



THE UNESCO “MANDELA CHALLENGE”

Seminar of African Clubs for UNESCO

Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

15-16 December 2008, Bamako, Mali

● PROJECT PAPER ●

■ Project Background

The UNESCO Club movement was born in 1947 with the creation of the first Club for UNESCO in Japan. Today, the movement is very active in the African region, particularly in the French speaking countries. There are about 1300 Clubs for UNESCO most of which is established by youth and students in schools and universities. The regional coordinating body of these Clubs is the **African Confederation of UNESCO Clubs (CACU)** established in 1999. The current President of CACU is Mr Désiré Aroga from Cameroon, who is also a Vice-President of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA), a NGO with formal associate relations with UNESCO.

UNESCO's Mid-Term Strategy continues to accord **priority to Africa** and wishes to organize a **2-day Regional seminar of Clubs for UNESCO** in Bamako within the framework of the **60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** in December 2008 that addresses Human Rights issues most particularly in the fields of competence of UNESCO, i.e. combating HIV/AIDS, fight against racism and achieving universal education in rural areas. This seminar will then reflect upon how Clubs for UNESCO can assist UNESCO at the grass-roots level.



The UN Secretary-general appealed for a **year-long United Nations system-wide campaign** to celebrate this anniversary. Its commemoration was launched by UNESCO's Director-General on 10 December 2007, Human Rights Day. The motto of this campaign coordinated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is “Dignity and Justice for All of Us”.

This seminar is entitled “**Mandela Challenge**” with the agreement from the Nelson Mandela Foundation, as a way to pay tribute to Mr Nelson Mandela, the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Human Rights and a symbol of freedom and equality in Africa and worldwide, and promote his ideals at the grass-roots level in Africa.

■ UNESCO Clubs in the Africa region

Close to **1300** Clubs in **34** countries

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leona, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

■ Participants

- Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO
- President of the Republic of Mali
- Representatives from the Malian National Commission for UNESCO
- UNESCO Club representatives from Africa
- African Confederation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (CACU)
- Other partners
- Observers

Total number of participants: about 70

■ Objectives

- To contribute to the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights;
- To define a strategy to promote and pursue the common goals of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and UNESCO for Human Rights at the local level;
- To explore financial sources for the activities to be undertaken by the Clubs for UNESCO;
- To provide an occasion to exchange experiences and good practices;
- To spread the UNESCO Club movement in wider areas of Africa, especially in the English speaking countries;

■ Expected Outcomes

- Strategies to promote Human Rights at the local level adopted;
- Enhanced understanding among UNESCO Club members of President Mandela's vision and UNESCO's initiatives for Human Rights;
- Financing possibilities identified;
- Good practices of different Clubs shared and the network of UNESCO Clubs in the Africa region reinforced;
- Action plan to disseminate the Clubs Movement in the Africa region, especially in the English Speaking countries elaborated.

■ Working languages

English and French with simultaneous interpretation

■ Contact

Ms Akané Nozaki
Assistant Programme Specialist
Section for UNESCO Clubs and New Partnerships
Sector for External Relations and Cooperation
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris SP France
Tel : +33(0) 1 45 68 09 54
Fax : +33(0) 1 45 68 58 54
E-mail : a.nozaki@unesco.org