

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND

CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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WHEREAS on 18 May 2010, Liu Yandong, State Councillor of the People’s Republic of China, held an official meeting with Irina Bokova, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as “UNESCO”) in Beijing, China. During this meeting and other meetings with senior Chinese representatives, both sides expressed their satisfaction with the results obtained through the mutual exchanges and cooperation in the fields of education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information, and both sides committed themselves to further strengthen this cooperation, thereby developing a constructive partnership. To this end, both parties consider it imperative to build and nurture a mechanism for high-level policy dialogue.

WHEREAS the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as “China”) highly values the efforts made by UNESCO in promoting peace, eradicating poverty, advancing sustainable development and multicultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, commends the unique role played by UNESCO in addressing the impact of the financial crisis and expresses its willingness to provide different types of support to UNESCO’s priority areas within the framework of its medium-term strategy and biennial programme and budget.

WHEREAS UNESCO commends China’s contribution to education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, especially with regard to areas such as Education for All (EFA), heritage protection, cultural diversity and water science; greatly values its cooperation with China, and is ready to actively promote dialogue and cooperation at all levels and in all fields of

activity; to that end UNESCO will conduct bilateral relations in line with a new cooperation model, including South-South cooperation and will continue to support, in its respective fields of expertise, China's development efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, China and UNESCO (hereinafter "the Parties"), having taken note of the scope, focus and accomplishments of cooperation in the fields of education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, have reached the following understanding:

- (1) Both Parties acknowledge the importance of Priority Africa and gender equality in UNESCO's activities:
 - China will provide through UNESCO, 100 full scholarships together with necessary administrative support for a duration of four years, each aimed at building capacities for education and natural and social science research personnel in Africa, with priority given to women and young girls.
 - Both Parties will jointly implement the Sino-Africa 20+20 University Cooperative Programme and China will provide funding for organizing a UNESCO-Africa-China University Presidents' Seminar in Paris in 2011.
- (2) Both Parties acknowledge that educational reform and development are key to promoting countries' political, economic and social development and coping with various forms of crises that have arisen at the global level. UNESCO will provide experts and technical support to the implementation of China's "National Plan Outline for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development". Furthermore, both Parties will collect and publish international best practices as regards equity in education and quality assurance and assessment; they will also support innovative pilot projects and research carried out in respect to EFA, technical and vocational education and training, higher education and teacher education and training.
- (3) Both Parties acknowledge the necessity to encourage and recognize

best innovative practices in regard to EFA and in this regard will also continue to collaborate by initiating the second round of the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy. In addition, China will provide funding to UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau of Education in Bangkok, including the establishment of the UNESCO-APEID Award for Educational Innovation, whose first round will run over three years.

- (4) Both Parties agree to enhance activities within the framework of the International Geoscience Programme, the International Hydrological Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, including projects for collaborative research and exchange among researchers.
- (5) Furthermore, both Parties will support cooperation and exchange in the fields of the humanities and social sciences, including research activities for scientific policy formulation and the ethics of science and technology and for building social science capacities. Both Parties will strengthen cooperation in the field of communication and information, such as through the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Information for All Programme and the Memory of the World Programme, among others.
- (6) Both Parties are willing to expand cooperation in the field of culture. UNESCO will step up support to the following programmes: world heritage protection, intangible cultural heritage and participation in the Creative Cities Network. UNESCO will assist China in hosting the international festival for intangible cultural heritage and other festivities such as the "2010 Confucius Culture Week," as well as international youth exchange activities carried out within the framework of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. China will provide financial contribution to the preservation of the world heritage, the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural diversity.
- (7) Both Parties value highly the contribution of and emphasis on building the capacity of the UNESCO Category 2 Centres in China,

including the International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education; the International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation; the International Research Centre on Karst; the World Heritage Training and Research Institute for the Asia and the Pacific Region; the International Centre on Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural Heritage; and the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia and the Pacific Region. Both parties will place emphasis on building the capacity of these centres. The Parties will also endeavour to expand the work and activities of UNESCO Chairs in China.

This MoU shall enter into force immediately upon signature by both Parties and shall remain in force until 18 May 2014 unless terminated or amended by either Party.

Signed by the Parties in duplicate originals in Beijing on the eighteenth day of May in the year Two Thousand and Ten in the English and Chinese languages. Both texts are equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

**For the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization:**



Irina Bokova
Director-General

**For the Government of the
People's Republic of
China:**



Liu Yandong
State Councillor