

CUBA / UNESCO: facts and figures.

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** 20 August 1947.
2. **Membership on the Executive Board: 2007-2011 and 2011-2015 (candidate for 2017-2021)**
 - **Previous terms:** 9 times to date
3. **Current Membership on Intergovernmental Committees / Commissions or Boards: 6**

Organs elected by the General Conference:

 - **Intergovernmental Council for the International Hydrological Programme**
Member (Term expires : 40th General Conference)
 - **Intergovernmental Council of the "Management of Social Transformations" Programme**
Member (Term expires : 40th General Conference)
 - **Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication** Member (Term expires : 39th General Conference)

Other intergovernmental organs

 - **Intergovernmental Committee on World Heritage** Member (Term expires : 40th General Conference)
 - **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission** Member

UNESCO institutes and centres

 - **Governing Board of the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, IESALC (Caracas, Venezuela).** Representatives of Member States: Mario Oliva Suárez (37th General Conference).
4. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
 - **Ambassador and Permanent Delegate:** Ms. Dulce María Buergo Rodríguez, since 20 March 2015. Born in September 1968 in Romania, she is married with two sons. She holds a PhD in International Relations, from the Havana University.
Professional experience: 2000-2001: First Secretary of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations; 2001-2006: Division for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 2006-2009: Counsellor of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico and 2009-2011: Second Chief of Mission in Mexico; and 2011-2014: Counsellor of the Division for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - **Previous Permanent Delegate:** Ms María de los Angeles Flórez Prida, from February 2010 to September 2014. She was President of the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO from 2005 to 2009, and Representative to the Executive Board in 2008 and 2009.
5. **Cuban National Commission for UNESCO:** established on 17 November 1947 by presidential appointment.
 - **President a.i (since Oct. 2015):** Ms Alicia Gonzalez
 - **Permanent Secretary (June 2010):** Ms Alicia Gonzalez.

Structure: the Direction Council, the Experts Committee, the Technical Consultative Council, 9 Specialized Committees and the Secretariat.

 - **Secretariat:** it includes 13 full staff members.
 - **Centre de documentation :** il est remarquable, et comprend plus de 1700 publications

provenant essentiellement de l'UNESCO. Il reçoit une grande quantité de visiteurs par an (des étudiants et des professeurs pour l'essentiel) et publie 2 bulletins d'information, l'un sur les activités entreprises par la jeunesse dans les milieux scolaire, culturel ou du travail ; l'autre sur les activités de la Commission nationale.

- **Domaines prioritaires :** Enseignement supérieur, en particulier les 8 Chaires UNESCO ; alphabétisation ; éducation à la science ; biotechnologie, gestion des ressources de l'océan ; dialogue interculturel ; promotion du patrimoine culturel et traditionnel ; radio et télévision communautaires ; jeunesse ; Écoles associées.
- **Publications :** La Commission nationale publie un Bulletin d'information imprimé en espagnol et de diffusion nationale, depuis 1953 (quatre fois par an jusqu'en 1990, puis irrégulièrement, en fonction des moyens de la Commission). Elle publie également un rapport annuel en espagnol.

6. UNESCO's Office in La Havana:

- The Havana Office is a Cluster Office for Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Aruba. It was established on 24 February 1950, as UNESCO's Office for the Western Hemisphere, and it is one of the oldest UNESCO's structures away from Headquarters. Since the implementation of UNESCO's decentralization strategy, the Office became a Cluster Office to the Caribbean region and a Regional Bureau for Culture (ORCALC) in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Officer in charge: Mrs Katherine Müller-Marin (Costa Rica) has been appointed to the post of Director (D-1) of the UNESCO Office in Havana. It took effect on 1 March 2016.

7. Prominent personalities having privileged relations with UNESCO (Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, Chairpersons of Committees, etc):

- Ms Alicia Alonso, prima ballerina assoluta and choreographer, was designated as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador in June 2012 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the development, preservation and popularization of classical dance, through which she has promoted the ideals of UNESCO and the fellowship of the world's peoples and cultures.
- On 14 March 2015, she initiated a special Gala event, which was held at the National Ballet of Cuba to celebrate UNESCO's 70th anniversary.

8. UNESCO Chairs: 11

- Chaire UNESCO de gestion universitaire (1993), Universidad de La Habana, La Habana (76)
- Chaire UNESCO en sciences de l'éducation (1994), Instituto Pedagógico Latinoamericano y Caribeño (IPLAC), La Habana
- Chaire UNESCO en gestion de l'information dans les organisations (1993), Universidad de La Habana, Universidad de Murcia, Espagne, dans le cadre du groupe Santander
- Chaire UNESCO en sciences de la conservation des biens culturels (1995), CENCREM, La Habana
- Chaire UNESCO de biomatériels (1998), Universidad de La Habana, La Habana
- UNESCO Chair in Culture and Development (2002), Centro Nacional de Superación par la Cultura, La Habana
- UNESCO Chair in Environment and Development (2012), Higher Institute of Applied Science and Technology
- UNESCO Chair on Agricultural Biotechnology for Local Development (2014), University of Granma, Bayamo
- UNESCO Chair "Felipe Poey y Aloy" on the Promotion of a Scientific Culture (2014), Universidad Central "Marta Abreu" de Las Villas
- Chaire internationale UNESCO / Réseau UNITWIN MEDEURAMÉRICA pour un développement humain durable (1998), Universidad de La Habana y Universidad de Girona
- UNESCO Chair on Agroecology and Sustainable Development (2015), the Agrarian University of Havana

9. Associated Schools: 75

Since its creation in 1953, ASPnet has had the overarching objective to promote peace, tolerance and international understanding from the very learning processes of girls and boys in educational institutions. In Cuba this network is coordinated by the Cuba National Commission for UNESCO (CNCU), and at present it has 75 schools at different educational levels (4 pre-schools, 1 primary and secondary school, 47 primary schools, 19 secondary schools, 2 teachers training institutions, 2 vocational and technical institutions) located both in urban and rural areas and spread throughout the provinces.

During the last biennium the Office continued to support the work developed in these educational institutions, promoting in particular the implementation of different national and international projects, among them World Heritage in Young Hands, The Slave Route, Sandwatch, HIV and AIDS prevention, The ICT in Education, Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger, the School Newsletter for a culture of peace, Education for the Prevention of Risks Caused by Natural Disasters and Climate Change Education.

10. UNESCO Club: a number of the UNESCO Clubs are specialized in different areas, such as traditional music, visual arts, Afro-Cuban culture, cultural heritage, dances, environment, etc.

11. Biosphere Reserves: 6

- Sierra del Rosario (1984);
- Cuchillas del Toa (1987);
- Península de Guanahacabibes (1987);
- Baconao (1987);
- Ciénaga de Zapata (2000);
- Buenavista (2000).

12. World Heritage Sites: 9

- Old Havana and its Fortifications (1982);
- Trinidad and the Valley de los Ingenios (1988);
- San Pedro de la Roca Castle, Santiago de Cuba (1997);
- Desembarco del Granma National Park (1999);
- Viñales Valley (1999);
- Archaeological Landscape of the First Coffee Plantations in the Southeast of Cuba (2000);
- Alejandro de Humboldt National Park (2001);
- Urban Historic Centre of Cienfuegos (2005);
- Historic Centre of Camagüey (2008).

Tentative List: 3

- National Schools of Art, Cubanacán (2003)
- Ciénaga de Zapata National Park (2003)
- Reef System in the Cuban Caribbean (2003)

13. Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: 1

▪ Element inscribed:

La Tumba Francesa (2008). The dance, song and drumming style known as Tumba Francesa (French Drum) was brought to Cuba by Haitian slaves who were resettled in the island's eastern regions following the unrest in Haiti during the 1790s. It embodies one of the oldest and most tangible links to the Afro-Haitian heritage of Cuba's Oriente province and developed from an eighteenth-century fusion of music from Dahomey in West Africa and traditional French dances. After Cuba's abolition of slavery in 1886 and the resulting migration of former slaves to urban

areas in search of work, Tumba Francesa societies emerged in several cities.

- **On-going nomination:**
2016: Cuban rumba, a festive combination of music and dances and all the practices associated.
- 14. Memory of the World Register: 3**
 - José Martí Pérez Fonds (inscribed in 2005);
 - Original Negative of the Noticiero ICAIC Latinoamericano (in 2009);
 - Documentary Collection “Life and Works of Ernesto Che Guevara: from the originals manuscripts of its adolescence and youth to the campaign Diary in Bolivia” (2013).
- 15. UNESCO's standard-setting instruments: 19 ratified**
 - Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 17 October 2003): **ratified on 29 May 2007.**
 - Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions (Paris, 20 October 2005): **ratified on 29 May 2007.**
 - Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (Paris, 2 November 2001): **ratified on 26 May 2008.**
 - International Convention against Doping in Sport (Paris, 19 October 2005): **ratified 28 July 2008.**
- 16. Participation Programme:**
 - **2016-2017:** Cuba submitted 7 projects amounting **USD154.439**
 - **2014-2015:** Cuba had 5 projects approved for **USD109.325**
 - **2012-2013:** Cuba had 4 projects approved for **USD70.400.**
- 17. UNESCO Fellowships Programme:**
24 fellowships awarded to Cuba since 2010 for a total amount of US\$691,867.
- 18. Use of UNESCO Coupons:** does not participate.
- 19. Payment of assessed membership fees: Paid in full**
 - Last payment: February 2016.
 - The assessment rate for 2016 is 0.065 %.
- 20. Representation within the Secretariat (as of 10 April 2016): 4, normally-represented; min: 2 and max: 4**
 - 1 Professional in geographical post at Headquarters
 - 3 Professionals in geographical posts in the Field
 - 3 National Professional in the Field
 - 5 General Service in the Field
 - Total staff: 12**
- 21. Applications to the Young Professionals' Programme (YPP):** Cuba is normally represented and therefore not eligible for the programme.
- 22. Junior Professional Officer Programme:** does not participate to the programme.
- 23. Celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated:**
 - **2016:** 200th anniversary of the birth of Francisco de Albear y Fernández de Lara, engineer and scientist (1816-1887) (Cuba with the support of Nicaragua and the Bolivarian Republic of

Venezuela)

- **2016:** 100th anniversary of the publication of the book *The black slaves* by Fernando Ortiz Fernández (1916) (Cuba with the support of Nicaragua and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
 - **2016-2017:** 150th anniversary of the birth of the poet Ruben Dario (1867-1916) and 100th anniversary of his death (Nicaragua with the support of Cuba and Ecuador). Rubén Darío, pseudonym of Félix Rubén García Sarmiento (born 18 January 1867, Metapa, Nicaragua – died 6 February 1916, León), influential Nicaraguan poet, journalist, and diplomat. As a leader of the Spanish American literary movement known as Modernismo, which flourished at the end of the nineteenth century, he revived and modernized poetry in Spanish on both sides of the Atlantic through his experiments with rhythm, metre, and imagery. Darío developed a highly original poetic style that founded a tradition.
 - **In 2014** Cuba celebrated with UNESCO the following 4 projects:
 - 100th anniversary of the death of Carlos J. Finlay, scientist (1833-1915).
 - 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Feijóo Rodríguez, writer (1914-1992).
 - 500th anniversary of the foundation of the first towns in Central and Eastern Cuba.
 - 200th anniversary of the birth of Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, writer (1814-1873).
- 24. Inter-governmental organizations maintaining relations with UNESCO, with headquarters in Cuba: 0**
- 25. Non-governmental organization maintaining relations with UNESCO, with headquarters in Cuba: 1**
- Among the 393 NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO according to the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnerships with non-governmental organizations, only one in consultative status is based in Cuba: the Latin American and Caribbean Continental Organization of Students (OCLAE), La Havana, Cuba
OCLAE seeks to defend the autonomy of the universities, and the freedom and plurality of the academic world but also to develop and strengthen solidarity and mutual assistance among Latin American and Caribbean students and between them and students from other continents. It also works for the participation of students in joint governing bodies and educational management.