, to lead a measured and permanent fight against all prejudice, and above all, against the notion that “human dignity” would be of an ineffable nature, or at least, act as a cover for the effects of discrimination, exclusion, inequality and injustice, of which a large proportion of humanity still suffer from the consequences.

We must acknowledge that, despite considerable progress at the international level in fundamental fields such as the fight against torture, the legal condemnation of violence towards women, the recognition of the rights of refugees and migrants, nevertheless, half of humanity do not benefit from a bare minimum of just consideration of their identity and status.

Indeed, poverty, which billions of individuals appallingly suffer from, constitutes a constant denial of the respect of human rights, and clearly questions the validity, on a daily basis, of what Article 28 of the Declaration states: “Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized”.

It is for this reason that this recurring phenomenon of widespread poverty, sometimes deeply rooted in a social and cultural context, must be fought with renewed vigour and unfailing conviction. This is why UNESCO, non-governmental organizations, policy-makers and civil society must persevere in taking into consideration the fight against poverty as a central issue on their agenda.

This again is one of the greatest challenges of our time. And it is also a case of going back to the basics in the context of the dynamics of the Declaration, which is not a futile challenge.

The duty of vigilance is more relevant than ever before for the implementation of all the human rights in the Universal Declaration to be effective. Far from being declamatory, it urges us to act and make this respect for human rights a reality, which is at the same time, the respect for the difference of the Other, and for self respect. ¶

“Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.”

Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Pierre Sané
Assistant Director-General
for Social and Human
Sciences

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SHSviews is the new name of the *SHS Newsletter*. This quarterly magazine provides information on the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the field of social and human sciences. It is available in French, in Russian and in Spanish in electronic form (www.unesco.org/shs). Articles may be reproduced providing the credit line reads “Reprinted from *SHSviews*”, along with the date and number of the issue and, when appropriate, the name of the author of the article. © UNESCO, 2008. ISSN 1819-9712.

Director of publication: Pierre Sané. **Editor:** Cathy Bruno-Capvert. **Editorial Board:** Mimouna Abderrahmane, Khaled Abu-Hijleh, Élise Auvachez, Caroline Bacquet, Kristina Balalovska, Coraline Bardinat, Diana Body-Lawson, Daniel Faull, Kornelia Guse, Irakli Khodeli, Vincent Maugis, Maroussia Mbaye, Antoine Pécoud, Carmel Rochet, Saada El Sabri, Vieux Savané, Chiara Sponzilli, Petra Van Vucht Tijssen.

Design and layout: Atelier Takavoïr. **Printing:** OTT imprimeurs, 2008.

INTERNATIONAL BIOETHICS COMMITTEE

Human cloning once again stirs a heated debate at the United Nations

On the occasion of two meetings commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, the International and Intergovernmental Bioethics Committees once again debated on the issues of human cloning.

Issues related to human cloning and international governance have been at the centre of heated debates held in late October 2008, during the 15th session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and the joint session of the IBC and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC). Organized in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, these two meetings commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

“Member States should take measures to adequately protect human life with regards to the implementation of life sciences, and ban all forms of human cloning incompatible with human dignity”.

Despite including in the agenda the principle “social and healthcare responsibility”, as is stated in the Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005), discussions revolved mainly around the report of the United Nations University’s Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), entitled *Is Human Reproductive Cloning Inevitable? Future Options for UN Governance*.

The divergences persevere

As it raises questions on the meaning of human dignity, the beginning of life and the status of the embryo, human cloning therefore entails ethical dimensions all the more complex, as it is conditioned by a wide range of cultural and religious perspectives throughout the world. In such a context, reaching a consensus was not easy, as is stated in the non-binding Declaration on the issue of human cloning, adopted on 8 March 2005, by the United Nations General Assembly. While cloning for reproductive purposes has been unanimously condemned, cloning for therapeutic purposes received the approval from many delegations.

The Declaration therefore urged Member States to take steps to “adequately protect human life” and to prohibit forms of human

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There still does not exist a binding regulatory framework for human cloning research.

cloning “incompatible with human dignity”. However, due to their persistence, the existing diversity of opinions illustrate the urgency to establish a binding international regulatory framework, capable of setting the rules for the practices associated with research on cloning for reproductive or/and therapeutic purposes.

Governed by national law and policy, such practices could leave many countries defenseless against scientists determined to pursue research in this area, without taking any special precautions.

Due to the pressing nature of these issues, the Director-General of UNESCO has expressed his wish that the examination of the UN report be added to the IBC agenda. Consequently, it has been included in the work plan of IBC for 2008-2009. At the same time, the special working group established under the chairmanship of Professor Toivo MAIMETS (Estonia) has begun to explore the scientific, ethical, socio-political and legal aspects of human cloning in recent years, in order to evaluate whether the implementation of a new initiative at international level can be justified or not.

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 The report by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) is available at: www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=111&ddIID=588

BIOETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The role of bioethics committees are discussed in the Russian Federation

A Congress on “Bioethics and Human Rights” brought together UNESCO experts in the field of bioethics from CIS countries, Turkey and the Czech Republic, as well as representatives from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan, on 26 to 27 September 2008, in Kazan.

On 26-27 September 2008, Kazan, the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation), hosted a congress on “Bioethics and Human Rights”, under the banner of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The meeting was organized by the Kazan Medical State University in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Forum of Ethics Committees of CIS countries (FEC CIS) and the Russian National Bioethics Committee with the support of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Scientific Council on Biotechnologies (RAS) and the UNESCO Moscow Office.

For two days, it gathered a great number of UNESCO experts in the field of bioethics from CIS countries, Turkey and the Czech Republic, as well as representatives from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan.

The participants debated on the principles of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted in 2005 by UNESCO, and questioned their implementation in Russia and the CIS countries.

They also discussed several other issues: the way bioethics issues are portrayed in the media, the role of public debate, the combat against doping in sport, the relation between human rights and healthcare, or even social justice with regards to healthcare.

Above all, they underlined the crucial role that National Bioethics Committees can play in the implementation of normative UNESCO documents.

The General Assembly of the Forum of Ethics Committees of CIS countries was held during the Congress, and one of the key issues on its

agenda was the enlargement of the scope of activities of national ethics committees at local, national, regional and institutional levels.

On this occasion, the Director of the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology for UNESCO, recalled that the “purpose of these committees is to foster the exchange of ideas and information, support decision-making, develop tools for standard setting, and strengthen coordination and contacts among experts and institutions”. According to him, these bodies “strengthen the role of UNESCO as an international clearing house for ethical issues”.

As a result of the Congress, the participants agreed that it is important to continue efforts to establish independent, multidisciplinary and pluralist ethics committees in all the sub-region, and ensure their cooperation by promoting their networking. ¶

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Website of the UNESCO Office in Moscow: www.bioethics.ru

ZOOM

Journalists meet in Armenia to discuss human rights

From 7 to 10 October 2008, the Armenian Commission for UNESCO and the Armenian Union of Journalists, with the support of the UNESCO Office in Moscow, organized a series of workshops for Armenian journalists on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A workshop on the theme “Bioethics, Human Rights and Mass Media” was the occasion to promote human rights, ethical norms and standards, as well as the principles set out in UNESCO’s Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. Lively discussions among the journalists during round tables on

the importance of the Declaration of Human Rights, and the implementation of its principles, then followed. The journalists were particularly interested in issues related to bioethics, gender equality, freedom of press, ethics and tolerance in the media. ¶

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TRAINING

Belarus and Israel join forces for ethics teaching

From 17 to 21 November 2008, a training course on ethics teaching will be given to teachers of this discipline in Minsk (Belarus). Organized within the context of UNESCO's Ethics Education Programme, it will be an opportunity for participants to discuss the methods of teaching this complex discipline, and share their respective experiences.

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics of the University of Haifa, Israel and the UNESCO Office in Moscow are organizing, from 17 to 21 November 2008 in Minsk (Belarus), an ethics teacher training course, with the support of the Belarus and Israel Commissions for UNESCO.

This course aims at enabling teachers in ethics – notably the young generation – to improve their knowledge and skills. It takes place within the context of UNESCO's Ethics Education Programme, launched by UNESCO in 2004, to introduce, develop and strengthen the position of this complex discipline in the curricula of all its Member States.

Different Approaches

During four days, the participants will receive practical advice on teaching ethics, and will be invited to share their points of views. The opening day will be devoted to different teaching ethics' approaches and methods, as well as communication with students. It will finish with a workshop during which participants will share their respective experiences, the problems they may have encountered, as well as the solutions they managed to find.

The following day, the Ethics Education Programme developed by UNESCO will be presented to them, and they will be invited



Kalle Kenwiller / Flickr

At the doors of the University of Minsk: the National Library built in 1922 in the Belorussian capital.

to go over the different dimensions of the teaching programme in detail. That is to say: the objectives, the themes, the methods, the material for students, and the evaluation procedures.

Implementation

During the third day, they will focus on experiences in teaching and will examine how to prepare courses on clinical ethics or on ethics and literature, and above all, on how to deliver them. The final day will be devoted to putting this into practice, the participants this time having to present their own proposals for teacher training courses in ethics.

Since this UNESCO programme began, similar training courses have been organized in Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Romania and Slovakia. ¶

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3rd meeting of the French-speaking world on bioethics in Quebec

The 3rd international meeting of the French-speaking world was held in Quebec (Canada) from 20 to 22 October 2008, on the theme "Bioethics: a new space for governance, diversity and cooperation in French-speaking countries". Under the patronage of UNESCO and the International Organization of the Francophonie, they aim to address the geo-cultural aspects of bioethics, by inviting French-speaking stakeholders to share their thoughts and experiences, as well as

strengthening concrete cooperation between the National Bioethics Committees of French speaking countries. Organized by the Canadian and French Commissions for UNESCO, the Science and Technology Ethics Commission of Quebec and the International Association of Law, Ethics and Science, these meetings were attended by speakers from about fifteen countries. ¶

For more information, please consult the following website:
www.ethique.gouv.qc.ca

Meeting in Cairo on the responsibilities of researchers

A meeting of experts from the Arab States on "Ethics and social responsibility of scientific researchers" was held on 26 and 27 October 2008 in Egypt, by the UNESCO Office in Cairo and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), under the cooperation agreement signed between these two organizations in April 2008, in Paris. The main objective of this meeting was to allow experts to formulate recommendations to help plan future actions to promote the ethics of science and

technology in all the countries of the Arab region. It should also lead to the publication of a report on social responsibilities of researchers, of which its examination was on the agenda of the extraordinary session of COMEST, organized at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 12, 13 and 14 November. ¶

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COMMEMORATION

Human rights: UNESCO at

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and in rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 3

Every individual has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

Article 13

Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNESCO is at the forefront, organizing a series of events throughout 2008, under the campaign slogan of the United Nations "Dignity and Justice for All of Us".**

On 10 December, World Human Rights Day, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be 60 years old. At the same time, in several cities around the world and in two symbolic sites in Paris (the Palais de Chaillot and UNESCO), the eyes of 18 filmmakers gathered together by the United Nations and Scorse Foundation, will examine, on giant screens, the state of fundamental rights of human beings in 2008.

It will be an opportunity to highlight the current situation of the principles contained in the Declaration, rather than "celebrating" them. Indeed, on that day, no one will find satisfaction that the Declaration is already 60 years old, as everyone, everywhere, knows that there is still much to do to ensure that the rights it contains become a reality for all.

At UNESCO Headquarters, Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of the Organization, will award the Bilbao Prize for the first time to an individual or organization that, through education, research, or simply raising the

and foremost an opportunity to evaluate the situation of human rights throughout the world, analyze the obstacles that impede their enjoyment, and to reflect on challenges that could tomorrow become major obstacles to the implementation of human rights."

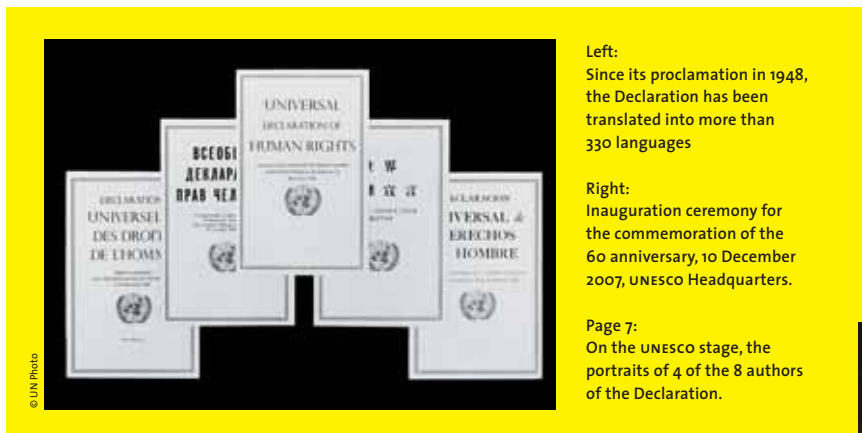
It will not yet be an opportunity for evaluation, despite that this ceremony will be undoubtedly marked by emotion and solemnity, it will not be considered the highlight of this campaign.

During their last Executive Board, which was held end September 2008, the UNESCO Member States decided to extend until February 2009 the date when an International Institute for Human Rights Education in Buenos Aires will be officially created.

One way of asserting that if anniversaries are symbolic dates, the sites can also be so, since this Institute will see the light of day in what used to be one of the main clandestine detention centres under the Argentinean military dictatorship. Also, it is a way to recall that if the principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are not disseminated, promoted and defended, they have little chance of being implemented. ➡

"This 60th anniversary is above all the opportunity to evaluate the situation of human rights across the world."

Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, 10 December 2007.



Left: Since its proclamation in 1948, the Declaration has been translated into more than 330 languages

Right: Inauguration ceremony for the commemoration of the 60 anniversary, 10 December 2007, UNESCO Headquarters.

Page 7: On the UNESCO stage, the portraits of 4 of the 8 authors of the Declaration.

awareness of policy-makers and the general public, will have distinguished himself in defending human rights.

He will refer to the series of events organized by UNESCO, since 10 December 2007, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Declaration, recalling, perhaps, what he had said a year earlier, when this campaign was launched: "The 60th anniversary of its adoption is first



the forefront

↳ To disseminate, promote and defend them, to think about the challenges they pose throughout a world that never ceases to change: this was the purpose of the campaign undertaken, in 2007, by UNESCO, with the support of many partners (Associated Schools, UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, University Chairs, etc). All the sectors of the Organization, and a large number of field offices, have therefore decided to place the most significant activities of their programmes under the banner of this anniversary, coordinated by the Sector for Social and Human Sciences. Very rapidly, they were joined by many National Commissions for UNESCO that took action themselves on all the continents, creating and organizing their own activities.

“Major” events inviting to further the promotion and implementation of the four principal rights relevant to the fields of competence of the Organization, were written into UNESCO's Action Plan, adopted last April, as “the refined Plan of Action”.

In all the regions of the world, from Brasilia to Beijing, passing through Abidjan, Amman, Cartagena, Doha, Cairo, Moscow, Nairobi, Quito, or Rabat, this campaign was the opportunity to strengthen thinking on the right to educa-

also be measured in this field between 2007 and 2008. For example: the implementation last May of a Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the adoption of the European Convention on Child Adoption, as well as the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning Genetic testing for Health Purposes.

Although some people sometimes tend to forget, UNESCO's own history is, indeed, deeply linked to the Declaration. Created at the end of the Second World War, UNESCO had for objective to “contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations, through education, science and culture, in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms”. In other words, the universal values of human rights are at the heart of its mandate.

Since 1947, only two years after its creation, UNESCO set up a committee consisting of renowned intellectuals, amongst them Mohandas Ghandi and Aldous Huxley, to seek their opinions on the idea of a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It emerged from their thinking that Member States of the United Nations shared common principles and ideas, and particularly “the right to live a life free from the haunting fears of poverty and insecurity”. A report was produced which facilitated the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on 10 December 1948 in Paris, France. A Declaration, which UNESCO undertook the next day, to make as widely known as possible, through a resolution of its General Conference.

Sixty years later, loyal to its principles, UNESCO works everyday towards a better knowledge and understanding of all the human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social. Therefore, it continues to place human rights at the heart of all its fields of action, thus improving its contribution for their development. ¶

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All the events linked to the commemoration by UNESCO of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are available online at the following link:
www.unesco.org/shs/fr/humanrights/udhr_60anniversary.

TOOLS

The status of the main international instruments related to human rights, on the 31 May 2008, has recently been published by UNESCO. Each year, the Organization draws up a report on the ratifications, accessions and successions of the main universal and regional treaties, which serves as an opportunity to evaluate the progress achieved. ¶

To order this bilingual document English/French, please contact:
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The booklet is also downloadable on the UNESCO website; use for reference: SHS-2008/WS/9 – cld 1896.8



tion (Article 26), the right to take part in cultural life (Article 27), the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to seek, receive and impart information (Article 19), or even the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications (Article 27).

Thanks to the work of UNESCO, which annually publishes the state of the main international instruments related to human rights (see below), progress can



EVENT

2000 NGO representatives in

Organized for the first time away from the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the 61st annual Conference of NGOs associated to the UN, took place at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 3 to 5 September 2008, and brought together some 2000 participants on the theme: “Reaffirming human rights: the Universal Declaration is 60 years-old”.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Article 21

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

It is 5:30p.m. in Paris, Friday 5 September, the closing day of the annual Conference of NGOs, when on the giant screen in the largest meeting room of UNESCO Headquarters, appears the face of the former Colombian Senator Ingrid Betancourt. It is 11:30a.m. in New York, and thanks to the wonders of information and communication technology, the former FARC hostage urges human rights’ militants gathered in Paris to ensure that “everywhere, regardless of skin colour, culture or religion, no human being should ever be subject to the horrors of ignorance, disease and hunger”.



© M. Ravessard / UNESCO

Seven years of captivity spent in the depths of the “green tomb” of the Colombian jungle, does not seem to have deterred her determination. “We must talk” she says, “talk to make human rights progress”. Ingrid Betancourt glows, passionately. So when Stéphane Hessel takes his turn and intervenes from the top of the Conference’s podium, a belief transcends across the rows of the audience: the defense of fundamental rights for mankind has to be the best remedy against the scars of the soul”.

The French Ambassador shares his enthusiasm. At 90 years old, he calls for mobilization against oppression, and emphasizes the indivisibility of human rights.

Recalling that there is no age limit in the “incessant fight against human rights violations”, he also urges the representatives of NGOs to continue to “press with vigour and energy the policy-makers and the important economic and financial powers to respect human rights”.

Listen, discover, learn

It is that exactly what, in other words, the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences also called for later the same day. In front of the media, and pleased with the success of this Conference, which



© M. Ravessard / UNESCO

offered the opportunity to strengthen the partnerships between NGOs and the United Nations, he reaffirmed that it is “indispensable to continually remind the States of their respective obligations”. The closely followed debates were indeed intense during the round tables, workshops and 17 subsidiary meetings which set the tempo over the three days.

By circulating from room to room, it was an opportunity for ample learning, notably on the role of UNESCO in the field of the defense of human rights. Thus, Günter Overfeld, the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Germany to UNESCO, shed light on an unknown area of UNESCO’s activity.

Chairman of the Committee for Conventions and Recommendations, which brings together 30 Member States of the Organization, he revealed that this body “evaluates, every two years behind closed doors, the complaints of human rights violations, which for the most part, are assembled by NGOs”. Pleased that the Committee had “managed to improve the situation for a number of victims, by bringing their place of detention

Paris to reaffirm human rights

closer to their families,” he explained that “being behind closed doors is an opportunity for an open and honest dialogue, liable to lead to positive results, without the countries losing face in the spotlight because they feel they are being judged by their counterparts”.

In another debate, Karel Vasak, who was one of the authors of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and legal advisor to UNESCO, expressed his conviction that it is important today to go beyond defending the civic, political, economic and social rights, and to adopt “a Declaration on the duties of mankind”. This was echoed by the author and artist Marek Halter who insisted on the fact that “the lives of individuals or groups of individuals, throughout the world, depend on our protests,” and “if we become aware of this, the Conference will have achieved something”.

In Room 1, the official podium was being surveilled by René Cassin, Pen-Chun Chang, Hernan Santa Cruz, William Hoogson, Charles Dukes, Alexander E. Bogomolov, Charles Habib Malik and Eleonor Roosevelt, the only woman among the illustrious figures of eight visionaries at the origin of the drafting of this founding text.

It was 10:20am, when the light shining down on the giant conference room lowered in intensity to allow the Director-General of UNESCO to proceed with the opening of the 61st Conference on NGOs. Koïchiro Matsuura underlined the importance of the meeting, which represented a unique opportunity for the multilateral governmental and non-governmental partnerships, to exchange and share their experiences, recalling that “a long-lasting peace can only be achieved through the respect of human rights and justice”.

Following him, Kiyoko Akasaka, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General for Communications and Information, designated indifference as “enemy number 1” in the fight for human rights. Whilst Rama Yade, French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Human Rights, was present to evoke that “human rights can never be permanently taken for granted”.

After the projection of the video message from the Secretary-General and the President of the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Bacre Bdiaye, representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Shamina de Gonzaga, President of the 61st Annual Conference, invited participants to “listen, discover and learn new things, far away from prejudices and preconceived notions”.

This is what they have never ceased to do over the three days, probably encouraged by the example of a life entirely devoted to the defense of justice, dignity and the fight against all forms of discrimination: symbol of vitality in the fight for human rights, and witness to what can be won, the former French minister, Simone Veil was guest of honour at the 61st annual Conference of NGOs. ¶

Nfaly “Vieux” Savané

Article 23

Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment,

Article 26

Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory.

Article 27

Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancements and its benefits.



Left: Shamina de Gonzaga, President of the 61st Conference of NGOs associated to the United Nations

Centre: Former French Minister Simone Veil and Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

Opposite Page: Rama Yade, Secretary of State responsible for Foreign Affairs and Human Rights for the French government.

Since the opening session on Wednesday 3 September, it had already won its bet of mobilizing a large number of participants. Early in the morning, long queues stretched out along the Avenue de Suffren, participants having to wait to pass through the security formalities in order to penetrate into the prestigious UNESCO compound in Paris, the city where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in December 1948.

Hugs and smiles reflected the joy of the 2000 or so representatives of NGOs from 90 different countries, in “reaffirming human rights”, and by debating on extreme poverty issues, the rights of disabled persons, the victims of psychiatric disorders, and even the possibilities internet offers contemporary society.

CONFERENCE

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Article 28 at the forefront in Cartagena

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration can be fully realized.

A conference organized on “Media, Education and Culture in Human Rights”, on 9 and 10 September in Cartagena (Colombia), gathered together more than 800 participants from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Within the framework of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a conference was held, on 9 and 10 September, in Cartagena (Colombia), on the contribution of the media and education in promoting a culture of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As it concerned the role the press, this meeting, organized by Colombia with UNESCO's support, seemed to bear on the right to freedom of expression. However, the discussions went far beyond that, after the inauguration by the Colombian President, the representatives of the Inter-American Court and Commission of Human Rights, and the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.

For two days, the conferences and round tables followed one another, gathering more than 800 people from Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Mr. Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, also recalled how much, according to him, “the major challenge (...) is the realization of the right proclaimed in Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized”.

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The President of Colombia, Álvaro Uribe Vélez, in conversation with the Vice-President, Francisco Santos Calderón, during the launch of the Regional Conference.

African Great Lakes: working towards a research centre for women

Article 29

Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

An action plan for the creation of a Research and Documentation Centre in the Great Lakes Region has been adopted following a conference that brought together the Ministers of Women's Rights from the countries concerned, on 24 and 25 July 2008 in Kinshasa (DRC). UNESCO, the governments of the countries in the region, the ADB, the UNFPA and the CEA are involved in the plan. It envisages national consultations, discussions on the legal status

of the Centre and the implementation of a financial strategy for the project. A Forum of Ministers for Women from the countries concerned, and a dialogue between ministers and researchers on policies combating violence perpetrated on women, are also planned to be held in Nairobi (Kenya), before September 2009. ¶

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Experts' meeting on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress

The second experts' meeting on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications will be held on 24 and 25 November 2008, in Galway, Ireland. Organized by the Irish Centre for Human Rights, the Amsterdam Centre for International Law and UNESCO, this meeting will bring together specialists in the field of human rights, representatives of research institutions and United Nations' organizations, in order

to make progress on clarifying the content of this right. Drawing upon the findings of the first experts' meeting held in Amsterdam (Netherlands), in June 2007, the focus will be on the concrete obligations of States in respect of this important yet “under-developed” human right. ¶

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17 OCTOBER

Mobilization against poverty, a denial of human rights

On 17 October 2008, on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UNESCO took action from Paris (France) to Bangkok (Thailand), to recall the urgency in combating poverty, a genuine denial of fundamental human rights.

As the world financial markets collapsed under the weight of an unprecedented crisis, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty took on a particular dimension in 2008.

In 2006, according to the World Bank, 1.4 billion people were living in extreme poverty in developing countries. Therefore, from Paris to Bangkok, UNESCO recalled the urgency and need for collective solidarity and efforts, to provide these people with adequate living conditions.

This year, UNESCO had chosen to meet employees from the business district in La Défense, near Paris, by collaborating closely with the French group of associations, "l'Arche et la Dalle". Throughout the whole week, the "Meetings for Solidarity and Sharing," were an opportunity, via conferences and activities, to increase the awareness of the public on poverty issues and their consequences.

UNESCO and "l'Arche et la Dalle" also organized a debate on the theme "A second decade for the eradication of poverty: why?" The same day, a film on the "Six years of implementing UNESCO projects for the eradication of poverty" was broadcast, in support of the week-long exhibition on the theme "La pauvreté saisie par l'image" (Pictures of Poverty)", which highlighted the actions taken by UNESCO in the context of its Eradicating Poverty Programme.

UNESCO lends its support to Member States in developing and implementing national strategies for poverty reduction. It also develops minimal norms, below which the fundamental individual rights are

compromised, in order to propose, using human rights as a frame of reference, a new poverty threshold.

Many activities, workshops and round tables were also organized on the day of the 17 October, as well as a large gathering of people due to the presence of the French Minister for Housing and Urban Planning, Christine Boutin. For this occasion, participants were reminded of the "Strophes à la gloire du Quart Monde" by Father Joseph Wresinski, Article 1 of the 1998 French Law, and the role that the private sector can play in the combat against poverty. Furthermore, activities allowing people in precarious situations to speak out were organized by local associations.

Knowledge sharing

In a message diffused throughout the day, the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, recalled that "fighting against poverty also entails proposing new ways of disseminating and sharing knowledge; it also means fostering dialogue between the various systems of knowledge and cultures, and creating new opportunities for development". He insisted on the fact that "effectively mobilizing the international community is both a necessity and a matter of urgency" and underlined that "UNESCO (...) is fully mobilized to respond to these challenges".

For the President of the Arche et la Dalle, "the relevance and diversity of the subjects approached, the quality of the speeches and the professional manner in which the debates were conducted, were unanimously appreciated and led to an increase in attendance throughout the week: on Friday the marquee was full and the message conveyed



UNESCO has chosen to carry the message to the business quarter in La Défense, near Paris.

throughout the week by people in precarious situations sounded in unison".

The same day, the UNESCO Office in Bangkok proposed a seminar on "Integrated Society: An approach founded on human rights for the eradication of poverty". Organized by friends of the ATD Foundation, the international movement ATD-Quart monde and the Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSH-SAP), this event assembled representatives from the Thai Government, local NGOs, vulnerable communities, as well as academics, students and journalists.

For everyone, these events were a means of preparing even bigger meetings for 2009, the year of the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Global Compact, which links intergovernmental organizations, state structures and the private sector with the common objective, that of development and poverty reduction. ¶

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Fanie du Toit: "Social justice is about making concrete decisions"

Winner of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 2008, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in South Africa is among those "think tanks" that seek to throw light on policy decisions within the social and human sciences. Fanie du Toit, Executive Director of the Institute, answers questions from SHSviews.

How is social justice itself an essential factor for the establishment of peace?

Our institute believes that justice is an indispensable component for reconstruction in post-conflict countries. Promoting justice helps to stabilize society and provide citizens with ways to participate in decision-making and development. It is also the only way to deconstruct the lines of the past and ensure that the poor feel they have a reasonable chance to live a better life.

This view is confirmed when studying the history of South Africa. Social justice is part of the agreement that enabled South Africa to become a democracy. This idea is reflected in our constitution that represents our version of a "peace agreement". Both the interim constitution of 1993 and the so-called final Constitution of 1996 were based on a very progressive vision of social justice. Without such acceptance of social justice as an essential element for future stability, there would have been neither peace nor a peace agreement in South Africa.

Our history shows clearly that social justice is not just about human, legal and political rights; it also concerns economic and social rights. Our courts have been quite creative in beginning to legislate on these issues. In some cases, the state was obliged to provide housing "to a reasonable extent", i.e. that the courts have considered that the state was responsible for social rights and to the extent of its ability to extend these rights to all citizens of South Africa.

This is proof that social justice is not only an ideal, but also involves taking difficult decisions in politics and jurisprudence.

interview



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How do you view the events of May 2008 between South Africans and migrant workers?

It is a real problem. The Institute is also involved in the search for solutions. Our annual reconciliation prize will be awarded to a community of Cape Town who apologized to migrant workers and has been working hard to reintegrate them within the community.

There are two ways to analyze these events. The first concerns the material dimension. In South Africa, there is an anxiety to benefit materially, and this anxiety is accentuated when there is a distribution of services. The more the government is preoccupied with this distribution, the greater the risk of social unrest, because economic refugees and other migrants are perceived as competitors.

The other way to explain these events is that apartheid has left an indelible mark in South Africa on the way people think. The logic of Apartheid is indeed a logic of exclusion, which consists of perceiving individuals not as similar, but different, and categorizing them. Integration, the building of an inclusive society is, indeed, the antithesis of the logic of Apartheid.

To understand what happened, you need to combine these two analyses: the material and ideological factors.

How can social and human sciences help resolve conflicts?

Social and human sciences can not only help resolve conflicts, but they are essential because they focus on deepening understanding between people, and there can be no lasting peace or reconciliation if this is not reinforced. It is not only a question of understanding others, but also of providing a mode of engagement, a way of dialogue with others.

History, taught in a responsible and inclusive manner, enables, for example, a common understanding of the developments of a country and thereby helps people understand and accept each other. We try and think of this discipline as a conversation between different points of view generated through the memories and everyday experiences of people on the ground, rather than as a series of 'expert' monologues. It proposes a debate between different historical views and ensures that none of them become dominant. It is very important for us to understand how we liberated South Africa from political oppression, to realize that this was a concerted effort among South Africans, and to ensure that they continue to commit themselves to a new nation.

Another example: even though mathematics is the only discipline directly linked to economic growth, we have always maintained that this discipline, like all other disciplines that provide technical and vocational skills, should be taught within a framework of democratic values that encourage the development of personal abilities and non-technical skills. It would be dangerous to produce qualified individuals who do not understand the values of democracy.

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation has helped other African countries to develop similar approaches to those of South Africa. Is there a model?

No, certainly not. We do not export the South African model. We only present a small initiative of civil society in South Africa which was developed in the city, region and country where we are based. Based on this work in progress, we encourage other countries to take part in an exchange of ideas and partnerships on ways to move forward. We simply believe that the South African history has taught us a number of lessons worth sharing. So we started a dialogue in Rwanda on comparisons between their system, their Commission for National Unity and Reconciliation and their courts, and the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We are also very involved in Burundi on the question of how to create conditions in which Burundians can conceptualize the process of truth, reconciliation and justice. In the same spirit, we are involved in Mozambique, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

In international law, justice involves reparation and therefore someone's responsibility in financial terms. Is it possible to make reparation for social injustice? Who should be held responsible?

In international law, the state still bears responsibility for compensation, even when it is a new regime that can not be held directly responsible for atrocities committed in the past. However, the response of the State of South Africa is rather mixed. Three types of reparation were recommended by the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation: symbolic, individual and community.

There have been symbolic reparations related to monuments and memorials. There were also individual reparations paid to about 16 000 victims interviewed by the Commission. But we do not yet have a policy for community reparation. Admittedly, there is a special fund - the President's Fund - which represents about one billion Rand, but 14 years on this sum has still not been disbursed to the communities.

The question of reparation must be taken seriously because it is part of the agreement made with the victims of apartheid, which helped justify the amnesty granted to perpetrators. The victims gave up their rights to go to trial on the condition that they receive compensation. We are still waiting for this to be finalized.

At the same time, the state has taken some responsibilities for reparation. But we have probably missed an opportunity to ensure that those who benefited from apartheid commit themselves more in this process. The Commission for Truth and Reconciliation had suggested that companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange pay wealth tax of about 1% of their market capitalization, but this recommendation was not followed. Another idea was put forward: that of creating a business-friendly environment for the economy which would be more beneficial for the country than to punish businesses which made profits during and even from apartheid. ¶

Interview by **Coraline Bardinat**



Fanie du Toit

Born in 1966 in Somerset West, in the province of Western Cape (South Africa), Fanie du Toit holds a doctorate in philosophy of religion from Oxford University. He specializes in post-conflict reconciliation processes and transitional justice. He has been involved in many projects of post-apartheid reconciliation and edited textbooks on history, reconciliation and life orientation. ¶

“South African history has taught us a number of things that are worth sharing”.

1ST DECEMBER

AIDS: the urgency to act on social inequalities

Sensitizing and mobilizing people around the world on the threat of the AIDS pandemic: these are the goals of the World Day “celebrated” every year since 1988 on 1st December.

Twenty years later, we should not give up. The international community should above all keep its promises, as the disease continues to have devastating effects. AIDS remains a leading cause of mortality worldwide and the primary cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa. This is the unequivocal conclusion of the UNAIDS 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic.

Faced with this, the challenges appear enormous. Yet, as never before, this report rejects any sense of inevitability, by recommending addressing social needs which encourages the spread of the pandemic. According to UNAIDS, the epidemic indeed continues to spread, because the societal parameters that increase the risk of exposure and vulnerability have not been sufficiently taken into account in the past. The two main factors are: gender inequality and the lack of empowerment of women and girls; and discrimination, stigma, and social marginalization.

In these areas, UNESCO is out in front. An organization which has made Africa, youth and equality between men and women its three main priorities, it spares no effort.



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In 2007, 2 million children under the age of 15 were HIV positive, of which 90% were from sub-Saharan Africa.

Leading United Nations agency in the field of education, UNESCO is contributing to universal access to HIV prevention programmes through all its different programme sectors. But it is its work in the field of social and human sciences that could have the greatest impact on the management of societal causes for the development of AIDS. Through its programme for social and human sciences, the Organization seeks, effectively, to provide policy-makers with the results of international scientific research, enabling them to formulate well-informed public policies. Above all, it is actively involved in combating HIV-related discrimination.

This discrimination raises powerful barriers in preventing individuals from accessing HIV prevention, treatment and the support that they need. To combat HIV-related discrimination, UNESCO operates in the field, multiplying partnerships with municipalities, particularly in the context of regional coalitions of cities against racism, or by setting up workshops, such as the one recently organized in Africa.

In August 2008, an assessment exercise was conducted in Nairobi (Kenya) and Kigali (Rwanda), in cooperation with, and at the initiative of the Alliance of Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAAAL). Among its objectives were to: identify gaps in HIV-related policies, evaluate the collaboration between local governments and civil society, and formulate gender-sensitive recommendations focusing on action at the local level. The urgency to strengthen the capacity of municipal staff on a wide range of issues related to HIV was voiced. ¶

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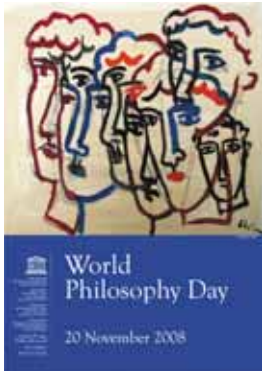
Greater Horn Horizon: a question of identity

For those who might doubt the capacity of intellectuals to tackle head-on sensitive subjects, the Greater Horn Horizon Forum provides a scathing denial. Less than six months after the Republic of Djibouti had put at its disposal premises for head-quarters to allow it to develop its activities, this forum, whose creation in 2007 was initiated by UNESCO, is organizing a workshop on a particularly sensitive theme: that of identity. “Identity, Citizenship and Integration”: as is the exact title of this workshop, will gather a number of experts and researchers on 18 and 19 December 2008, in Djibouti, to analyze, critically, the dominant points of view on these issues, to explore new approaches and definitions of these concepts, and to define a vision on citizen identity which could create the conditions for a genuine cooperation between all the countries in the region. In this part of the world, inter and intra-state conflicts are driven by the politics of identity, which are, in turn, driven by the elite of both the ruling classes and the groups opposing the governments. Although human identity is used as a tool to promote ethnic policy, the lambda individual and his/her community

however, do not share a single identity. Multiple references may determine their identity, such as their ethnicity or their clan, their religion or beliefs, or even their nationality. If the man in the street does not necessarily consider differences in identity as a problem, these differences are nevertheless used to divide the population. Hence the importance to better understand the capacity of individuals and groups to resist the predetermination of their collective identity and to refer to other elements of identification. This is what the intellectuals of the Greater Horn Horizon have decided to tackle, convinced that citizenship is still generally built from a narrow vision of the concept of identity, and the fact that most of the States of the region continue to construct national identity on a particular history, memory, mythology and cultural references that generally exclude the possibility of other narratives. ¶

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New philosophical practices: debates, theatre and jazz at UNESCO



Within the context of the 2008 edition of World Philosophy Day, two conferences are being held in UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris, inviting the general public to reflect, on the one hand, on new philosophical practices, and on the other, on the unconscious, rights and knowledge.

On 19 and 20 November 2008, the Philolab association and "l'Institut Universitaire de Formation des Maîtres de Créteil (France)" are going to transform UNESCO into an area of meetings and interactions for everyone who practices philosophy "differently". The 8th conference on "New Philosophical Practices" proposes no less than 26 exchanges and 9 thematic meetings. Indeed, it will provide open spaces for thought in places as diverse as schools, hospitals, prisons, cafes, and even within companies and organizations.

It provides a unique opportunity to take stock of the current developments of these practices, where the challenge is for each individual to learn how to think for him/herself, with intellectual rigour, in order to strengthen the impulsive thought process of the individual and citizen in the on-going democratic process.

Almost simultaneously, another symposium, placed under the banner of the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, proposes to explore the connotation the word "freedom" has today for philosophers, politicians, artists and psychoanalysts.

At the crossroads of philosophy and psychoanalysis, this symposium of an unusual nature, is also being held at UNESCO's Headquarters on 20 November, and is organized by the journal "Insistance," inviting people to "think about the cultural malaise", and to go on the following day to "unveiling the truth".

The debates on the theme of "unconscious, rights and knowledge" should bring together in Europe a number of leading figures in the world of philosophy, culture, media and politics, and a concert by Aldo Romano will bring the conference to a close. ¶

For more information (programmes and registration), please consult:
8th Conference on the new practices of philosophy: www.colloquepratiquesphilo.org
Conference "Unconscious, Rights and Knowledge": www.insistance.org

2nd Philosophical Asia/Arab States Dialogue on the role of philosophy in war and peace

The 2nd Philosophical Dialogue between Asia and the Arab region brought together 50 experts from 14 different countries in Hiroshima (Japan), from 25 to 27 July 2008.

As a result of this meeting, organized by UNESCO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, recommendations were made to UNESCO Member States, one of

which expressed the wish that UNESCO adopts a "Declaration of the Construction of an Enduring Peace through the Promotion of Social and Environmental Justice". ¶

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A question for:



DR CATHERINE DOLTO, a haptopsychologist, daughter of the psychoanalyst and pediatrician Françoise Dolto

From 12-14 December 2008, a conference will be held at UNESCO Headquarters on the current thinking of Françoise Dolto, on the occasion of the centenary celebrating the pioneer of psychoanalysis of children. Do you think children are able to philosophize?

"Children look at the world around them through the eyes of a philosopher. From birth they seek to give meaning to everything that goes on around them. Their dependence on adults, their need to love and be loved, their fear of abandonment and rejection, immerse them in a whirlwind of emotions and feelings which motivate all their actions and gestures. However, they are not always understood by adults. Their intelligence is already apparent in its entirety, but without the support gained from experience and knowledge, it does not allow them to have a reasonable perception of the world. However their thoughts often reflect true wisdom, which are free from the restrictions that will be imposed on them later in life."

Interview by Fériel Ait-Ouyahia

THE MOST PROGRAMME

A Forum of Ministers of

It is under the banner of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that the 2nd Forum of Ministers for Social Development of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was held in Abidjan, on 25 and 26 September 2008.

During this commemorative year in honour of the Universal Declaration, the choice to carry the flag on fundamental rights for human beings could have been a mere convenience or a clever coincidence. In the end, no other text could have more legitimacy in providing a unique banner for the 2nd Forum of Ministers for Social Development of the ECOWAS, which was, in its entirety, on the theme of solidarity. Arriving from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, the government representatives of Member States from this area of sub-regional economic cooperation, had agreed to meet in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) with a unique objective: to determine the line of action for a genuine common "social agenda".

Also participating in this meeting were the representatives of ECOWAS, the African Union, the President of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, as well as the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, Pierre Sané. For two days, at the invitation of the Ministry of Solidarity and Victims of War of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the West-African government representatives

shared their respective experiences and sought to identify possible projects for cooperation between themselves. They did not hesitate in revealing obstacles, such as problems with national sovereignty, identity and citizenship, and of course, conflict situations.

It was a question of speaking the truth and rising above the institutional boundaries. And also, to agree upon the dynamics to be implemented to tackle the challenges that undermine the West-African population, such as first and foremost: poverty, inequalities, youth unemployment; violence, diseases, specifically Aids, the lack of infrastructures or access to basic social services, drinking water, etc.



The participation of civil society in driving public policies remains a challenge.

First Forum of Ministers for Social Development of East Africa

The first Forum of Ministers for Social Development of the East African Community (EAC) was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 15 to 19 September 2008, at the initiative of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme. In accordance with other existing Forums of Ministers in various regions of the world, the Ministers from Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania also had as an objective to provide a long-lasting platform to share experiences and to

harmonize policies and approaches in the management of cross-cutting social concerns, such as poverty eradication as well as the overall management of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Their discussions illustrated that the establishment of dialogue and common policies at a regional level could contribute to the development of more concrete democratic structures and a stronger social cohesion in East Africa.

Since its inception, the Ministers insisted on defining the priorities for common action in four important sectors of intervention: health and social services; education, science and technology, culture and sports; gender, children, youths, social protection and community development and environment and natural resources. Within this framework, they would like UNESCO and the countries of the EAC to work more closely together, and in particular, in combating AIDS

and in acting in favour of the development of primary education, of sport and physical education, as well as promoting equality between men and women. They will meet again for a 2nd Forum, in September 2009, in Bujumbura, Burundi. ¶

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ECOWAS for the people

“To move from an ECOWAS for the States to an ECOWAS for the people”: this seemed to be the ambition shared by all, including the Commissioner of ECOWAS for Human Development and Gender, Adrienne Diop. Represented at the highest level by Prime Minister Kigbbafori Guillaume Soro and a number of ministers, the government of Côte d’Ivoire did not add anything other than, insisting from the start, on “the necessity, for African states, to modernize the mechanism of their cooperation and integration tool: ECOWAS”.

How indeed can one imagine development that is beneficial to everyone, without cooperation; and effective cooperation for all, without solidarity?

Hence, the ministers spent much time discussing ways to strengthen the space for dialogue, which is what constitutes the Forum, created within the framework of UNESCO’s MOST Programme, in the hope that the latter anticipates further on the issue of clandestine emigration. They also listened intently to the recommendations of a group of experts who had met together in late August in Abidjan, to best prepare for this 2nd edition. Three papers on solidarity and social development within the context of ECOWAS had been presented, and many emergencies had been highlighted: the need to agree on the definition of concepts of solidarity and social development; the need to analyze in depth the institutional and human resources available in each of the ECOWAS countries; and finally, the need to start to draw up a genuine report on the research capacities of these countries, so that ECOWAS is better able to contribute to the drafting of public policies.

During the Forum, the Ministers for Social Development did more than simply take into account these proposals. They followed them up, and proposed others, such as the idea that South-South cooperation could lead to the establishment of a “World Solidarity Bank”. In a joint Declaration, they decided to take “all the necessary measures to further strengthen cooperation between (their) countries”, and they committed themselves to promote “the effective and efficient involvement of civil society in implementing policies of solidarity and social development,” and to establish an Observatory for Solidarity and Social Development, as a structure for strategic monitoring “open to all positive cooperation” to support good governance and further develop social policies through experimentation followed by a set of recommendations. To ensure the follow-up of their own commitments, they have established a plan of action that will take them to September 2009, which is the date for the 3rd Forum of Ministers for Social Development of ECOWAS, in Burkina Faso. President of the Forum since it began in 2006, Sekou Diakité, Minister of Social Development of Mali, gave up his seat to his counterpart from Côte d’Ivoire, at the closing of the Forum. ¶

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Private sector’s social responsibility is on the agenda in Arab States

No less than 22 Ministers of Social Development from the Arab States are expected to meet in Amman, Jordan, from 12 to 14 November 2008, at the invitation of their Jordanian counterpart and the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme. At the time this magazine was being sent to press, this level of participation already was a guarantee of its success. It reflects a deep interest on behalf of the governments of Arab States for a long-lasting space for regional dialogue, in favour of connecting the outcomes of social science research and developing pertinent political responses which best respond to the needs of the population of the region.

Continuing the commitments taken in 2007 in Marrakech (Morocco) during the creation of the Forum of Ministers for Social Development for the Arab States, this 2nd edition promises to reinforce cooperation amongst all the countries concerned, to identify and set up the most appropriate means of promoting converging social policies.

This is similar to what they had themselves hoped for, in the shared Declaration adopted in May 2007. The implementation of the recommendations of “The Marrakesh Declaration” was high on the agenda for this 2nd Forum. Is it because, in one of these, the Ministers committed themselves to evaluating the current monetary transfer programmes in the different regions? The main theme of the Forum in Amman will be corporate social responsibility for the development of the Arab region.

Engine of economic growth, the private sector indeed becomes one of the pillars for sustainable

development. Without it, it would be impossible. The Ministers of the Arab region had therefore envisaged to focus their exchange of ideas on how to increase the involvement of this sector in the implementation of their priorities and national social programmes as far as development is concerned. To assist them, many leading figures from the world of research were invited to intervene on social corporate responsibility from a theoretical and practical point of view. In addition to strengthening the link between research and policy, this 2nd Forum of Ministers for Social Development should also provide an opportunity to study the modalities for a greater cooperation between research institutions and civil society, in order to facilitate the consultations with the latter, to better respond to the needs of the population. ¶

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most Maghreb online

The MOST Committee for Tunisia, in consultation with the other National Committees of the Maghreb region, has, since 2006, been giving support to a website dedicated to the coordination of the activities of the MOST programme in the five countries of the region (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia). All these activities revolve around the theme of “The state, civil society and social transformations”. The website can be accessed in Arabic, English and French at the following address:
www.mostmaghreb.org.tn.

DEVELOPMENT

UNESCO participates in the 4th World Urban Forum

After Nairobi (Kenya) in 2002, Barcelona (Spain) in 2004 and Vancouver (Canada) in 2006, the town of Nanjing (China) hosted, from 3 to 6 November 2008, the 4th World Urban Forum.

As the population living in urban areas has now exceeded the 50% mark, the 4th World Urban Forum, was organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), from 3 to 6 November 2008, under the theme “Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge Of Balanced Territorial Development.”

Hundreds of participants from all the corners of the world attended to exchange ideas and share their experiences on concrete initiatives contributing to the sustainable development of cities. Among them were: urban planners, academics, representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations, as well as local representatives, and representatives from UNESCO’s Headquarters and field offices.

On the agenda, round tables, training workshops, seminars, as well as many parallel events, gave many opportunities to explore the challenges caused by the rapid urbanization of territories and their socio-economic consequences, such as over-population in cities, urban poverty, or even problems of access to drinking-water and sanitation services.

For UNESCO, which has been cooperating with UN-Habitat for many years in favour of urbanization with a human face, this global event was a new opportunity to raise awareness of its activities to an audience particularly concerned by this issue.

A UNESCO representative participated at a mayors’ round table, organized for the opening of the Forum, to promote activities carried out by coalitions of towns against racism and discrimination. UNESCO has contributed to its creation in all the regions of the world since 2004. But it was on its



A guide for urban actors in India has sent shockwaves in Nanjing. In the photo: New Delhi.

information stand that UNESCO multiplied the debates on sustainable development, the notion of the right to a city and water management.

At its initiative, two training workshops were also organized: one focused on water management, the other on the contribution of local authorities in revitalizing historic districts. The latter was based on the handbook *Historic Districts for All*, published in early 2008 by UNESCO and UN-Habitat, and the adaptation of the project to the realities of Indian society was widely discussed in Nanjing.

Taking advantage of the fact that the World Urban Forum was taking place for the first time in Asia, the UNESCO Office in New Delhi presented a *Guide for Urban Actors in India*, which, similar to the original handbook, intends to be a genuine tool for assisting policy-makers and professionals confronted by the transformations of their cities. It should be published in 2009. ¶

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Debate in Quito on coexistence and urban chaos

The MOST Programme of UNESCO was invited to participate in the international conference “Integral Urban Policies and Coexistence in Latin American Towns”, organized in Quito, Ecuador, from 25 June to 1 July 2008, by Quito Town Hall, the “Centro Internacional de Formación para Autoridades Locales” (International Local Authorities Training Centre) and the government of Catalonia, with the support of UNITAR, UN-HABITAT and the IDB. Today, urban violence is one of the main characteristics of societies in general, and especially those of Latin America. It is responsible for an economic loss of around 14% of the GDP and remains a historical and social problem due to unsolved contradictions among social class relations. Urban policies are, however, one of the dimensions of urban construction, in the sense that agglomerations are a place of

dense social heterogeneity linked to unresolved social conflicts. Urbanity is rich from a rhetoric perspective (we speak more and more of social cohesion) but poor in empirical evidence. If the public space is at the same time an important element in the relationship between violence and urban development, it is today, in a globalized environment, neglected and transformed into a space of rapid flows. In our speech, we developed different points of view of sociology, by stressing the importance of social cohesion in maintaining social relations. We identified the obstacles that efficient urban integration policies come up against, due to the ignorance of conflicting elements in social dynamics. We also exposed the importance of territory and different scales of urbanization in view of the development of citizenship. ¶

Germán Solinis



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Working Towards a UNESCO 5-year action plan for youth in Africa

In the final stages of development, the 5-year Action Plan for Youth Empowerment in Africa is inscribed in UNESCO's global strategy for policy development for and with youth throughout the world.

The finalization of a "5-year UNESCO Action Plan for Youth Empowerment in Africa" was announced at a conference on youth development and employment, organized on 22 September 2008, alongside the High Level Meeting on African Development, held during the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

This will not be a "ready-made" programme, but will be based on a series of consultations with UNESCO Member States, the African Union and youth organizations, before being fully validated.

Developed by the Organization's Social and Human Sciences Sector, on the basis of recommendations made by the youth delegates at the 1st UNESCO African Youth Forum (Ouaga-dougou, September 2007), it aims at allowing young Africans to participate as fully-fledged partners in the development of their region.

In this perspective, both its finalization and its implementation could not constitute a unilateral effort by UNESCO, despite the fact that the latter is one of the leading UN agencies working on programmes for youth and includes in its priorities for 2008-2013 the development of Africa as well as its youth.

The first affected must be associated

In these fields, just like in so many others, UNESCO is working towards establishing partnerships with a great number of actors, at all levels, aiming at acting not only "for" but mainly "with" the main beneficiaries of its programmes. Therefore, just like an international think tank, the UNESCO Programme for Social and Human Sciences favours synergies between the results of social science research and the development of

policies to provide sustainable responses to the populations' needs.

The Action Plan presented at New York is fully inscribed in this effort: it does not aspire to improve young people's lives without involving them; not even to decide on the policies to be implemented in the place of decision-makers. In every aspect, the main actors concerned are involved.

An example? From 15 to 19 October 2008, the Youth Section of UNESCO co-organized a meeting on youth networks and policies in



It is not a question of making youths happy in their place, nor is for them to decide on political content instead of those elected

the Dominican Republic, during the International Conference of the Americas. The objective of this meeting, where 35 countries were represented; was to bring youth from whole region together around a common project and to pool together the efforts of regional actors specialized on youth issues with the launching of a "Youth Network of the Americas". At the national level, several initiatives are underway. In Brazil - where 35 million young people represent 20% of the population - UNESCO works

in close cooperation with the government to eradicate juvenile violence, with projects such as the "Open Schools" Programme, which consists in opening schools during the weekends to give youth access to cultural activities and sports. Another substantial project aims at promoting the social and human development of Brazilian youth by consolidating the national youth policy, notably through the creation of a Brazilian youth observatory.

Other region, other issues

Elsewhere, the prevention of juvenile violence is also at the heart of the UNESCO's action. In El Salvador, a series of initiatives mixing education, culture, entrepreneurship and communication has, since 2006, fostered the social integration of youth. For example, some workshops are aimed at strengthening the culture of tolerance among the 15-24 year-olds. A campaign to promote the culture of entrepreneurship has also permitted 16 young people to obtain grants to start up their projects.

Other regions of the world, other issues: in Lebanon, a UN project, led by UNESCO, aims at assisting the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the finalization and adoption of a youth policy and the setting up of a National Youth Card system. The concern, here too, is to sustain decisions and political reforms on youth issues by strengthening the participation of Lebanese youth in all sectors of public life. ¶

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FIELD

Burundi: Making peace for and with young people

Supported by the international community, Burundi, now recovering from a decade - long civil war, is developing an economic insertion programme aimed at young people. Approached by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), manager of the project, UNESCO was asked to contribute in the training of trainers.

UNESCO's expertise in training of young people by other young people was called upon in the implementation of a vast post-conflict programme consolidating peace "Participation of young people in social cohesion" currently being run in Burundi.

Piloted by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), this programme aims to contribute to the emergence of responsible and active citizenship in consolidating the peace process in this country, which has just overcome ten years of armed conflict.

Thanks to its recognized competence in the field of peer education, UNESCO therefore participates in the strengthening of the capacities of the young Burundian trainers in fields of competence as varied as: HIV/AIDS prevention, respecting human rights, gender equality, peaceful resolutions of conflicts, managing the environment, and even entrepreneurship.

Most of these training courses having been completed since last June, only the section related to entrepreneurial training of 200 selected youths is still running. These youths will be awarded micro-credits at the end of their training to help them create their own economic activity and ensure its implementation and sound management.

Because 50 % of young people under 25 are school either drop-outs or have never been to school due to the prevailing conflict situation, this objective of this training programme is to contribute significantly to their integration into the social fabric. These

young people, for the most part, suffer from a very low capacity of independence, especially due to a lack of income and technical skills. It is therefore a question of enabling them to seize the employment opportunities that arise.

The transfer of knowledge and skills to young people by other young people, in which UNESCO has recognized competence, is an approach which has already been successful throughout the world. Therefore, the project, which encompasses 6 provinces of Burundi (Bujumbura Council, Rural Bujumbura, Makamba, Cankuzo, Kayanza and Mwaro), seeks to contribute to community rehabilitation and the social cohesion of the young Burundians. ¶

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Juan Guerra promises to combat youth violence

The Dominican singer Juan Luis Guerra, recently appointed UNESCO Artist for Peace, was particularly keen to be involved in the UNESCO Programme for the Prevention of Youth Violence established in Central America by UNESCO since 2006. In a context of increasing urban violence, where youths are both the perpetrators and the victims, public policies combating juvenile delinquency have, for a long time, been focused on dissuasion and repression, without successfully containing the rise of the *MARAS*, those violent youth gangs linked increasingly to the trafficking of drugs, arms and people. It is for this reason that UNESCO has focused on measures, by taking into account the fundamental causes of youth violence, such as the lack of opportunities and identity benchmarks. In fact, a preventive approach constitutes a low-cost and efficient method, and benefits

not only youths but society as a whole. UNESCO has therefore established a prevention strategy for the Central American region, and set up national projects currently in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, and in the near future in the Dominican Republic and Ecuador. These projects revolve around five strategic components which are in accordance with UNESCO's objectives: education, culture, communication, social science and entrepreneurship. The purpose of these "pilot" projects is to serve as a model for the elaboration of future public policies combating juvenile delinquency. It is not only a question of reinforcing the technical capacities of national institutions, but also to incite a profound change in ideology, by propagating a lasting culture of prevention. ¶

Daniel Coulomb-Herrasti



200 young Burundians want to benefit from entrepreneurial training.

Designation of 3 UNESCO champions for sport

Nominated UNESCO Champions for Sport on 13 September 2008, the Jamaican sprinters Usain Bolt and Veronica Campbell-Brown should receive their titles from UNESCO's Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura, during a ceremony to be organized at the end of November 2008 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

This nomination by UNESCO pays tribute to the commitment in promoting values of peace and tolerance, as well as justice and equality between women and men in

sport, by these two athletes, who distinguished themselves brilliantly during the recent Olympic Games in Beijing (China). A few days earlier, the Mongolian sumo wrestler, Davaajargal Munkhb, had also joined the ranks of UNESCO Champions for Sport, during a ceremony held in Tokyo (Japan). ¶

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ZOOM



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Anti-doping: regional conference in South Africa

On 27 and 28 November 2008 in Cape Town (South Africa), UNESCO, South Africa and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will convene a meeting of African Member States to UNESCO, to debate on the International Convention against Doping in Sport and its implementation.

This Conference will provide practical advice to policy-makers on how to establish effective anti-doping programmes. UNESCO will also provide information on the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport and the modalities to access

the USD\$1.3 Million available to assist in the fight against doping in sport. On this occasion, the South African Ministry of Sport and Recreation will also share its experience in the field, as the country prepares to welcome the FIFA World Cup in 2010. ¶

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International congress in Jamaica on sport for peace and development

An international congress on Sport for Peace and Development, organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Jamaican Government, was held in Kingston, Jamaica from 13 to 16 September 2008. Opened by Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, it was an opportunity to explore, not only the educational but also the cultural, economic and political dimensions of sport.

Featuring two round tables, the debates were an excellent opportunity to study an intersectoral approach to sport, which would thus contribute to all forms of development and, therefore, towards building a world of peace. Strongly represented by the governments of the 15 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), they were particularly encouraged to integrate this approach in their sport policies. Throughout the congress, UNESCO focused on identifying the challenges, insisting on the importance of reinforcing international cooperation, whilst taking into account the diverse sport policies and programmes already in place and the capacities of each country.

UNESCO also agreed to continue its work on the development of quality indicators for physical education; as well as diversifying in its cooperation with other United Nations' agencies

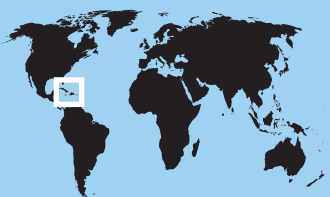
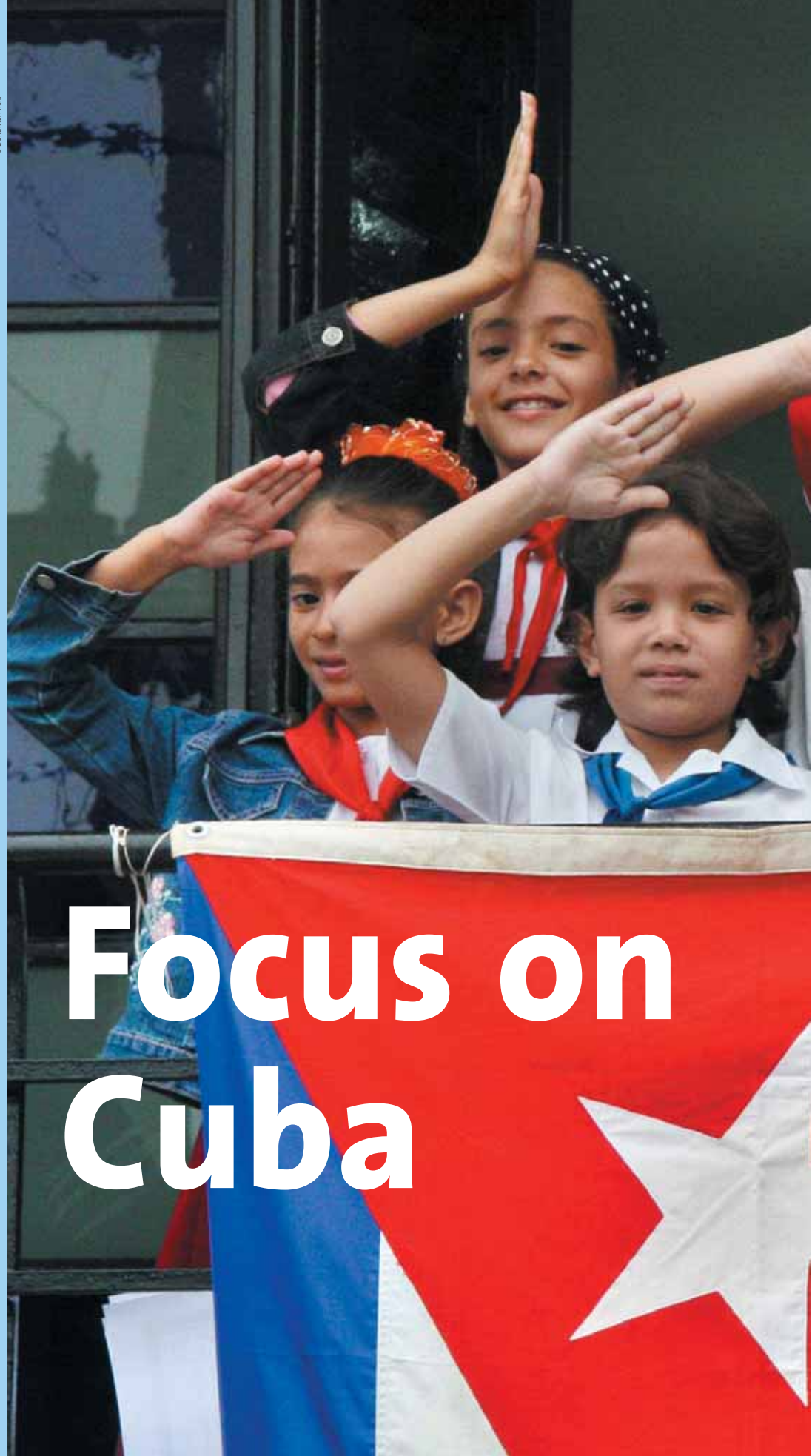
within the field of research on the impact of sport and education on health.

It was proposed that a regional forum should be set up by UNESCO to strengthen dialogue and exchange of experience on pertinent issues. In addition to this, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Edward Seaga, invited UNESCO to organize meetings with partners who would be liable to participate in the creation of an international fund for peace and development. The importance of traditional sports and games was also emphasized. UNESCO Member States were encouraged to highlight the link between sports and culture, through a greater synergy between the different competent Ministries. Finally, the determining role of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), in ensuring the appropriate follow-up of sports-related conferences was also recalled, even more so as the different avenues explored during the Kingston congress could be used as a reference framework for States wishing to implement policies favouring development and peace. ¶

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Dossier

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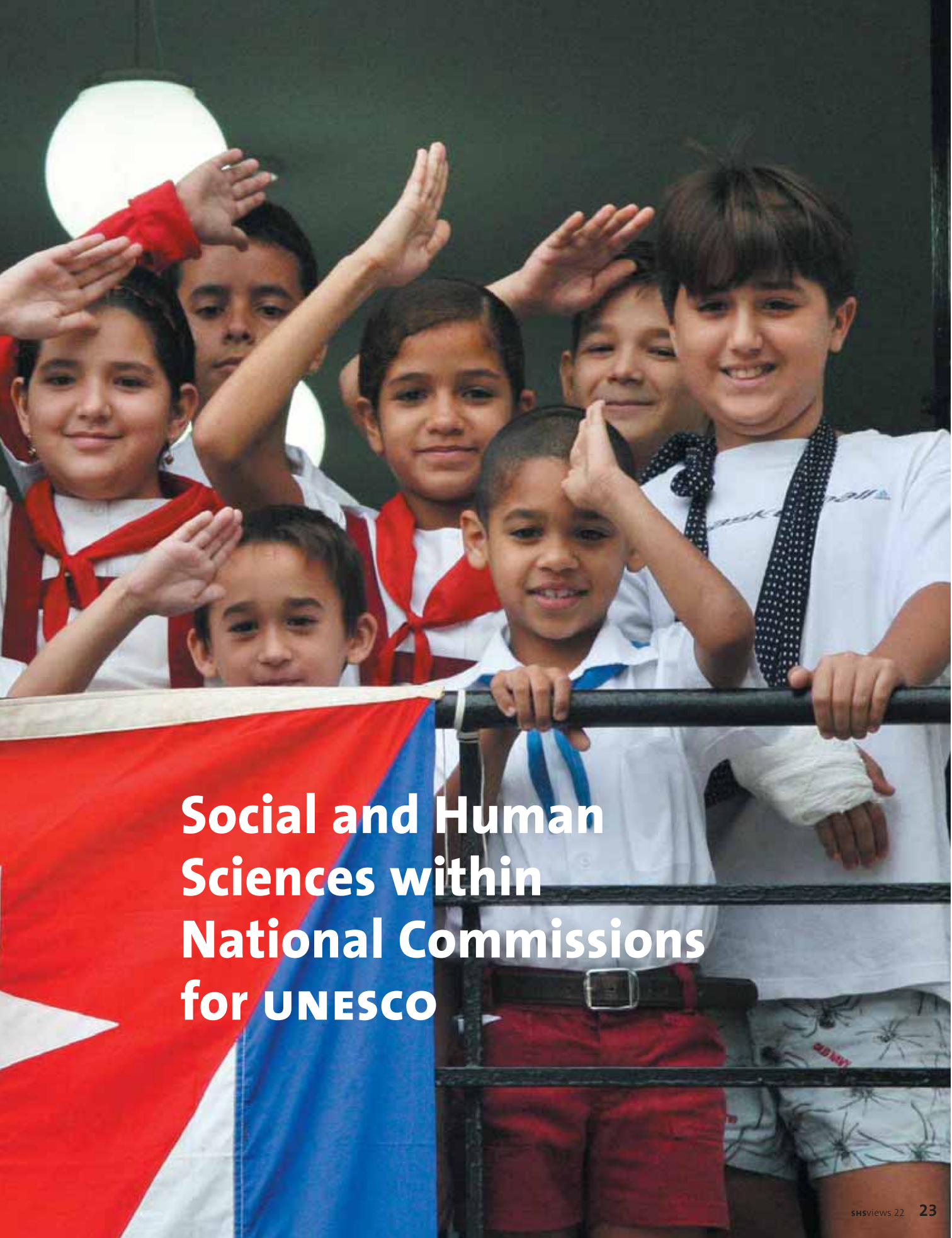


Focus on Cuba

Dossier compiled by:
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**Social and Human
Sciences within
National Commissions
for UNESCO**

UNESCO and Cuba: historical convergences

Pursuing its journey around the world to explore how social and human sciences are understood within the UNESCO National Commissions, SHSviews makes a stopover in Cuba.

For youth throughout the world, Cuba is primarily a portrait: that of Che. An illustrious figure, who was tirelessly determined to fulfil a dream: equality and justice for all. A face that is found everywhere in Cuba, where youth is the force of the future, and is also the name of one of the many small islands (Isle of Youth) that make up the country. Whilst this article was being written, Cuba was hit at full pelt by two hurricanes.

99,8%

is the adult literacy rate in Cuba in 2007, and it is estimated to be 100 % for young people (UNESCO)

Identical objectives

The whole of the Cuban territory suffered considerably: more than 320 000 homes and 40 % of schools were damaged. As a result, it is difficult to invite readers to turn their attention to one of the first UNESCO National Commissions to have seen the day, in 1947. It is impossible not to have a thought for the Cuban population, condemned by one of the most devastating environmental catastrophes in its history. Since the 1990s, it has been facing serious economic problems, as a result of the collapse of the socialist bloc, and the tightening of the embargo imposed by the United States, despite 16 UN resolutions.

With over 11 million inhabitants, the most populated island in the Caribbean has not sacrificed its ideologies, embodied by the figure of Ernesto Che Guevara, and forcibly defends its choices.

It will celebrate, on 1st January 2009, the 50th anniversary of the Socialist Revolution, and continues to prioritize access to education, healthcare and culture for all. To such an extent, that the present objectives of the Cuban Commission for UNESCO which was created 12 years before Batista's dictatorship was overthrown, are too closely intertwined with the political choices of the government.

Attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Commission plays a role of advisor and coordinator in all the fields of competences of the Organization: education, science, culture and information.

If the Commission's mission is to advise the government on its relations with UNESCO, it also contributes in planning and carrying

out UNESCO activities in Cuba, in monitoring their implementation through national bodies, and in informing the relevant Ministries of the results.

Indeed, the Cuban Commission closely cooperates with UNESCO's first field office to be created: that of Havana, which is both the focal point of the Organization in the field of culture for all the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the "cluster office" for Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Aruba.

Tool to help decision-making

In a country with no fewer than 3150 universities and 12000 schools, it evidently conducts important work in favour of education for all, with the support of 73 UNESCO Associated Schools.

However, social and human sciences also continue to play an important role. This is illustrated by the creation in 1994, of the UNESCO José Martí Prize, the name of the national Cuban hero, who was also praised by the scientific community. In addition, for the 2008-2009 year, 200,000 students are enrolled to study social science, according to provisional figures released by the Ministry of Education.

Grouped together with the natural sciences in one of the 4 specialized committees of the Cuban Commission for UNESCO, social sciences are, in this case, considered to be an instrument of aid for political decision-making working for the population.

Is it a matter of method and approach? Probably. Others would say it is a matter of political culture.

A socialist country for the past 50 years, Cuba has indeed largely invested in scientific research, and acquired international recognition in this field, which even led the editor of the American magazine *Science*, dated 17 October last, to write that "the scientific community of the United States could benefit from the high-level of science developed by Cuba".

As the other articles in this dossier illustrate, the Cuban Commission strives, in the field of the social sciences, to stimulate research and promote exchanges between experts and decision-makers, through numerous cooperation project, as well as supporting the participation of Cuban researchers in international thought.

Closely collaborating with the Superior Council of Social and Human Sciences of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA), it has also encouraged the creation of various national structures related to UNESCO programmes, such as the Bioethics Committee, the Committee on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), or even the Liaison Committee for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme. ¶

Coraline Bardinat and Cathy Bruno-Capvert



How have you benefitted from your collaboration with the world of research in social sciences?

José Luis Rodríguez, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Economy and Planning:

“Social sciences have made a significant contribution to the economic policies of our country. They have helped us envisage long-term development programmes and strategies and have also helped us make economic policy decisions in coping with the consequences of the economic crisis, which began in the 1990s, thanks to a study on the fundamental equilibrium of the economy. Social science has helped us consider the development of our economy by drawing on the studies carried out on population dynamics”. ¶

36% is the percentage of women in the Cuban Parliament in 2007, who won the right to vote in 1934 (UNDP)

Promoting youth empowerment and their integration into Cuban society

Since the 1950s, young Cubans, aged between 15 to 29 years, are considered to be significant actors in the social transformation process. For over 50 years, studies on youth therefore represent one of the most recognized fields of social science research in Cuba.

Since the beginning of the new millennium, which marked a change in the economic and social context for Cuba, youth is also the focus of action targeted by the government, illustrated in “Programmes of the Revolution”.

In this context, and bearing in mind that social sciences should accompany decision-makers in policy formulation by facilitating access to knowledge, the Cuban Commission for UNESCO offers support and expertise to both researchers and decision-makers.

It works together with the various structures dedicated to the study of youth-

related issues, such as the Research Centre for the Study of Youth (CESJ) and the Union for Communist Youths (UJC). The latter two also cooperate between themselves. The Commission periodically invites these structures to participate in the UNESCO Regional Youth Forums. It also includes them in UNESCO’s Fellowship Programme and Participation Programme so that they can present their projects.

The Commission also actively contributes to the implementation of national programmes dedicated to youth, such as the “Programme for the Integral Development of Youth”. This programme was implemented by the government in 2000, to assist youths in their professional integration, and to provide them with comprehensive training.

Within the context of this programme, actions to raise awareness have been carried out for unemployed youths who do not study,

to give them the opportunity to start a university course or find a job. In the same year, another training programme for social workers was introduced with the support of civil society. Through this programme, youths received training enabling them to become part of the community and contribute to its social cultural transformation.

Social scientists have participated in the preparation of these two projects, whilst the Cuban Commission assumed the role of establishing a network between the different actors, by organizing meetings between the communities concerned and the Cuban Network of Schools associated to UNESCO. ¶

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The study of migration patterns to promote national development

The study of Cuba as a country of emigration requires particular understanding, taking into account current demographic trends on the island. Notably, the decline in the birth rate and an ageing population together result in a negative net migration rate.

In order to analyze this phenomenon, Cuban social science research institutions have studied internal migration flows, considered to be an important demographic variable in socio-economic terms for researchers, policy-makers and economic planning. The outcome of their research, serves therefore as a basis for the design of governmental development programmes. For example, since 1987, the Cuban Government has been implementing the "Plan Turquino", a development programme for the communities from the Las Montañas region, with the support of a team of researchers studying the effect of the

programme on the decline of internal migration. This mountainous region, which represents 20 % of the area of the country, and where 6 % of the population resides, is indeed marked by a strong rural exodus.

Stemming rural exodus

Thanks to the expertise and the financial support of UNESCO, a project carried out by the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television has led to the creation of a television channel in an isolated enclave of Buey Arriba, in the Granma province. The Cuban Commission, responsible for its coordination, has gathered together a team of experts on science and communication to create this community tool. In 1993, the "Serra" channel was launched.

Two years later, another national study on internal migration was carried out, and this time around, it involved 99 municipalities. The results, presented to the government,

recommended stemming rural exodus, as it hinders development in the whole of the Cuban territory.

More recently, a new research programme has been launched to analyze the impact of global warming on the population and internal migration. ¶

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200,000

is the number of students registered in social sciences for the university year 2008-2009

(Ministry of Education)

3 questions for... Juan Luis Martin

Juan Luis Martin is the Executive Secretary of the Superior Council for Social Sciences of the Cuban Ministry of Sciences of Technology and the Environment (CITMA).

How is the work that you carry out in social and human sciences organized alongside the programmes of the National Commission?

Research in social and human sciences in Cuba is carried out on the basis of a working agenda approved by a government majority and the scientific

community for a 3-year period. The research themes are largely inspired by UNESCO science programmes. These studies enrich the approach to education, culture and science, just like the literacy method "Yo si puedo", the result of pedagogical scientific research. Generally, the interface between research and the decision-making processes serves as a guide for research in Cuba and as a management mechanism between the programmes of the Cuban Commission to UNESCO and the social, economic and foreign policies of the country.

What are the main challenges for Cuba in which the social and human sciences can contribute in shaping a response? The main challenges our country needs to face at the moment are increasing productivity - notably, in the agriculture and construction sectors -, increasing the birth rate, as well as managing climate change. Each one is determined by the interaction of internal and external factors, among which, the Cuban economic embargo, the regular impact of natural disasters and the world food crisis. Social sciences can help to address these

Making social science research work for poverty reduction

If everywhere in the world social sciences represent a formidable tool for the recognition of realities, it is particularly true of Cuba, with regards to the understanding of the phenomena of poverty. Social science research in this field has indeed largely contributed to its evaluation and the formulation of public policies adapted to a specific context.

If, since 1983, a study entitled *Eradicating poverty in Cuba* provided the first post-revolution analysis of the nature of economic transformations and their social impact, it is in reality only as from the 1990s that social sciences studied poverty in depth. An international research project on the effects of macro-economic and social policies on the levels of poverty, conducted in 1997 by UNDP, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, provided the first methods in the quantification of poverty adapted to the Cuban case. This study ascertained that the traditional methods employed to measure poverty levels, were not at all adapted to Cuba. According to researchers involved in the project, poverty as manifested in developing countries does not exist in Cuba.

Instead, they proposed the notion of "population at risk of poverty" to define this part of the population with incomes that do not allow it to qualify for the "food basket," provided by the government for the most destitute, but who benefit from a range of free services qualitatively superior to those who fit in to the same bracket of population in other parts of the world.

This project forms the basis of evaluation and quantification work carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics, which remains one of the principal instruments employed by the Cuban Government to implement social policies.

Since then, many objectives are set by the Cuban development strategy and socio-economic policies: to develop human capacities; to eradicate the mechanisms that generate inequality and poverty; to take concrete measures to improve living conditions; to redistribute income; but also to transform values, behaviour and social relations in order to promote a humanistic and united society.

In the context of the economic crisis that has affected the country since the 1990s, there remain many challenges which

require adjustments in Cuba's policies and development, with the emergence of new links between economic planning and the market, at the same time increasing the economic vulnerability of the population. However, in this field too, the Cuban Commission for UNESCO plays a useful role, by ensuring the liaison between governmental structures, research centres and NGOs, in order to persistently contribute to closing the gap between social sciences and policy. It also eases the exchange of information on UNESCO programmes, which set the fight against poverty as a top priority.¶

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“The interface between research and the decision-making process directs research in Cuba.”

challenges, by notably proposing a more efficient management of production, and a more harmonious society. They can also identify the dynamics for the demographic transition process and suggest relevant policies. They should also be able help predict the level of the socio-economic impacts of climate change and propose practical management solutions.

What type of cooperation have you developed with your partners?

Cuba today has 41 research centres for social and human sciences. Our objective is to develop cooperation between all these institutions according to national priorities. Research projects in social sciences are therefore divided into 3 groups, all based on cooperation between

institutions and academic disciplines: national, territorial and sectorial programmes.

The cluster of the social sciences - in which 23 out of 41 Cuban research centres participate - represents another cooperation mechanism between the different decision-making levels and the research centres that promote inter-institutional cooperation and transdisciplinary research. ¶

Interview by Coraline Bardinat



© Franco Cheung / Flickr



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75,5% is the percentage of the urban population in 2005 (UNDP)

9,8% is the percentage of the GDP invested in the education sector between 2002 and 2005 (UNDP)

Management of Social Transformations: a very active Liaison Committee for the most Programme

Just 4 years after the creation in 1994 of the UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, a most National Liaison Committee saw the day in Cuba thanks to the initiative of the Cuban Commission to UNESCO and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA).

This type of committee, where the structure and the constitution are determined by the country concerned, aims to encourage, at a national level, cooperation between researchers, policy-makers and UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences which ensures the secretariat for the Programme. Since its creation, the Liaison Committee of Cuba has set the objective to strengthen development and its related themes, such as poverty, inequality reduction, social policies and local development. Its main lines of action, defined on the occasion of a workshop organized in 2000, consist in identifying and disseminating social sciences' experiences in relation to the most philosophy, in order to create networks between the different social political actors, and to promote comparative research and

knowledge of international experiences in the management of social transformations. In order to enhance the outcomes of its action, the Committee has decided to develop its activities in collaboration with other national academic institutions that assume activities related to those of most. In 2002, it therefore organized, with the Felix Varela centre, a series of seminars on the outcomes of social sciences research and their use in public policy development. The same year, the Committee joined the Cuban Centre of International Economic Studies, to organize an international seminar on strategies for economic development in an era of globalization.

Members of the Cuban most Liaison Committee also regularly participate in international meetings, and were present at the 1st International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus, organized by UNESCO, in Argentina and Uruguay in 2006. At a regional level, they closely collaborate with their Uruguayan Liaison Committee counterparts, the first to have been created in Latin America and the Caribbean. They also contribute to projects involving most

Summer Schools. These regional meetings allow young professionals, researchers and students to update their knowledge on social science, research and social policies. On the occasion of the last meeting, organized in 2007 in Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), they hoped that the most National Liaison Committee's ability to issue proposals was increasingly recognized, and underlined the need to create a more direct link between policies combating poverty and those for social development and reducing inequalities, considering that poverty is a form of inequality. ¶

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Apprender a convivir— Vol. 1

What will mankind be like tomorrow? Mankind will, unquestionably, need to be ready to face scientific and technological progress, to try gather the best human moral qualities, but also be sympathetic and sensitive to the problems of others. This train of thought served as a guide for this book, prepared by three prominent experts, in order to allow young people, always preoccupied with their own evolution, to find the answers to their problems and anxieties.

A. Minujin, L. Cruz & R. M. Avendaño
70 pp., Letras Cubanas, 2000
ISBN 959-08-0343-1
(Only in Spanish)



Creadores y políticos del porvenir

This publication is a result of an invitation by the Cuban Ministry of Culture to a group of experts, to compare the experiences, the criteria and the practices of other countries with regards to the young generations.

These experts propose a diverse vision of the links between the periods of infancy and adolescence, and culture. They also approach this relationship in the context of the social

Cuban practices, the diffusion of cultural models, a role traditionally carried out by cultural or educational institutions, but also practiced by other actors in impoverished districts.

Publisher of Havana, April 2000.

Poverty reduction: what role for the State in today's globalized economy?

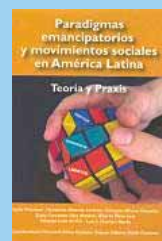
Francis Wilson, Nazneen Kanji & Einar Braathen
Conseil international des sciences sociales (CISS)
372 pp., London, Zed Books, 2001.
1-85649-953-7
(Only in English)

La polémica filosófica cubana - volume 1 (1838-1839) et volume 2 (1840)

The reprint of this book on the philosophical debate in Cuba between 1838

and 1840, was prepared by a team from the Institute of Advanced Studies of the University of Havana for the collection Clásicos del Pensamiento Cubano. It illustrates the debate in a chronological manner, in order to portray the intensity of these debates. It therefore tackles the questions relative to method; ideology; religious morals and eclecticism.

Biblioteca de Clásicos Cubanos 10 y 11
Vol. 1, 492 p. & Vol. 2, 1046 pp., Imágen Contemporánea, 2000.
(Only in Spanish)



Paradigmas emancipatorios y movimientos sociales en América Latina

In order to understand the current situation in Latin America, this book proposes an evaluation on the notion of emancipatory democracy, as well as its influence on formal democracy and recent initiatives of the political community.

It derives from a debate on emancipation in Latin America, an important theme for the working group of GAFISA of the

Institute of Philosophy in Havana.

N. Miller, R. Salazar G & Valdés Gutiérrez
374 pp., Insumisos Latinoamericanos, 2006.

El atlas etnográfico de Cuba

The ethnographic atlas of Cuba provides a study on popular Cuban culture, a research study that was awarded the research prize by the Cuban Academy of Sciences. Carried out by a group of social sciences' experts from the Ministry of Sciences of Technology and the Environment (CITMA) and the Ministry of Culture, led by Juan Antonio Alvarado Ramos, its content consists notably of 238 maps, 1246 pictures and 46 videos.

TOOL



In collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, UNESCO provides National Commissions and the members of its Secretariat with a practical guide on parliaments and their methods of work. Written also with parliaments in mind, this guide compiles basic information on UNESCO and the specific domains to which national elected representatives can contribute, such as the ratification of normative instruments. Members of Parliaments have indeed become

major partners for international organizations. Among the 200 States existing in the world today, 181 have a Parliament. ¶

Guide de la pratique parlementaire
24 pp., UNESCO/IPU, 2003.
ISBN 92-9142-174-X

To download this guide in English, French or Arabic:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org>

For more information, please contact:
nep.pts@unesco.org,
tel.: +33 1 45 68 18 67

TOOL

The Manual of the National Commissions for UNESCO

which was first published more than ten years ago, was updated with the collaboration and contributions of several National Commissions before being presented on the 34th General Conference of the Organization, in October 2007. Mainly intended for the personnel of the National Commissions, this tool can also be very useful for all partners of civil society and institutions which work in UNESCO's fields

of competence. Composed of two parts written in the form of practical index-cards, it presents, firstly, the various possible structures of the National Commissions, their role, their functioning, their partnerships and their actions to make UNESCO known to the general public and the relations which they maintain between themselves. Secondly, it presents UNESCO as a whole, explaining its constitutive bodies, its programmes, as well as the means to promote them. ¶

Manual of the National Commissions for UNESCO
157 pp., UNESCO, 2007.
ERC/RSC/NAC/2007/PI/100

To download this guide in French or in English:
www.unesco.org/en/national-commissions

For more information, please contact:
natcom@unesco.org,
tel.: +33 1 45 68 15 52



Bioethics and Human Rights: the published IBC reports



The first issue of a new series of books launched by UNESCO on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights, is the report of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) on “informed consent”, which will be published before the end of 2008.

Using global thinking as a catalyst in the field of bioethics, the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) is at the forefront for promoting and disseminating the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights, since its unanimous adoption by UNESCO Member States, on 19 October 2005. Expanding on the debates that took place during the elaboration of this Declaration, it has therefore produced many reports, which UNESCO aims to diffuse as widely as possible, through a new series of publications, launched by the Social and Human Sciences Sector. The first volume of this series, the report devoted to the concept of “informed consent”, does not deal with the least controversial topic. The debates generated by this principle inscribed in the two Articles of the Declaration (Articles 6 and 7) are not about abstract concepts: they all have a tangible bearing on real and pressing ethical issues that shape our daily lives and need to be addressed urgently.

After long discussions during the elaboration of the Declaration, this notion of “consent” has mobilized all the attention of the IBC in the months following the adoption of the text up until its presentation during one of its sessions, which was held in Kenya, in May 2007. This document attempted to enlighten States, organizations and citizens so that the consent of a person “for any medical intervention (...) or scientific research” be the expression of his freedom. Taking into account multicultural perspectives and case studies, the issue, structured around 5 main chapters, will therefore provide some advice by being bold enough to ask all-important questions such as “Can scientific research on individuals incapable of expressing their consent be justified?” or even “How does the practice of consent depend on the economic context?”. ¶

For more information, please contact:
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How should we talk about migration? A UNESCO handbook



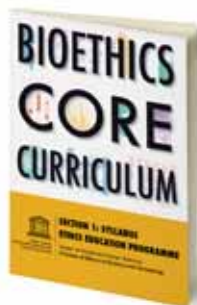
Although it has always existed, migration is now the subject of increased attention of the international community, be it civil society, the governments or the media. Although a sensitive subject, migration has become a much talked about topic. Among the subjects brought to the fore: the situation of internally “displaced” persons, the dynamics migration-development nexus, or even the consequences of environmental change on human displacement. Faced with an extensive terminology that continues to grow, how can one be sure to use the right word? In order to facilitate access by the general public and of all actors concerned by this major challenge of the 21st century, UNESCO has just published a glossary of the most frequently-used terms to help understand and act in this area.

From “assimilation” to “brain drain” and “expulsion”, this book helps to clarify certain aspects within a certain context or reality, and therefore the words used evolve rapidly. Prepared in cooperation with the Dutch NGO “The Hague Process Foundation”, this guide also indicates the terms which should not be used. Words do matter! ¶

For more information, please contact:
Paul de Guchteneire,
p.deguchteneire@unesco.org,
tel.: +331 45 68 38 50

People on the Move: Handbook of Selected Terms and Concepts.
63 pp., TNP/UNESCO, 2008.
(only available in English)
To download this handbook:
www.unesco.org/shs/migration

A global reference for teaching bioethics



The first volume of the study has just been published within the context of UNESCO’s Ethics Teaching programme, a result of several years of consultations. It includes an ethics teaching curriculum, which serves as a core for teaching this discipline across the world.

This publication aims to introduce students to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights (2005) and aims to facilitate the teaching of ethics in universities in countries where this type of training is currently not provided. Far from imposing a model, the study articulates ethical principles shared by scientists, policy-makers and health professionals from various countries with different cultural, historical and religious backgrounds. The core curriculum consists of two sections. The first one provides the core contents with objectives, syllabus and teacher manual for each section of the curriculum,

as well as a common framework that can be used in different settings. The second volume, which will be published in 2009, provides a wide range of teaching materials that can be adapted by teachers to respond to different contexts and cultural settings. ¶

For more information, please contact:
The Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, eep@unesco.org

Main Curriculum in Bioethics - Section 1 : Lesson
68 p., UNESCO, 2008.
SHS/EST/EEP/P1/2008/1

Also available in French (Arabic, Spanish and Russian versions will be available in 2009).

“Re-thinking” together rights and power

by Giovanni Puglisi

Following Chile in 2005, Morocco in 2006 and Turkey in 2007, this year it is Sicily that has the privilege of welcoming the international event of the World Philosophy Day, launched by UNESCO in 2002. Over the last six years, a genuine dynamic has been set in motion throughout the world, which has become significantly important, insofar as, from North to South or East to West, a specific space is open today: that of indiscriminately “thinking-together”.

The underlying belief behind World Philosophy Day is that qualified philosophers, apprentice philosophers, or other participants, can all be enriched considerably by participating in the philosophical reflections which took place during that period.

In Sicily, history has shown that diversity is in reality the source of all philosophical acts, as it is indeed a melting-pot of cultures and ways of being which motivate learning? It is difference and otherness which awaken intellectual curiosity.

In its dual capacity as a land of encounter and dialogue between different traditions of thought – and also home to one of the most important pre-Socratic philosophers, Empedocles - Sicily thus provides a meaningful setting for a debate on ideas.

Within an exceptional framework, Sicily will provide an area for philosophical exchange on the theme “Rights and Power” which is, in its entirety, relevant to the current affairs of 2008, which marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Therefore, the World Philosophy Day in Sicily will contribute to fostering international contemporary debates on

the issue of the rights of individuals and governance in their different forms.

World Philosophy Day will provide a great opportunity to unabatedly reexamine the problematic of “Rights” and “Power”, within the context of globalization phenomena such as mass information, commercial exchange of cultural goods, or even the intertwining of identities. It will be a matter of “re-thinking,” again and always, as acquired knowledge should never overshadow the challenges that dogmatism and intellectual unilateralism still represent even today.

To sharpen our ability to reflect with regards to these questions, round-tables on various themes will be organized from 20 to 21 November 2008 in Palermo, on issues such as “Identities in the mirror : cultural diversity and philosophical dialogues”; “Alternative rights, multiple identities and civil liberties”; “Philosophy, chaos and rights”; “From the Mediterranean to the Pacific: new spaces for power and the birthplace of civilization”; or even “Inter-subjective power dynamics: recognition, prestige and authority”.

So much food for thought will serve as an opportunity to question, to debate, to understand, and to distinguish between what is confusing and what is complex. “Re-thinking together” is the challenge and the primary objective of this World Philosophy Day which makes a stopover in Sicily in 2008. ¶



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Giovanni Puglisi

President of the Italian Commission to UNESCO and the Foundation Banco di Sicilia, Giovanni Puglisi is, since 2001, Rector of the IULM University in Milan, where he also teaches critical and comparative literature. ¶

CALL FOR PAPERS



This is your magazine

Responses to news from the Sector for Social and Human Sciences and proposals to publish an article or a photograph on a topic relating to UNESCO's social and human sciences programme are very welcome at the following address: shs@unesco.org

November

3-6 November

4th session of the UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum. Nanjing, China. (b.colin@unesco.org)

6 November

Presentation of the project's recommendations "Youth Voices against racism" at the European Parliament. Brussels, Belgium. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

10-11 November

Conference on Women's political participation in the Caucasus. Derbent, Russian Federation. (a.ampar@unesco.org)

12 November

Press conference for the 100th ratification of the International convention against Doping in Sport. Paris, France. (p.marriott-lloyd@unesco.org)

12-14 November

2nd Arab States Forum of Ministers of Social Development. Amman, Jordan. (c.golden@unesco.org)

12-14 November

COMEST Extraordinary Session. Paris, France. (j.crowley@unesco.org)

13-14 November

International Colloquium: "Market(s), Society(ies), the history and the future of humanity". Paris, France. (g.solinis@unesco.org)

14-15 November

Colloquium "Olympia de Gougues: A 21st century woman". Paris, France. (v.volodine@unesco.org)

16 November

International Day of Tolerance. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

17-21 November

Ethics Teacher Training Course. Minsk, Belarus. (h.tenhav@unesco.org)

17-19 November

2nd Annual Conference of Latin America and Caribbean Coalition of Cities against Racism. Sao Paulo, Brazil. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

18-25 November

3rd World green festival on traditional wrestling sports. Lomé, Togo. (y.sagou@unesco.org)

19-20 November

8th colloquium on the new philosophical practices, in the framework of the celebration of the World Philosophy Day. Paris, France. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

20-21 November

Symposium "The Unconscious – The Right – The Knowledge", in the framework of the celebration of the World Philosophy Day. Paris, France. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

20-21 November

International event in the framework of the World Philosophy Day. Palermo, Italy. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

21 November

"The image of the other in European and Arab textbooks". Braunschweig, Germany. (g.de-puymege@unesco.org)

23-24 November

Expert meeting on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Galway, Ireland. (v.volodine@unesco.org)

25 November

Workshop: "The international conventions on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and the extent of their impact on Qatari national legislation". Doha, Qatar. (m.abdel-sattar@unesco.org)

25-27 November

Soccerex Convention. Gauteng, South Africa. (y.sagou@unesco.org)

25-28 November

48th session of the International Conference on Education (ICE) "Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future", Geneva, Switzerland. (c.farina@unesco.org)

25 November-10 December

Mongolian international campaign on raising public awareness on activities against gender based violence. Mongolia. (r.navillod@unesco.org)

26-29 November

1st sub-regional Conference of the African Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination. Durban, South Africa. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

27-28 November

Regional Conference on the International Convention against Doping in Sport. Cape Town, South Africa. (p.marriott-lloyd@unesco.org)

December

1st December

Round Table on Human Rights for people affected by HIV/AIDS, Paris, France. (c.castle@unesco.org)

2-10 December

Exhibition of Human Rights Learning Materials, Paris, France. (l.king@unesco.org)

3-4 December

International Conference on Human Security in the Arab Region. Cairo, Egypt. (o.ikebe@unesco.org)

3-5 December

UNESCO/ISESCO meeting on the links between research and policy-making. Rabat, Morocco. (s.saad-zoy@unesco.org)

3-5 December

Sub-regional workshop on the cooperation on teaching ethics to experts from French speaking West African countries. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. (kc.dikenou@unesco.org)

8-9 December

Concert and Conference on "The Eradication of Poverty and Cultural Diversity". Paris, France. (s.sam-vargas@unesco.org)

8 December-27 February 2009

Exhibition of Human Rights Posters. UNESCO, Paris, France. (rve@unesco.org)

10 December

Event at UNESCO Headquarters to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Human Rights Day. Screening of short films, Award-giving ceremony for the 2008 UNESCO Bilbao Prize for the promotion of a culture of human rights, and a piano recital. Paris, France. (v.volodine@unesco.org)

10 December

Voices of Youths on Ethics and Human Rights. Bangkok, Thailand. (d.macer@unesco.org)

10 December

National Video Contest – short films and cartoons – on the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Brasilia, Brazil. (m.jovchelovitch-noletto@unesco.org)

10-11 December

Meeting on the implementation of Human Rights: the role of education. Paris, France. (rve@unesco.org)

12-13 December

2nd Joint UNESCO/University of Kumamoto Bioethics Round Table. Kumamoto, Japan. (d.macer@unesco.org)

12-14 December

Colloquium "Françoise Dolto: Latest Thinking". Paris, France. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

12-15 December

Andean Meeting on "Human Rights Education and HIV/AIDS", Quito, Ecuador. (m.robolino@unesco.org)

14-15 December

1st Arab Conference on Human Rights in the Middle-East, Doha, Qatar. (m.abdel-sattar@unesco.org)

18 December

Radio Marathon on the occasion of the International Migrants' Day in France. (p.deguchteneire@unesco.org)

18-19 December

Workshop of the Greater Horn Horizon Forum on "Identity, Citizenship and Integration". Djibouti, Djibouti. (s.chin-ye@unesco.org)