

SHSviews

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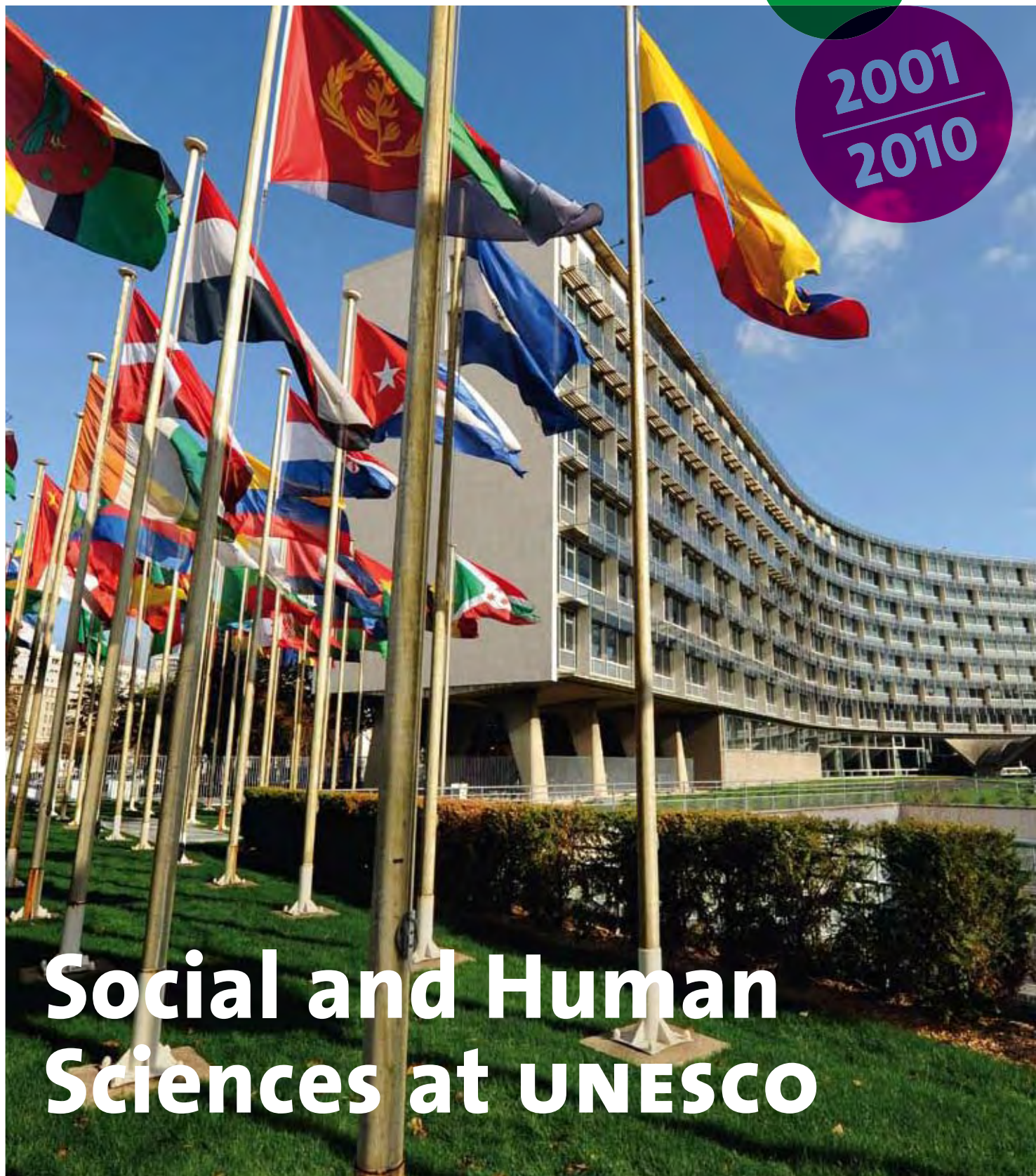
UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector magazine



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Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO

UNESCO's social and human sciences strategy for 2010-2011

In order to contribute to the development of public policies that will correspond better to changes in society today, UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector acts as a think tank for the world's nations, with the aim of associating all those concerned by its actions in their formulation and implementation.



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UNESCO, which is responsible for building peace through education, culture and science, has always conjugated science in the plural, taking into account not only the natural sciences but also the social and human sciences.

The mission of the social and human sciences programme, one of UNESCO's five major programmes, is to advance knowledge, standards and intellectual cooperation in order to facilitate social transformations conducive to the universal values of justice, freedom and human dignity. In the present multidimensional crisis context, this mandate gives it the role of "laboratory of ideas", making its work as think tank for the world's nations more important than ever. At the 35th session of UNESCO's General Conference held in October 2009, its 193 Member States emphasised its significance, enjoining the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) to respond to the economic, financial and environmental crisis and study its ethical implications. In 2010-2011, SHS will therefore continue to

encourage research in the social sciences in every corner of the world and encourage dialogue between researchers, political decision-makers and those concerned with economic, social, and cultural development, with a single, unique aim: that of contributing to the development of public policies which will respond the most effectively to transformations in society and the needs of the population, particularly through its Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST).


Two priorities and four lines of action

In order to meet these aims, two priorities have been fixed. The first is to develop and implement standards in the field of ethics and human

rights. In particular, this will mean monitoring the application of existing instruments and developing new ones, such as a declaration on the ethics of climate change. The second is to reinforce the link between social sciences research and public policy by developing the opportunities for dialogue set up between researchers and political decision-makers and creating new venues to reflect on meaningful topics such as gender equality, international migration, social inclusion, youth and poverty eradication issues, giving priority to Africa and the small island developing States (SIDS) and the most vulnerable populations.

To achieve this, SHS focuses on four main fields. First, the promotion of

human rights, paying particular attention to fostering philosophical dialogue on democracy and peace. Second, providing support for the formulation of policies on regional integration, migration, SIDS, urban development and youth. Third, the promotion of policies on physical education and sport and the fight against doping, with a particular focus on the implementation of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, adopted in 2005. And finally, providing support for the formulation of policies on the ethics of science and technology and bioethics by stepping up programmes and infrastructure specializing in these fields and emphasizing that access to the benefits of scientific progress for everyone is a question of respecting human rights.

Ensuring that human beings are at the core of all development policies has been the credo of SHS for the last 10 years or so, particularly after it took on the responsibility of coordinating all of UNESCO's programmes in a human rights perspective. With a total budget of a little less than 

30

UNESCO's total budget for the Social and Human Sciences Sector in millions of US dollars in 2010-2011.

➔ \$30 million for 2010-2011, SHS will strive to consolidate the work carried out over the last 10 years by capitalizing on the expertise and activities developed via a unique approach that consists of thinking and acting for and with those most concerned by its projects, whether they are Member States of UNESCO, regional and international organizations, researchers or representatives of civil society, and especially youth organizations.

When developing and implementing its activities, SHS is backed up by a team of some 100 people across the world together with a powerful network of partners mainly consisting of UNESCO Chairs in the social sciences, National Commissions for UNESCO, MOST liaison committees and national bioethics committees. Their help will be vital in strengthening the projects that have already proved their effectiveness and developing those which are still to be invented in order to meet the specific needs of different populations. Because it is in the field, at grassroots level, and in coordination with UNESCO's offices, that this programme will continue to operate effectively, drawing on the experience of the numerous activities that have already been initiated.

Article 28:
“Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.”

(Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

In the field

Thus, in Africa – a continent that more than ever remains a priority throughout UNESCO – the Social and Human Sciences Sector will continue to support the development strategy driven by and for Africans, incarnated by NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) which places the sciences and health among its main priorities. It was in this spirit that SHS held the first Bioethics Days for West and Central Africa and set up

the first bioethics documentation centre in Africa at Egerton University (Kenya). The Sector has also conducted a wide-reaching project on the challenges posed by regional integration in West Africa and another project aimed at eradicating poverty by approaching it as a denial of human rights.

In the Arab States, SHS will pursue its initiatives to reinforce human rights and women's place in society, backed up in particular by the extensive Arab Research-Policy Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



(ARADESC), created in 2006. A human rights database has already been developed in the region, taking gender issues into account and including stakeholders in Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. The important studies conducted in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia on women, family law and the legal system, in order to draw up an inventory and define courses of action, will also be pursued.

In Eastern and Central Europe, SHS will actively support the expert committee on migrant workers which it helped to set up, as well as the American University of Central Asia's migration research network development project initiated in 2009. It will also pursue its action to foster the development of bioethics, based in particular on the association of Central Asian bioethics centres, the regional network of national bioethics committees and the international network on environmental ethics, all three of which were set up in 2008. It will also continue to promote human rights, particularly through the HIV/AIDS discrimination awareness ➔

Three questions for ... Pierre Sané

Pierre Sané, UNESCO's seventh Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences, was appointed in May 2001, after being Secretary General of Amnesty International for 10 years.

How can the social and human sciences help to provide answers to the economic, financial and environmental crisis?

The crisis, or rather crises, confronting our planet are a reminder that the human and social sciences are an indispensable “stasis” or critical pause in the face of the changes predicted and transformations that are currently taking place. Their strength in standing up to crises whose effects are both immediate and lasting, and therefore destabilizing, lies in their analytical capacity to fully grasp the issues hidden behind the raw facts. This interpretation is made possible by their

very essence. Deciphering the human processes at work in our necessarily changing societies is the raw material of the social and human sciences. They must go beyond the immediacy of the facts, interpreting the causes of the phenomena involved so as to anticipate the consequences and provide practical elements to political and economic decision-makers. Knowledge is strength, understanding is power and the social and human sciences, with their insistence for rigour and their striving towards concrete action, occupy a unique position on the international intellectual scene. ➔

↳ project developed in Moscow with UNAIDS, and cooperation with the Caucasian Network for Civic Education of Women and Children, launched in 2006, in order to strengthen the autonomy of women in different spheres of social life.

In Asia and the Pacific, where a vast project on the ethics of energy technologies was initiated in 2007, one year after the creation of a UNESCO school of ethics, scientific cooperation and the drafting of policy recommendations on these particularly important issues for the region remain among its priorities. In the field of human rights, the exploration and analysis of contemporary realities will continue to be the subject of constant attention, like the study on women and gender in Asia and the Pacific, published in 2003, and the student awareness project called “Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin”, launched two years later.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, where the first Regional Forum of Ministers of Social Development was held in 2003 as part of the MOST programme, its action will focus on poverty eradication and support for the development of youth policies. Thus, among other activities, the youth development and violence prevention project, initiated in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador, will be developed in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic; the continuation of another project on the same theme carried out in Brazil. In this country, in the wake of the success of the “Criança Esperança” programme conducted with the “Globo” media group, which has already financed over 5,000 projects benefiting 4 million children and teenagers, UNESCO will devote its efforts, among others, to

fostering the integration of the most needy young people, while continuing to contribute to consolidating national youth policies.

In Latin America, a region which has no doubt been one of the most active in promoting the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted in 2005, among researchers, local decision-makers and communities, the UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector will maintain and enhance its efforts to highlight the importance of science ethics and human rights.

A major challenge

On the occasion of one of the four major international conferences held in Cartagena (Colombia) during the year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, coordinated by SHS, Pierre Sané, the seventh head of the programme since its creation, spoke of how today, throughout the world, “the major challenge is the realization of the right proclaimed in Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which stipulates that ‘Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized’”.

Basically, the main focus of UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Sector is to make it possible to exercise that right. ¶

Coraline Bardinat and Nfaly “Vieux” Savané

More information on www.unesco.org/shs

↳ What is UNESCO’s particular approach in terms of the social and human sciences?

By presiding over its creation, the social and human sciences shaped UNESCO’s mission. I am thinking here of Roger Caillois. Nurtured on surrealism, rationalism and mysticism, the founder of the journal *Diogenes* is a perfect illustration of the power of the social and human sciences when they are united and together in their efforts. Naturally, history does not adopt the same approach as that of sociology, nor is philosophy the same as demography or economics. What makes UNESCO’s action unique is the constructive and deliberate coming together of different disciplines to produce a “whole” which does not weaken its separate parts because our mission was perfectly designed from the outset, namely to make the most of the knowledge and know-how produced by the social and human sciences, to the benefit of the greatest number, mindful of respect for human rights and dignity. This essential outcome is achieved by often painstaking and sometimes behind-the-scene efforts to understand the processes at work in our societies. In addition to deciphering what initially seems to be unintelligible, it is vital to maintain the link with politics and to be of practical relevance.

UNESCO has had a social and human sciences programme since its foundation. How do you see it developing over the next few decades?

In my opinion, this programme is naturally called upon to constantly evolve, adapt and shift its focus, in other words, to continually take on new form and direction. In this respect, humility has always been an integral part of the social and human sciences and their ambitions. However, adaptation must not become a form of slavery in which the stakeholders and their reflection tools are dependent on “events”. On the contrary, the distance from any given situation and the *phenomena* involved must always work in favour of the social and human sciences. It is the Human Being in his or her own changing future who is reflected in their future. I confirm that I have total confidence in the combined capacity of the social and human sciences to always assume their full responsibilities and participate in this universal and indispensable effort towards Man’s knowledge of Man. ¶

Interview by Nfaly “Vieux” Savané



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STRATEGY FOR 2010-2011

The ethical challenges of climate change

As lead agency of the United Nations system in the field of ethics, UNESCO gave itself two years to study the advisability of a Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles related to Climate Change to offer the world a tool that changes behaviour substantially and to assist policy-makers in developing effective national policies.

Two months prior to the highly anticipated policy deliberations of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen in December 2009, the 35th General Conference of UNESCO, meeting in Paris, engaged in an exclusively ethical discussion on this subject, making it clear that climate change has an intrinsic and essential ethical dimension.

In a bold move, UNESCO Member States decided that the Organization should study the advisability of preparing a draft declaration of ethical principles related to climate change, giving it one year to prepare a preliminary study, based on broad consultation, involving the international community in a

collective reflection on the type of ethical principles to be implemented. The path will then be opened to draft and adopt a universal declaration at the 2011 General Conference.

The debate, held within the framework of the Commission on Social and Human Sciences of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO, transposed theoretical challenges into real, personal and pressing problems. Thus, Member States did not question the scientific aspects of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon footprints or global warming. Rather, the debate focused on the human face of climate change.

It included consideration of the “sinking” of the Carteret Islands (Papua New Guinea), whose residents fled to survive and whose culture is increasingly threatened with extinction. This “accident”, like other environmental impacts, will create millions of homeless. The debate also focused on desertification in Africa, which will cause, according to the forecast, the displacement of 50 million people over the next decade.

Discussions highlighted that the problem is not confined to poor parts of the world: even “affluent” countries are vulnerable, as demonstrated by Hurricane Katrina in the US which destroyed vast coastal areas and city of New Orleans, displacing thousands of people who became climate refugees inside the country. ➡



**Professor
D. Jaime Lavados,**

University of Chile.

“The basic question is of a moral nature, that is, what are the shared responsibilities of business, governments, energy consumers and other groups in finding and implementing solutions in the face of this imminent disaster? Considering that any authentic international agreement must reflect a moral compromise, the ethical approach derived from UNESCO’s mandate is indispensable in relation to global efforts to counteract devastating trends regarding climate change.” ¶



Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar,

Deputy Chairman for the Social and Human, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)

“Climate change affects every dimension of our lives. It has repercussions on the physical, economic, social and human security levels. A multicultural, transdisciplinary approach is therefore needed. By working together, United Nations agencies could lead the way by showing that this cooperation is possible, and provide us with guidelines that could be used in the different regions of the world.” ¶

➡ It is still too often thought that climate change is primarily a scientific challenge. Yet, a cursory examination of the degree to which climate change can potentially devastate societies, economies, or Nation-States, let alone the environment, is sufficient to demonstrate very clearly that this is not strictly a scientific issue, but rather a problem firmly embedded in social, scientific, humanistic and political theoretical discourse.

The mere fact that climate change demands a response, or rather raises questions such as “What should we do?” “What is my responsibility?” “What is the criterion for proper (good) action?”, makes clear the explicit ethical challenge that surges from any serious commitment to climate change. Addressing climate change requires a systematic consideration of ethical dimensions.

A political issue

The problem of climate change is not primarily technological. There is an abundance of low-carbon technologies that can replace existing technologies so that consumers can reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions – a major contribution to climate change – without making major sacrifices. Experience has shown that industrial and agricultural processes that contribute to the emission of greenhouse gases can also be modified. Countries are investing increasing sums in electricity produced by renewable energy sources.

Nor is the problem purely economical. Of course, significant investments are expected from governments and businesses to reduce climate change. But even if the benefits of such investments are uncertain and distant, economists broadly agree that the cost of inaction will be higher than that of action.

According to some estimates, a well-designed policy can avoid the catastrophic changes caused by climate change by committing an annual cost of 1% of global output¹. Even though this is no small price, the world could agree on an equitable way to pay this sum.

In fact, the issue is all about politics. Considering the number and diversity of entities involved and the importance of the issues at stake, it is one of the most difficult questions which the international community has ever faced. What is at stake, indeed, is the classic difficulty of developing an appropriate way to apportion the cost of collective action and to trust other parties to take their share of responsibility.

If politics means to take on climate change and find solutions to these problems, it must rediscover its ethical foundations. An ethical approach to climate change provides a perspective from which questions of responsibility, equity, knowledge sharing and global dissemination of ethical practices can be addressed.

While the need for action is urgent, success depends largely on the extent of international coordination, including among the various UN agencies and governments. At the 35th General Conference of UNESCO, some Member States also expressed their concern that the activities of the Organization in this field should compete with rather than complement efforts being carried out in other areas of intergovernmental dialogue, such as the Copenhagen conference.

Two months later, this conference did not reach the objective of establishing a treaty replacing the Kyoto Protocol and its measures combating climate change, as expected by many. But was it really a failure? For the first time, in Denmark, a compromise was reached and signed by countries such as the us, which were not Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and through extensive media coverage, the debate has penetrated every household in the world.

It was not, moreover, a secret that even after such an agreement, the real challenge and most difficult step to take to move towards sustainable behavioural change is to implement national objectives through domestic policies encouraging investment in clean products and processes. ➡



12

This is the number of metric tons of CO₂ produced per person in 2006 in the developed countries, as against three metric tons in the developing regions.

(United Nations, 2009)



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1,3%

This is what wind power represented in world electricity consumption in 2007. (GWEC, 2008)

➔ It is here that a universal set of ethical principles would serve to establish ethical standards common to all governments to guide the choices of policy-makers in their deliberations on public policy to reduce climate change. Until now, the “real fight” have in fact been carried out mainly at national level in a number of countries where governments have attempted to formulate national positions on climate change reflecting the compromise between the often conflicting social, political and economic forces.

Other than providing everyone with a consensual framework, the definition of these principles is all the more important that uncertainty seems to be one of the main obstacles in global efforts to reduce climate change.

Not knowing what exactly the consequences of the latter are, or the benefits that could be learned by trying to avoid them, makes it difficult to persuade countries to commit resources for this purpose at the present time. At the same time, it is precisely this uncertainty that makes the need for action so urgent – the range of scenarios is large, and nobody can predict how climate change will alter our planet and affect the lives of future generations.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established by the United Nations to conduct a review of the scientific consensus on the subject, “the average temperature will rise by between 1.1 to 6.4 degrees Celsius by the end of this century”. The range is wide. While at the lower end of this estimate, the consequences of climate change on people’s lives may be small, they will be catastrophic if rise of average temperatures is at the higher end of projections.

Whatever the cost to pay to avoid such impacts, the net profits will be enormous. Indeed, one might think that it is not international debate – even very passionate – that could solve the problem. Only action can provide a solution – carried out at all levels and across the globe, to replace carbon-intensive with low-carbon and zero-carbon products and processes.

UNESCO has here an important role to play. As the only UN agency with a mandate in ethics, it is up to UNESCO to draw the world’s attention to the ethical implications of climate change.

Hence, the prospect of this universal declaration, which, in defining common ethical principles, will constitute an important tool enabling global and national processes to address issues relating to the equal and fair distribution of duties and responsibilities, while facilitating the promotion of the ethics of climate change. These will be aimed at the population who would find references to what is acceptable and what is not, and to preserve the planet and protect human beings and their cultures. ¶

Irakli Khodeli

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1. *Stern Review Report on the Economics of Climate Change*
(www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern_review_report.htm)



Basile Guissou,

Director-General of the National Scientific and Technological Research Centre (CNRST), Burkina Faso

“Climate change is an important signal for the whole of humanity. We must take stock of our necessary solidarity. Every country is concerned and there is no solution possible on an individual country basis. The situation is dangerous for everyone, and everyone has a responsibility. The United Nations, whose primary mission is to work for the good of all humanity, must help to achieve this joint action among countries.” ¶



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STRATEGY 2010-2011

The Youth Challenge

In order to better take into consideration the concerns of youth, the majority of which lives in developing countries, UNESCO gives an impulse to its youth policy and implements an innovative process.

As UNESCO's main mission is to "construct the defenses of peace in the minds of men", the Organization legitimately works to promote a political environment which can enable young people to thrive and contribute to the peace and sustainability of our societies.

Very active within the United Nations system for the 15-24 year olds, UNESCO endeavours to contribute in a concrete manner to the implementation of public policies not only *for* but also *with* youth.

Within the framework of the global strategy that it has been developing in this area, three priorities will guide its action for 2010-2011: the management and development of knowledge in the field of youth, to favour a better understanding of issues related to youth and to draw policy recommendations; the implementation of intersectoral youth policies based on reliable and successful experiences to ensure the integration of youth concerns in the various sectoral policies; the promotion of youth participation in decision-making processes and support initiatives enhancing civic engagement and social cohesion.

A joint follow-up mechanism

If these objectives seem ambitious, UNESCO can rely, to fulfill them, on a privileged system, in addition to the regular consultations it conducts with its Member States on this issue. The Youth Forum that was set up 10 years ago, is indeed a unique mechanism within the United Nations system enabling young people from all over the world to take part in the General Conference of the Organization contributing to the decision-making process at the highest level. At the 35th General Conference of UNESCO in October 2009, some 128 young delegates, from 89 countries, had the opportunity to develop and make concrete recommendations to the Organization's Member States on how UNESCO could best respond to their concerns, in close partnership with them.



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89,5%

Nearly 9 young people out of 10 will live in a developing country in 2025.

(United Nations World Youth Report, 2005)

Indeed, the Organization appears as an inevitable proposition force for all those involved in capacity-building for the 15-24 year olds, as shown by the welcome reserved to of the proposed establishment of a joint mechanism monitoring all the international events concerning youth, presented by UNESCO during a forum on the best practices in terms of youth policies and programmes in Latin America and in the Caribbean, organized in November 2009 in Puerto Vallarta (Mexico). This mechanism could enable the different United Nations agencies and their partners to work together to better identify and, above all, to follow-up on all the recommendations resulting from their meetings and forums related to youth. Each of them could introduce monitoring sessions on the results of the projects developed by other actors at the global level in their initiatives.

Representing a genuine opportunity to increase the efforts of the international community to strengthen the position of youth

in our societies and to offer them a better future, this pioneer mechanism will be tested during the 1st World Youth Meeting organized in Bari (Italy) and Mexico (Mexico) in January and August 2010.

Within the context of the crisis that the world is experiencing today – particularly affecting youth –, it is indeed urgent to take action. And all the more since in developing countries, where 85% of youth live, the horizon is obscured by hunger, war, lack of access to education, health and culture.

The emergency to take action

"How can a better world be dreamed up when 43% of 15-24 year olds survive on less than 2 dollars a day? And when, in less than 20 years, When they will be adults, in less than two decades, having grown up with bellies filled with anger –for want of other food–, who will be building peace through education, science and culture?" was UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences question in the editorial of *SHSviews* No 17. According to UNESCO, we need innovative approaches to build tomorrow's world. It is towards this achievement that it's work is focused. ¶

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Strengthening the social research-policy nexus

In the current multidimensional crisis context, strengthening the link between social sciences research and policy-makers has become one of the essential aims of UNESCO's MOST programme.

Faced with the consequences of a world economic crisis which reveals, more than ever, our societal choices, UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) will focus more than ever in 2010-2011 on strengthening the social research-policy nexus. Based on the critical mass represented by its many expert networks – and particularly the UNESCO Chairs in social sciences and MOST's national liaison committees – the programme will structure its activities around four main goals: capacity-building with a resolutely practical focus in order to meet the expectations of political decision-makers; prevention of a mechanical approximation of the links between knowledge and policy; consideration of conceptual frameworks specific to each region of the world in order to produce results of a universal dimension; development of a tripartite partnership with the

academic world, decision-makers and representatives of civil society.

This approach is particularly relevant. MOST's priority goal of strengthening the bridge between the results of social sciences research and policy implementation corresponds exactly to the field of application of analysis of the social transformations that are currently disrupting the world. Concrete implementation is essential and corresponds to a strategy based on the impact on reality in order to guide societies towards the expression of greater social justice according to each country's priorities.

Developing partnerships

In addition to organizing exchanges and dialogue between researchers and decision-makers and developing training activities, MOST will seek to develop the building of knowledge, encourage the use of better methods and foster theoretical and methodological reflection on what is happening in the world today in relation to research-policy linkages.

During the 35th session of UNESCO's General Conference in October 2009, the Organization's Member States ratified the recommendations of MOST's Intergovernmental Council which had held its ninth session the previous month, and decided that MOST's mission must initially be extended in terms of partnerships with the developed countries and young researchers and subsequently reinforced in order to consolidate social awareness among political decision-makers and facilitate the interpenetration of two processes: that of knowledge production and that of policy development and implementation.

In 2010, a new collection of theoretical reflection publications on the links between research and policy will be launched, with the publication in English and Spanish of the book *Mapping out the research-policy matrix*. Two other case studies and analyses of the research-policy nexus will also be published in addition to two annotated bibliographies of specialized literature, in English, Spanish and French. ¶

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An institute for research on regional integration in West Africa

After the summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which highlighted its pertinence, the project to set up a West Africa Institute for International Research on Regional Integration and Social Transformations was adopted by UNESCO's 35th General Conference at its 35th session in October 2009.

Placed under the auspices of UNESCO, the West Africa Institute (WAI), which is scheduled to open in 2010 in Praia (Cape Verde) intends especially to help political decision-makers in West African countries to make strategic choices that will foster social, economic and cultural development, based on factual data derived from social sciences research.

In addition to grouping together the numerous studies and networks devoted to regional integration already in existence, the institute will fulfil a need which was continually expressed during a series of seminars held in the 15 member countries of ECOWAS between 2005 and 2008, within the framework of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme. ¶

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STRATEGY FOR 2010-2011

Promoting human rights and empowering women

In the face of the crisis, UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector will continue its efforts to prove that no society can progress without respecting the fundamental rights of the men and women who make up that society.

Although UNESCO is known for its activities in the fields of education, culture and science, the general public often forgets the Organization's important commitment to promoting human rights and the close ties between the history of UNESCO and that of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet the aim of making human rights effective everywhere is what guides its entire action.

In keeping with its mandate, UNESCO strives in all its fields of competence to reinforce and promote the universal respect of justice, never relenting in its efforts to assert the primacy of universal rights and fundamental freedoms. To achieve this, however, there is nothing that is spontaneous, nothing that can be gained without untiring day-to-day diligence. To ensure that a right is respected, it must first

be known so that one day it will be recognized and have force of law. UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector is directly responsible, within the Organization, for coordinating this immense task of information and training.

In accordance with the human rights strategy adopted by the Member States of UNESCO in 2003, this Sector strives to stimulate and share the latest knowledge in the field of human rights.

Poverty: a denial of human rights

Convinced that the findings of academic social sciences research can help political decision-makers to give concrete expression everywhere to the respect of human rights, SHS will endeavour in 2010-2011 to further stimulate the production of studies directed towards the formulation of public policy that respects human rights and freedoms.

It will especially continue to support the formation of networks of research teams working on gender equality issues. It will also pursue its fundamental work designed to contribute to the human rights-based approach to poverty eradication. For UNESCO's Social and Human Rights Sector, poverty is an unacceptable denial of "the right to live a life free from the haunting fear of poverty and insecurity"

which the Member States of UNESCO agreed to recognize as essential when questioned by a committee of experts in 1947 in order to help draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted one year later.

In 2010-2011, it will continue its unrelenting efforts in this field with a particular focus on finalizing an innovative political decision-making tool to support States in formulating and implementing national human rights-based strategies to eradicate poverty.

Through the social and human sciences programme, UNESCO will continue to implement its strategy to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by the proclamation of 2010 as "International Year of the Approchement of Cultures" to support the

64%

The percentage of the working African population living on less than \$1.25 a day in 2008.

(United Nations, 2009)

18,6%

This is the percentage of parliamentary seats occupied by women throughout the world in January 2009.

(IPU, 2009)

➔ development of 6 regional coalitions and the International Coalition of Cities against Racism which it has been helping to create since 2004.

To quote the Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 10 December 2009, "In a world that has become more diverse than ever before, our major challenge today is to promote harmonious relations among people of different ethnic origin, culture, religion or belief".

Fostering the respect of three basic rights

Consequently, in keeping with its efforts to bring the spheres of research and political decision-making closer together, the Social and Human Sciences Sector will also strive to promote studies focused on the main obstacles that interfere with the right of everyone to take part in cultural life. The general comment on this right, recently adopted by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – assisted by UNESCO in its undertaking – emphasises its importance in providing a framework for respect of the basic rights of all human beings, defining its content and the related obligations of States.

More in-depth studies concerning everyone's right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications will also be a priority in order also to clarify its content and the obligations of governments in this respect. Proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reasserted in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, its normative content is still too vague and it receives too little attention in the reports submitted by the governments to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Yet everyone would now seem to agree that sharing the benefits of scientific progress in every field would not only enable the socio-economic situation of individuals to be improved, but also enable the negative effects of globalization to be combated more efficiently, particularly since disparities in development between countries and between population categories within the same country, are increasing at the same rate as scientific and technological progress.

In order to encourage the pursuit of studies conducted by the international scientific community and foster State backing in this respect, a reference work will be published based on the results of the numerous expert meetings held by UNESCO in 2007-2009.

Another right that is essential to human well-being – and also intrinsically related to other human rights such as the right to health, food and shelter – will also continue to be explored during the next two years, namely that of access to drinking water and sanitary installations. The work commenced in this field with the Natural Sciences Sector will thus be continued, in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

A humanist vision of development

The Social and Human Sciences Sector will also continue to develop its training programme on the human-rights-based approach. Launched in 2005, the training programme, which has already been dispensed to UNESCO staff at Headquarters and at the Offices in Bangkok, Dakar, Hanoi, Lima, Quito, Rabat, San José and Windhoek, is designed to incorporate human rights principles into all the programming phases of UNESCO's activities, based on the recommendations of international human rights instruments and mechanisms.

To foster knowledge of the latter, UNESCO will publish, in 2010 and 2011, the annual list of ratifications as it has done each year for the last 10 years. The second UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights will be awarded in 2010 and the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence will be awarded in 2011 for the most exceptional contributions in these fields. ¶

For further information, please contact:

Angela Melo, a.melo@unesco.org, tel.: +33 1 45 68 38 19

Website: www.unesco.org/shs/humanrights



A research centre on women and peace-building in the Great Lakes Region

After helping to set up the first centre of this kind in Ramallah (Palestine) in 2006, UNESCO is now supporting the project to set up a research and documentation centre on women's rights in the Great Lakes region of Africa (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia).

In October 2009, UNESCO's General Conference at its 35th session, asked for a feasibility study to be coordinated by the 58 States Members of UNESCO's Executive Board in order to start examining in 2010 the possibility of setting up that kind of centre in a region in which women play an essential role in peace-building.

With the support of numerous organizations and agencies including the African Bank of Development, the United Nations Population Fund and the Economic Commission for Africa, the research centre will operate as a "network leader", contributing not only to reinforcing the research capacities of all the countries in the region, but also to ensuring the greater participation of women in democratization and good governance processes.

Women who hold elective office help to promote the rights of all the women in their country, as demonstrated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where women members of Parliament had the inheritance laws amended and rape entered in the criminal code as a war crime.

The project, presented by the DRC, is supported by several countries outside the region, including Algeria, Belgium, Benin, China, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand and Togo. ¶

For further information, please contact:

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2002

Science ethics becomes a priority for UNESCO

In the face of advances made in science and technology, UNESCO formally set a priority goal in 2002 to promote ethical reflection in relation to this type of progress and its applications in order to define an ethical framework that could be applied to scientific and technological research.

The development of normative instruments, support for the capacity-building of its Member States and awareness campaigns are now included in the numerous activities organized by the Social and Human Sciences Sector to encourage the sharing of knowledge among the scientific and academic communities, political leaders and civil society, particularly young people, on significant matters such as the challenges raised by nanotechnology, environmental ethics and the principle of precaution. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/est

2003

Adoption of the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data

Adopted unanimously and by acclamation by the Member States of UNESCO in 2003, the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data provides an ethical framework for the formulation and development by States of policies and regulations on these issues.

For the first time, the world acquired ethical principles that would enable it to govern the collection, processing, safeguarding and use of human genetic data while respecting and protecting human dignity and fundamental freedoms. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics



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2004

Launch of an ethics education programme

The Social and Human Sciences Sector launched a world ethics education programme in 2004. The programme, which includes itinerant lectures in ethics organized as part of the "Ethics around the world" project, training workshops for teachers and students on every continent and the concerted development of an Elementary Ethics Course published in 2008, has enabled an inventory of the teaching of ethics worldwide to be drawn up, evaluation criteria are to be developed, expert networks set up, and contributed to the inclusion of this discipline in the university programmes of numerous countries. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/eep



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© UNESCO/Moscow

2005 Adoption of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights

After four years of preparatory work, UNESCO Member States adopted the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights on 19 October 2005, thereby confirming the international community's commitment to establishing principles in the development and application of science and technology. Entirely guided by respect for human dignity and fundamental freedoms, the Declaration insists in particular on universal access to quality health care and essential medicines, nutrition and drinking water. Since then, UNESCO has stepped up its activities to ensure its promotion and implementation worldwide. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics

2005-2009 Development of National Bioethics Committees

In order to encourage the creation and reinforcement of National Bioethics Committees which are essential platforms for the implementation of standard-setting instruments such as the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, UNESCO launched a collection of manuals for governments, scientists, lawyers and health professionals in 2005.

At the same time, it set up a Assisting Bioethics Committees (ABC) project to support the different countries in setting up and developing these structures whose incorporation into a network was the main subject of a conference held in Mexico City (Mexico) in November 2009. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/abc

10

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2001 A new paradigm in poverty eradication

Under the impetus of Pierre Sané, newly appointed Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences, far-reaching conceptual work on poverty as a human rights violation was commenced in 2001. Numerous studies were conducted and seminars organized in order to explore this new approach with philosophers, lawyers, economists and political science experts. At the same time, in 2003, a project to support national poverty eradication strategies was introduced in order to turn the concept into a reality. Micro-projects in the field were supported and training given in several African countries.

At the end of 2009, a collection of books was launched to present the paradigm in its philosophical, political, economic and legal dimensions. In 2010, a decision-making tool developed by UNESCO should help to make the approach operational on a world level. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/antipoverty



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2002 Supporting dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian Territories

In order to help the people in charge of Palestinian and Israeli civil society organizations to work together to build a common future through dialogue and research, UNESCO initiated a wide-ranging Middle East project in 2002. It fostered the creation of a standing forum for dialogue and active collaboration between Israeli and Palestinian researchers and academics who joined forces to conduct studies and publish three books in 2007 offering political decision-makers “guidelines” for academic cooperation in particular. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy



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2004 Implementation of inter-regional philosophical dialogue

In 2004, UNESCO initiated a series of “Inter-regional philosophical dialogues” aimed at encouraging exchange among researchers from different continents on their philosophical traditions and perception of contemporary issues. Asian philosophers were invited to meet those from the Arab States while philosophers from Africa met with their North American and Latin American counterparts during conferences whose results are subsequently made available to everyone through UNESCO publications. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy

CENTRAL POSTER

The UNESCO Network in Social and Human Sciences

**SPECIAL
ISSUE**

2001

2010

The UNESCO Network in Social

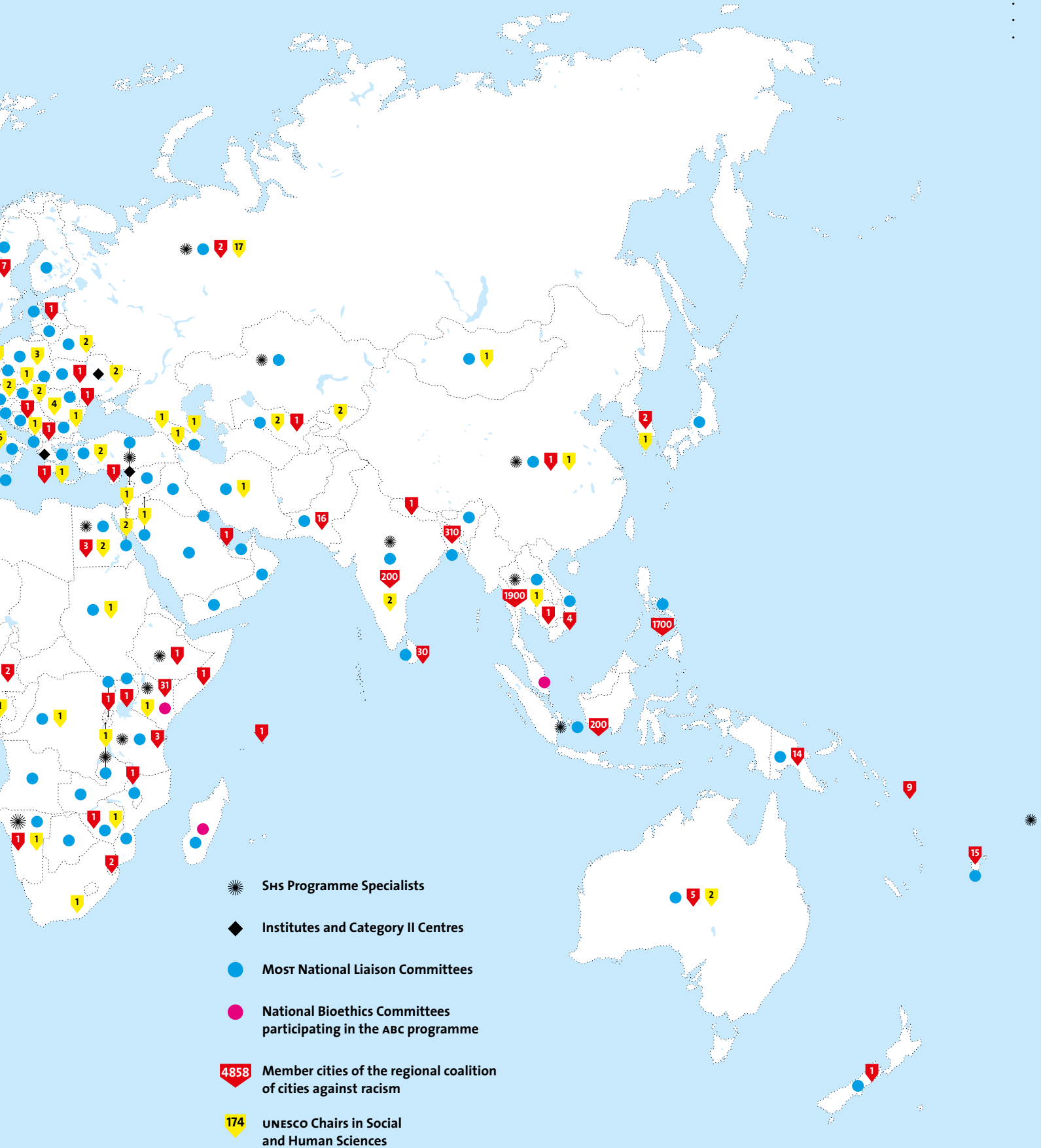


You will find all the contact addresses of the network of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) at www.unesco.org/shs



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

and Human Sciences





2005 World Philosophy Day

In 2005, UNESCO launched World Philosophy Day, celebrated each year on the third Thursday of November. In doing so, the Organization aimed to breathe new life into a discipline with which it has been closely associated since its foundation.

In 2003, a publication entitled *La philosophie saisie par l'UNESCO* picked up the thread again and UNESCO's Member States decided to adopt a genuinely "intersectoral strategy" in this respect in 2005. After that, *Philosophy: A School of Freedom*, the first worldwide inventory of philosophy teaching was published in 2007 and five publications appeared in 2009 on the regional challenges of philosophy teaching. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy

2007 A new horizon for the Horn of Africa

In the belief that peace is built through sharing knowledge, UNESCO decided, in 2007, to sponsor the creation of a forum of intellectuals called the "Greater Horn Horizon" which aims through research and dialogue to contribute to developing policy options that facilitate mutual understanding, regional integration and peace-building in the different countries of the Horn of Africa. Based in Djibouti, this independent and autonomous forum has continued to offer a unique opportunity for exchange between researchers, intellectuals, political decision-makers, civil society, the business world and opinion leaders concerned by the future of the populations of this particularly ravaged region of the world. ¶

● More information on www.greater-horn-horizon.org

2007 A world network of women philosophers

Sponsored by UNESCO, the International Network of Women Philosophers created in 2007 encourages solidarity among women philosophers throughout the world by bringing them recognition and visibility.

By the end of 2009, more than 2,400 women of varying status from across the globe, working in the fields of philosophy, journalism, literature, politics and arts, had joined the network, contributing to a "world directory of women philosophers" published online with the backing of UNESCO. The activities they intend to develop include the publication of a newsletter and of a *Who's Who* of women philosophers. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy/women_philosophers

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2002-2003

A new strategy for democracy

UNESCO implemented a new strategy in 2002-2003 for an international programme on democracy aimed at accentuating the promotion of democratic principles and values. Implementation of the programme entitled “Democracy, Culture and Peace” was entrusted to the International Centre for Human Sciences (ICHS) which coordinates the programme from Byblos (Lebanon) in conjunction with the International Panel on Democracy and Development (IPDD), chaired by Boutros Boutros-Ghali. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/democracy



© UNESCO Bangkok

2004

Creation of a World Human Rights Forum

The World Human Rights Forum was inaugurated in Nantes (France) in 2004 at the initiative of UNESCO, with the aim of bringing together, every two years, political leaders, NGO activists, international experts and representatives of international organizations and the private sector involved in defending the basic rights of human beings. The success of the first Forum confirmed that a space for this kind of dialogue was long overdue. In 2008, more than 2,500 people from 80 countries participated. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/humanrightsforum

2001-2009

A novel conceptual study of the notion of “human security”

In 2001, UNESCO initiated a novel conceptual study of the notion of “human security” which first appeared at the beginning of the 1990s in a UNDP report on human development. Application of this new concept to different contexts was discussed during numerous meetings held in Asia and the Pacific in particular, and an intersectoral working group was set up in 2006. Several works on the concept of human security were then published, including *Human Security: approaches and challenges* in 2009. ¶

● More information on <http://unesdoc.unesco.org>



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2004 Call for a network of cities against racism

In 2004, in response to the appeal made at the Durban Conference in 2001 which enjoined States to define and develop action plans against racism at every level, UNESCO called upon cities worldwide to form a network. Four years later, six regional coalitions against racism and discrimination – each with its own “10-point action plan” to respond to types of discrimination specific to each region – and one international coalition, had been formed. ¶

- More information on www.unesco.org/shs/citiesagainstracism

2006-2007 Reinforcement of world research on women

After backing the creation of the Palestinian Women’s Research and Documentation Centre, inaugurated on 18 January 2006 in Ramallah (Palestine), UNESCO – for whom gender equality is a priority – launched a world gender research network in 2007 in Manila (Philippines) whose aim is to develop methodological tools to encourage genuine dialogue between gender research and public policy. ¶

- More information on www.unesco.org/shs/gender



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2006

A human rights research network in the Maghreb region

In 2006, UNESCO and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) set up an Arab Research-Policy Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ARADESC) to bring findings on human rights produced by social sciences researchers within the reach of political decision-makers. The first of its kind in the Maghreb region, ARADESC includes national human rights institutions, NGOs and UNESCO Chairs, universities and research centres in Algeria, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. ¶

● More information on <http://rabat.unesco.org/ARADESC>



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2001-2010

A decade for a culture of peace

Numerous initiatives have been developed as part of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.

Among the projects implemented in Brazil, the “Open Schools” programme has met with resounding success and been extended to the whole of Central America. In 2008, it was selected as an example of best practice in its field for the conference “Youth@the Crossroads – a future without violent radicalization”, held in Bahrain.

Launched in 2001 after research conducted by UNESCO had shown that Brazil had the largest number of violent deaths among 15-to-24 year olds, particularly during weekends, the programme consists in opening public schools during the weekend so that young people can partake in artistic, cultural and sporting activities, thus contributing to reducing delinquency by fostering the integration of young people. ¶

● More information (in English and Portuguese only): www.unesco.org/brasilia

2001-2010

Reinforcement of private partnerships for youth initiatives

In order to support local youth initiatives throughout the world, partnerships with the private sector are being reinforced. Among the latest to date, those formed with the Ricky Martin and Repetto Foundations and British author Lauren Child and her publisher Hachette, have thus contributed to the success of the programme for the education of children in need. In Brazil, it is thanks to an exemplary partnership with the Media Globo group that the “Criança Esperança” programme has already financed more than 5,000 projects benefiting 4 million children and teenagers. ¶

● More information on www.criancaesperanca.globo.com (in Portuguese only) and www.unesco.org/shs/childreninneed



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2004 A project to encourage individual and collective responsibility

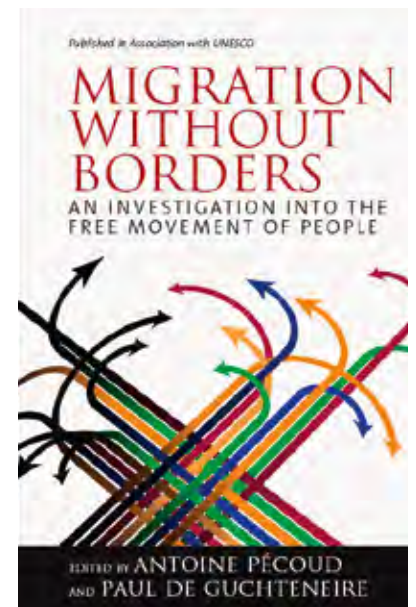
Initiated in Senegal in 1999, the training project for local elected officials and civil society stakeholders in the field of human rights, citizenship and local democracy was extended in 2004 to Burkina Faso and Mali. Less than five years later, a teaching guide, thematic works and a book on methodology and results have been published in the wake of workshops held within the framework of the project aimed at fostering a culture of individual and collective responsibility to enable local development *with and for* everyone. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/humanrights

2007 Essays on the free movement of people

In 2007, with the question of migratory flows foremost among political concerns, UNESCO published a book called “Migration without Borders” which envisages the possibility of a right to mobility. Based on detailed studies of the approaches to the free movement of people in Europe, Africa, North America, Latin America and Asia, this interdisciplinary research explores problems relating to ethics, human rights, economic development, politics and the cohesion and well-being of our societies. Translated into several languages, it received the 2009 Silver Book Award from the Association for Borderland Studies. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/migration



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2002

UNESCO launches a campaign for the rights of migrant workers

In 2002, the Social and Human Sciences Sector actively joined the world campaign to promote the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted 12 years earlier by the General Assembly of the United Nations. In 2003, it finally came into force after a sufficient number of ratifications had been collected. UNESCO, however, has continued its unrelenting efforts to promote the Convention, developing educational kits in several languages and conducting a series of case studies in several countries to help to gain a better understanding of the obstacles in the way of its ratification and the political and social repercussions of such a commitment in the countries studied. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/migration



© Islam Adeli Hariz / UNESCO

2009

First Forum for Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights

At the initiative of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector, the Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights was held for the first time in Cairo (Egypt) in December 2009, opening an unprecedented debate on the reality and impact of migratory flows between Africa and the Arab States. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/democracy



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2008

Creation of an International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights

When UNESCO commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 17 November 2008, its Member States decided to provide the world with an international centre for the promotion of human rights. It was scheduled to start operating in 2010 in Buenos Aires (Argentina) from buildings formerly occupied by ESMA, the Navy Mechanics School, which was the largest clandestine centre for the detention and execution of civilians under Argentina's military dictatorship. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/humanrights



© UNESCO Beijing

2001-2007 “Together with migrants” to eradicate poverty in China

A research-action project called “Together with migrants” was launched in 2001 in eight pilot cities in China with the aim of eradicating urban poverty among young migrants from country areas. The project was a resounding success from the outset, attracting researchers, NGO activists, artists and political decision-makers side by side. Six years down the line, an information-sharing and support network with migrants had been set up and a large majority of the population, in addition to the political decision-makers in the partner cities, were convinced of the need to foster the integration of migrants in urban areas by improving their living conditions. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/migration

2004-2007 A project to combat human trafficking in Africa

In 2004, the Social and Human Sciences Sector launched a project to combat human trafficking in Africa, which was linked to UNESCO’s flagship project “The Slave Route”. During the first phase, research was conducted on the factors responsible for trafficking in six pilot countries (Benin, Nigeria, Togo, Mozambique, South Africa and Lesotho) and recommendations made to local decision-makers to encourage them to fight against this terrible scourge. In 2006-2007, the resulting studies were published and training workshops conducted in West and South Africa to increase awareness of the links between poverty, violation of human rights and the trafficking of men, women and children. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/antipoverty



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2004

A change of direction for the most programme

Unique within the United Nations, UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) crossed a decisive threshold in 2004. It went from defining its priorities for each of the world's regions to the development of guidelines for the establishment of national liaison committees in every country in order to build efficient bridges, at every level, between research, politics and practice to encourage the formulation of policies that will meet the needs of changing society, while guaranteeing the respect of human rights. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/en/most

2005-2008

Close-up on West Africa

In 2005, UNESCO launched a vast project on regional integration in West Africa. For three years, national seminars enabled all those concerned by the development of each of the 15 member countries of ECOWAS to meet together. The results of the seminars were published by Karthala in 2008 and 2009. At the same time, the summit of the Heads of State of ECOWAS, and UNESCO's General Conference supported one of the main proposals that came out of the meetings, namely the creation of a research institute for regional integration in West Africa. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/en/most



© Pablo Arieli / UNESCO

2003-2010

Seven regional venues and one international forum for social development

Between 2001 and 2010, the MOST programme will have contributed to putting the results of social sciences research at the service of public policy by fostering dialogue between researchers, decision-makers and civil society activists everywhere. From the first Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America to those of Asia, Africa, the Arab States and the Caribbean, no fewer than seven spaces for regional dialogue will have been implemented between 2003 and 2010. One of the highlights was an international forum on the social sciences-policy nexus, held in conjunction with Argentina and Uruguay in 2006 and attended by 1,000 researchers and representatives of governments, regional and international organizations and NGOs. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/en/most



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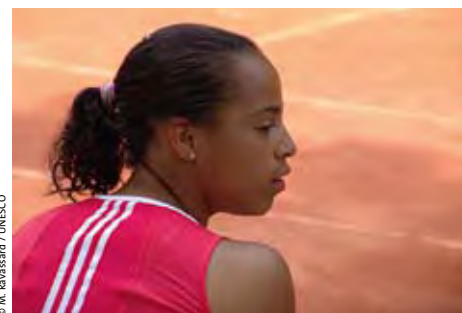
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2005 An International Convention against Doping in Sport

On 19 October 2005, the UNESCO General Conference at its 33rd session adopted the International Convention against Doping in Sport. For UNESCO, it provided an outstanding occasion for a practical demonstration of its action in the standard-setting field and prefigured important changes for the future of world sport.

For the first time ever, the Convention offers an international legal framework that will enable governments across the globe to take effective measures to eliminate doping in sport and harmonize anti-doping efforts on a world level. Ratified by a large number of States in record time, it came into force in 2007. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/antidoping

1999-2009 Consolidation of the UNESCO Youth Forum

UNESCO's Youth Forum, a unique system within the United Nations exemplifying the approach developed by the Social and Human Sciences Sector, which consists in reflecting and acting with those most concerned by its projects, has been consolidated over the last 10 years. Created in 1999, it brings together, every two years, young people selected by their country of origin for their involvement in youth-related activities, to allow them to express their opinion at the highest decision-making level. In 2009, 128 young people from 89 countries shared their ideas and submitted them directly in a report to the Member States of UNESCO during its General Conference. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/youth

2007 Creation of an Observatory of Women and Sport

In 2007, UNESCO's Member States unanimously adopted the project to set up an Observatory of Women, Sport and Physical Education. The project, led by Greece, has an identical aim to that of the Social and Human Sciences Sector in promoting the educational dimension of sport and its contribution to the development of society. In 2008, UNESCO and Greece ratified the creation of the Observatory whose first initiative was to set up a website on the role and place given to women in sport policies. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/sport

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2009

A guide for urban professionals

In 2008, a guide entitled *Historic Districts for All: a social and human approach for sustainable revitalization* was published to promote a holistic approach to revitalizing historic districts in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and social justice. The aim is to foster harmonious, inclusive urban development. An excellent educational tool for urban professionals, political decision-makers and field workers, it was adapted to the Indian urban context in 2009 and presented at the first Habitat Summit held in India the same year. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/urban



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2005

An alliance with UN-Habitat for urban development with a human face

On 18 March 2005, UNESCO and UN-Habitat signed an historical memorandum of understanding to reinforce their collaboration. The Social and Human Sciences Sector, in charge of coordinating this alliance within UNESCO, oversees its participation in the World Urban Forum organised by UN-Habitat every second year.

SHS has a particularly strong commitment to projects relating to urban policies, the right to the city and the social sustainability of historic districts. In 2006, it published a reference work in conjunction with UN-Habitat and the International Social Sciences Council to bring the concept of the right to the city within everyone's reach, followed by a second publication in 2009 giving examples of good practices and legal instruments for the use of local administrations. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/urban



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UNESCO Prizes in Social and Human Sciences

Avicenna Prize

ETHICS OF SCIENCE

Established by UNESCO in 2003 at the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science aims at promoting ethical reflection on issues raised by advances in science and technology. It owes its name to the physician and philosopher of medieval Islam, Abu Ali al-Husain Ibn Abdallah Ibn Sina (980-1038), known in Europe as Avicenna, who has been a source of inspiration for the promotion of ethics in science.

With the sum of US\$ 10.000 and a one-week scientific visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Avicenna Prize is awarded every two years to reward the activities of individuals and groups in the field of ethics in science.

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/est

José Martí Prize

LATIN-AMERICAN UNITY

The international José Martí Prize was established by UNESCO, at the initiative of Cuba, in 1994, in recognition of universal value of the ideals of José Martí, "intellectual author" of the Cuban liberation and fervent advocate for the unity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and universal harmony.

This Prize, of US\$ 5.000, provided by the Cuban Government, is awarded every 2 years, to reward an activity of outstanding merit, anywhere in the world in favour of unity and integration of Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as the preservation of their identities, cultural traditions and historical values.

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs

Juan Bosch Prize

RESEARCH/POLICY LINKAGES

Established in 2009, the Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean aims at rewarding young researchers who contribute through their work in the field of social sciences to the reinforcement of the links between research and public policies.

This Prize of US\$ 10.000 provided by the government of the Dominican Republic, will be awarded for the first time in 2011, and then every two years. It may be divided among a maximum of three prize-winners and will also enable the publication of the thesis of the laureate(s), if extra-budgetary funds are available, with the assistance of a publisher and under the auspices of UNESCO.

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs

UNESCO/BILBAO Prize

CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Established and awarded for the first time in 2008, the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights replaces the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education, established in 1978.

It rewards an institution or individual that has implemented a particularly significant action in favour of a universal culture of Human Rights, through education, research or awareness-raising among decision-makers and the general public. It is awarded every 2 years, with US\$ 20.000 donated by the city of Bilbao (the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Spain), a diploma and a bronze sculpture created by the Japanese artist Toshi.

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/human_rights_prize

Madanjeet Singh Prize

TOLERANCE AND NON-VIOLENCE

The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize bears the name of the Indian artist, writer and diplomat, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, thanks to whom it was created in 1995, at the occasion of the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

With US\$ 100.000 provided by the the South Asia Foundation created by Madanjeet Singh, this Prize rewards outstanding activities in the scientific, artistic, cultural or communication fields aimed at the promotion of tolerance and non-violence. It is officially awarded every 2 years, on 16 November, International Day for Tolerance and the day of the foundation of UNESCO.

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs

Prize for Peace Education

MOBILIZING CONSCIENCES

Established in 1980, thanks to the Nippon Foundation, the Prize for Peace Education aims at promoting actions designed to construct the defenses of peace in the minds of men and to mobilize the conscience of mankind in the cause of peace. It rewards individuals or organizations that have distinguished themselves by an action implemented in accordance with the spirit of UNESCO during several years and confirmed by international public opinion.

Awarded annually from 1981 to 2003, this Prize, which includes a financial sum set for each award on the basis of the interest accruing from the Japanese fund, is now awarded every 2 years, on the occasion of the International Peace Day (21 September).

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/fr/prizes/peace_education

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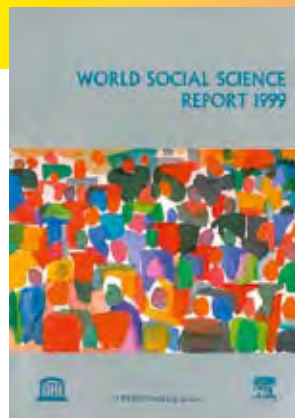
2001-2010 The first international social science journal

Founded by UNESCO in 1949, the *International Social Science Journal (ISSJ)* was the first journal of popular science bringing together research results produced throughout the world in different disciplines. 60 years later, it continues to bring together social science communities and to make social science knowledge and discussions already known by the specialists, available to the general public.

Each issue is structured around a thematic dossier, coordinated by the Editor in collaboration with an Editorial Adviser. Unsolicited manuscripts are also considered and published under the “Open Forum” and “Continuing Debate” sections.

Printed in 5 languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Russian), the *ISSJ* is also available in Spanish on-line. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/shs/issj



2010 A second World Social Science Report

Ten years after the first *World Social Science Report*, published in 1999 by UNESCO, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) will be publishing in 2010, a new overview on the main trends in this domain, with the financial support of the Organization. Entitled *Knowledge Divides*, this publication will analyze how social science contributes to understanding the way societies develop in the face of current challenges, using unpublished data. It will also reexamine issues raised during the debates of the 1st World Social Science Forum, organized in Norway, in 2009. ¶

● More information on www.worldsocialscience.org



2001-2010 *Diogenès*: news in human sciences

Founded in 1952 by Roger Caillois, *Diogenès* is published by the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS), with the support of UNESCO.

Available in English, French and Spanish, it explores “the unity of the world throughout the diversity of its topics”, according to the words of Octavio Paz. Every quarter, it covers international news in the human sciences from a transdisciplinary perspective, fighting against excessive specialization of fragmented research. ¶

● More information on www.unesco.org/cipsh/eng/diogene.htm



A website

THE SHOWCASE FOR
THE SOCIAL AND HUMAN
SCIENCES SECTOR

Thanks to a new interface implemented in 2010, the website of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector provides access to documents relating to its programme, by theme or region. Also online: the references of all the Sector's publications together with links to its networks and partners throughout the world.

- To consult the website: www.unesco.org/shs



SHSviews

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
FEATURING SHS'S PARTNERS

Created in 2002, the newsletter published by UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector has been turned into a quarterly news magazine which reports on the main activities in the field and opens up its columns to UNESCO's partners. Printed in French and English, it is available in an electronic version in both languages, as well as Russian.

- To read and subscribe to the magazine: www.unesco.org/shs/views



SHS e-News

A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC
NEWSLETTER

An electronic newsletter sent out on the first days of each month provides information on the month's coming events and links with the latest publications of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector. Highlighting the main activity of the moment, it is sent to all SHS's partners in English, Arabic, Spanish and French, and occasionally in Russian.

- To subscribe: www.unesco.org/shs/e-news



GEObs

A GLOBAL ETHICS OBSERVATORY
ON THE INTERNET

Launched by UNESCO at the end of 2005, GEObs offers free access to six databases on experts, institutions, teaching programmes, legislation and principles, codes of conduct and resources in bioethics and ethics applied to science and technology. The platform is intended to facilitate the creation of ethics committees, the drafting of public policies and the development of ethics teaching programmes. Two regional documentation centres have been established, in Lithuania (2004) and Kenya (2007).

- To access GEObs: www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs



MOST online tool

A POLICY RESEARCH
DATABASE

Officially launched in September 2009, the "MOST-Tool" is an Internet server including numerous studies conducted by UNESCO and its partners in the field of social transformations and development at every level. It enables comparative policy reports to be produced according to specific themes, geographical areas and target populations and actors. Mainly aimed at political decision-makers, it is also useful for researchers, NGO activists, the media and the general public.

- To consult the MOST tool: www.unesco.org/shs/most

Editorial by Pierre Sané

The notion of *review* is an invitation to cast a critical eye back over what has already been accomplished while keeping an outward focus on the future and reflecting on what will be needed to achieve that end.

Taking charge of a United Nations entity working in the social and human sciences has been a unique and far-reaching challenge in that nothing was wholly clear at the outset. There was nothing obvious in the structural organization, the aim pursued, the conducting of negotiations or the necessary adaptation to the demands inherent in the intergovernmental system, so full of promise yet sometimes so far removed from the real expectations of the people. It was only by dint of combined reflection and determination that the challenge could be met, that of creating something new and breathing a soul into an administrative structure, building new synergies so that the voice and voices of the social and human sciences would always seek to be heard with discernment, which means creating and disseminating knowledge and know-how, and whenever possible, fostering their incorporation into society by informed, socially-aware decision-makers.

Driven by this spirit of reflection and determination, with the firm intention of taking up the challenge of fully expanding the social and human sciences both inside and outside UNESCO, this Sector, which I have been directing since 2001, has met with undisputed outstanding successes. Self-satisfaction you may say. Detractors will see what they want to see. That is not what is important. It is not a question of self-glorification but fair recognition of everyone's efforts and commitment and the enthusiasm that has shown on so many occasions that it is the ideal substratum for the greatest of human achievements.

The Social and Human Sciences Sector, which has been gradually shaped by strategies – the concrete outcomes of negotiations with Member States, non-governmental organizations and partners – has built up a solid, conceptual, programmatic and, above all, visionary, framework. It has visibility and legitimacy in several crucial fields, such as the promotion of human rights, philosophy, democracy, the ethics of science and technology and the analysis of social transformations. But that legitimacy has not come easily. Visibility is not innate. We have gradually acquired it and have to continually strengthen and re-invent it.

As I am celebrating nearly 10 years at the head of this Sector, I invite each and every one of you to be ever more demanding of a reflection and an action to overcome all obstacles. "Strive to exceed your grasp" is what I would like to say to all those who tirelessly pursue their combat for a better, fairer and more human world. A world in which the social and human sciences turn words into actions. A world in which each human being, fully understanding their own essence, will see the Other as being their fellow creature in every way. ¶

Pierre Sané

Assistant Director-General
of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences



To protect the environment, *shsv* views is printed on 80% recycled paper.

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