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From thought to action

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The French philosopher Henri Bergson (1859-1941) wrote that “One should act as a man of thought and think as a man of action”. I share his view that this is the way to build effective connections between research and policy, between academics and policy makers. These actors and activities are not identical. Far from it. Nonetheless, by taking their differences into account, by putting them to work together in mutual enrichment, a true space of dialogue can be established.

Such was the purpose of the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, organized by UNESCO and by the governments of Argentina and Uruguay, which was held in Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Montevideo and Rosario from February 20 to 24 2006. This issue of the *SHS Newsletter* covers the Forum and its main outcomes. As emphasized by the Declaration calling for a new approach to the social science – policy nexus adopted at the close of the Forum – the full text of which is reprinted here –, “the social sciences have a crucial contribution to make in formulating development policy”.

The success of this innovative event gives fresh life to the aspiration to new spaces of dialogue at all levels. For whether a country is rich or poor, an active or a passive participant in globalization, whether a region is weak or powerful, at peace or in conflict, there is no escaping the need to produce autonomous thinking. This function cannot be delegated, for it concerns the very birth of the intelligence of nations. The process launched in Buenos Aires will contribute to the growth and to the dynamic exchange of such intelligence. Just as UNESCO, from its very creation, has sought to make its contribution.

For the mandate given to UNESCO by its member states to promote social science coincides with the urgent concerns of the day, at a time when the speed, scale and impact of social transformations are unprecedented.

Without knowledge and analytical capacity, without the power they can put in the hands of justice and human rights, not just social cohesion, but also security, and indeed peace, are threatened. An exemplary case in this respect in the struggle against racism, which is also covered in this issue on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Action within the variations coalitions of cities, to which UNESCO has given strong impetus, is inseparable from improved understanding of the dynamics that give birth to racism and the processes that can counter it.

To a greater or lesser extent, this claim runs through the themes covered in this issue. Whether referring to clarification of bioethical issues and implementation of the principles adopted by the international community, to women’s rights, or to social cohesion in the city, a key idea keeps resurfacing: groping in the dark is a poor technique for ambitious action. There are two symmetrical forms of political irresponsibility: failing to act, pending illusory certainty, and rushing ahead regardless of consequences. Between the two, there is a noble and urgent task: to take responsibility for clear-sighted action, in full recognition of the inherent limits of knowledge.

That, precisely, is “acting as a man of thought”. Such needs to be UNESCO’s everyday commitment...



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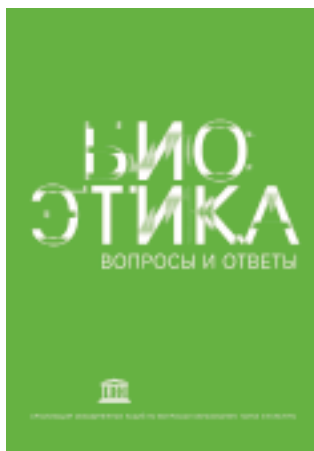
In a world undergoing great change, the “conscience” aspect of the United Nations, which has been UNESCO’s since its inception, is becoming increasingly important. Among UNESCO’s five priority programmes, **the Ethics of Science and Technology, implemented by the Organization’s Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) aims, through ethical reflection, to guide progress in the life sciences and technological development.** This ethical reflection takes into account the cultural, legal, philosophical and religious heritage of the world’s different communities. Through normative action, awareness-raising and strengthening the capacities of its Member States, UNESCO is striving to fulfil its mandate as “lead” international organization for ethical issues.

Bioethics and human rights Moscow Conference discusses the Universal Declaration

The UNESCO Moscow Office made World AIDS Day and Human Rights Day the occasion for starting discussions on the Universal Declaration adopted last October by UNESCO’s General Conference.

This UNESCO Conference linked the issues of Bioethics as a main priority of UNESCO activities with Human Rights in the context of health care – the sphere in which ethical standards, legal principles and values of social justice find their practical use.

The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005. The aim of the Conference in Moscow was to discuss the realization of the Declaration’s principles. The Conference aimed to promote a broad social dialogue on health care between the Government and civil society, by giving the general public the possibility to participate and become informed about the necessary reforms. This kind of dialogue is the primary condition for the effectiveness and quality of reforms and social transformation.



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The Conference addressed the following issues:

- Respect for patients’ rights as a priority in health care policies
- Intersectoral partnerships as a factor of social justice in health care
- Ethical aspects of HIV/AIDS
- The State and public expertise in health care

Among the event’s organizers and participants were representatives and experts from international, State, scientific, medical and non-governmental organizations including WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, Civil Society Institutions and the Presidential Human Rights Council, the State Parliamentary Committee on Education and Science, the Ministry of Defence, Industry and High Technology, the International Academy of Sciences, Moscow Humanitarian University, the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Bioethics Committee, the UNESCO Chair for the Development

of Non-governmental Organizations, the Regional Association of people living with HIV/AIDS, “Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS”, the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), and the Forum of Ethics Committees, etc.

The Human Rights Commissioner of the Russian Federation, Mr V. Lukin, and the Chair of the Federal Council of the Assembly of the Russian Federation, Mr S. Mironov, addressed messages to the Conference. In the course of the event, the UNESCO Moscow Office presented the new publication “Bioethics: Questions and Answers”. The Conference made recommendations on possible cooperation of the various parties from all sectors involved in the elaboration and implementation of public health policies for the improvement of relevant services. ¶

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The UN Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics meets in Geneva

Having played an essential role in the preparation of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, the United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics met in January 2006.

The need for international engagement and dialogue among different international bodies in the field of bioethics has been increasingly felt over the last few years. This is why, on the initiative of the Director-General of UNESCO, the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics was established in March 2003 in order to improve coordination and avoid duplication of activities carried out by the various organizations in the field of bioethics. With UNESCO acting as Permanent Secretariat, the Committee is composed of intergovernmental organizations both within and outside the United Nations system that have developed bioethics programmes or which carry out specific activities focusing on bioethics, including its human rights aspects and other related issues.

Improving activity coordination

The main goals of the Inter-Agency Committee are: to provide a forum for debate and exchange of information in the field of bioethics and related issues, with special attention to human rights aspects; to examine topics and issues in the field in order to identify areas where concerted or joint efforts would be beneficial and where major gaps and constraints affecting cooperation in the field need to be addressed; and to facilitate cooperation with other international and intergovernmental organizations.

During the last two years, the meetings of the Committee provided an opportunity to involve interested intergovernmental organizations in the elaboration of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005) by organizing consultations on the different versions of the text throughout the drafting process of the Declaration. The issue of ethics, intellectual property and benefit-sharing was identified by the Committee as a priority area for cooperation. The UN Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics held its fifth meeting on 16 and 17 January 2006 in Geneva on the invitation of the World Intellectual Property Organization. ¶

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Scientific advances now making it possible to control the development mechanisms of all living species raise ethical issues regarding the application of this progress in the health and food spheres.

➔ A UN Committee open to other institutions

Associate Membership in the Inter-Agency committee may be extended to organizations and institutions that request such membership.

The UN Agency members of this Committee are the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Health Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the United Nations University.

Current Associate Members are ALECSO, ASEAN, the African Union, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, International Centre of Genetic Engineering in Biotechnology, the Organization of American States, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the World Trade Organization. ¶

ERRATUM

The article on the IBC in *SHS Newsletter* 11 (December 2005 – February 2006) carried an error in line 15 of page 4: the term

“informal consent” should have read “informed consent”. We present our apologies to the author of the article and to our readers.



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BC165 cloned oil palm vitro plants in a Côte d'Ivoire nursery.

Biosafety and ethics in Africa – workshop in Accra, Ghana.

On the initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), an International Workshop on Biosafety and Ethics was held in Accra, Ghana, from 16 to 20 January 2006. Six African countries attended the workshop – Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Togo and South Africa; six UN Agencies (UNIDO, UNESCO, UNEP and the joint FAO/WHO Food Standard Programme), as well as a group of international experts, and 60 major stakeholders from West Africa, university teachers, researchers, policy makers, journalists and NGOs.

The one-week workshop was organized as a round table, with lectures followed by open discussions. Presentations and debates centred on biotechnology and genetic

engineering possibilities for food, biological risk assessment and management, the international regulatory system and standard setting, scientific uncertainty and risk perception, and biosafety and related ethical aspects. One session was devoted to Brazil's experience in biosafety over the last ten years and the lessons learned which could prove useful for many African countries. ¶

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“Ethics around the World” in New Zealand... and in Peru

The rotating conferences organized throughout the world within UNESCO's “Ethics around the world” project passed through New Zealand in February and will move to Peru in April.

The Conference “Ethics of knowledge production”, organized in Dunedin, New Zealand, by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, was designed primarily for researchers and teachers in the fields of medicine, engineering sciences, technology and the social sciences, as well as for funding agencies, members of ethics committees and those in charge of research policies and investments. High on the agenda was UNESCO's programme on the ethics of science and technology, and the recently adopted Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. Participants first of all debated the specific national implications of the Declaration before moving on to regional implications. The Conference also discussed ethics education in the social and human sciences, particularly highlighting the situation of indigenous people. Indeed, in the particular case of New Zealand, the Maori understanding of the values underlying the production and use of knowledge, was a central theme for all the discussions.

A symposium in Lima

From 20 to 22 April 2006, the Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia will host a symposium on bioethics and environmental ethics in Lima, Peru. The Symposium will be organized in cooperation with the Peruvian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, the Peruvian Society of Bioethics, and UNESCO's Ethics of Science and Technology Division. This conference will be important since it follows shortly after the adoption, by the 33rd session of the General Conference, of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. The conference will be an opportunity to provide information about UNESCO's programme and the activities of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST).

It will also focus on the application of the provisions of the Declaration in the Peruvian context. In particular, ethics teaching in Peru will be on the agenda of the symposium, with discussion on ethics teaching programmes and future cooperation to enhance ethics education. The symposium will also be an opportunity to strengthen the activities of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics in Lima. ¶

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Ethics – a matter of education

In order to build and strengthen the capacities of UNESCO Member States in the field of ethics, the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology has for some years been developing an ethics education programme.

The Ethics Education Programme (EEP) is in line with provisions in the recently adopted Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, which is to strengthen and increase the capacities of Member States in the area of ethics education. For the 2004-2005 biennium, activities in the area of ethics teaching have primarily focused on East and Central Europe. During the 2006-2007 biennium, priority will be given to the Arab States region, Africa and Asia.

Ethics teaching programmes

The first step in promoting ethics teaching programmes is to identify the experts. Data concerning these experts is entered into the ethics database (Global Ethics Observatory – GEObs) which was launched during the 12th Ordinary Session of the International Bioethics Committee, held in December 2005 in Tokyo, Japan (www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs).

The second step is the sampling of teaching programmes. In order to facilitate the development, the comparison, and the possible certification of programmes, a collection needs to be made of existing teaching programmes in ethics. Experiences can thus be sampled, compared and exchanged. It is important to collect samples of programmes not only in bioethics (as taught in medical schools or nursing schools) but also in other areas of ethics, such as environmental ethics and science ethics (as taught in science schools and humanities departments). The samples collected will be entered into the GEObs database. For the time being, only English samples will be entered into the database; in later phases these samples will be translated into other languages. Up to now, 50 programme descriptions have been entered into the Global Ethics Observatory.

Advisory Expert Commission on the Teaching of Ethics

In the process of promoting ethics teaching programmes there is a need for setting standards and criteria for these programmes. This is one of the recommendations of the COMEST report *The Teaching of Ethics*, published in December 2003.

Since the quality of existing programmes is extremely varied, international action needs to aim for three goals:

- identifying what could be a core curriculum in the area of ethics,
- developing standards and criteria for evaluating existing and newly developed teaching programmes,
- and providing a system of certification of programmes that have been positively assessed.

For this purpose, an advisory expert commission composed of a group of experts from the relevant principal international organizations and associations is assisting the Secretariat.

At its meeting in July 2005, the Advisory Expert Commission on the Teaching of Ethics decided to work on the drafting of a proposal for a core curriculum in bioethics which will be tested in cooperation with the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS); this draft will then form the basis for the design and production of multimedia teaching resources for the core curriculum. The Committee will hold its next meeting on 16 and 17 March 2006 in Paris.¶

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➔ Ethics teaching resources

In order to support ethics teaching programmes, the UNESCO Chair in Haifa is producing a series of case studies with contributions from several countries. The Division of Ethics of Science and Technology is cooperating with the Chair in order to facilitate the production and distribution of this series. The following manuals have already been published: *Informed Consent (2004)*, *Classroom Communication (2005)* and *Teaching ethics in Psychiatry: Case-vignettes (2005)*.¶

***** World Anti-Doping Agency sets up ethics committee

In 2004, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) established an Ethical Issues Review Panel.

The purpose of the panel is to provide expert ethical opinion, when required, through the review of urgent or contentious ethical issues that may arise in the fight against doping in sport, and to develop and/or recommend ethically sound policy or suggestions to WADA management as deemed appropriate by the Panel.

The Panel is responsible for:

- Policy issues – in the absence of an existing relevant policy, the Panel will develop

recommended interim policy positions for WADA.

- Policy implementation – the Panel will help implement WADA policy on ethical issues for doping-free sport, including advice and direction on how a policy applies to specific cases.

The Panel is composed of an appointed Chairperson and three other members with professional expertise in ethics. The Chairperson is Thomas Murray, President of The Hastings Center (USA). Current members of the Panel are: Bartha Knoppers, Canada Research Chair in Law and Medicine (Montreal,

Canada), Sigmund Loland, professor at the Norwegian University for Sport and Physical Education (Oslo, Norway), Margaret Somerville, Samuel Gale Professor of Law in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University (Montreal, Canada) and winner of the Avicenna Prize, and Henk ten Have (Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, UNESCO).¶

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International migration, urban development, local populations keen to become involved in drawing up public policies, etc. **Today's world keeps changing.** Through its support for social science research and its efforts to share the findings with as many people as possible, **UNESCO contributes to a better understanding of current trends on the part of the international community,** thus helping to improve countries' responses to the challenges posed by change. In UNESCO it is **the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) which is responsible for coordinating the only United Nations programme on management of social transformations** (the MOST Programme). It strives to strengthen the links between researchers and, in the broadest sense of the term, the policy-making community.

International experts with local government officials on Gangjin revitalization project

On 3 April 2006, UNESCO will be hosting an intersectoral seminar on Social Sustainability in Historical Districts, bringing together international experts and local government officials to discuss Gangjin County in the Republic of Korea.

As part of the intersectoral comparative research project "Social Sustainability of Historical Districts" coordinated by the Division of Social Sciences Research and Policy, an international symposium on Gangjin, situated in the South Jeolla province of the Republic of Korea, will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 3 April 2006.

At this meeting, organized on the initiative of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, international experts and local government representatives will gather together to discuss their experiences and endeavour to give a new international impetus to this coastal region boasting such a rich philosophical, cultural and historical heritage.

Gangjin, which comprises several historical cities, is planning an integrated urban development strategy with Space Group – an architecture and urban planning firm in Seoul – with a view to renovating all the socio-economic, cultural and environmental aspects of the various sites while revitalizing the historical aspects of the whole region.

Indeed, although these sites are considered by the Korean Government to be part of the country's national heritage, Gangjin's rapid urban expansion, the main aim being high financial return, has resulted in the destruction of many of the region's historical aspects and this is now endangering its whole cultural identity.

The aim of the revitalization project is to encourage an integrated development policy for Gangjin centred around its historical sites. The work undertaken up to now has spoiled the coastal area and done nothing to help repopulate the city centres, which have been deserted by their former residents. Through the development of tangible and intangible heritage represented by these districts and their sites, the project should help stimulate both socio-economic and tourist interest in the area.

Gangjin County has historical and cultural sites of international interest which could well become vectors for the redevelopment of this coastal region. Thousand-year old skills go into the production of

celadon ware with its exceptional, characteristic tint. The region has been known since the sixteenth century for its celadon glaze pottery, 80% of which is in Gangjin and is classified a "national treasure". The area itself is reputed for its agreeable climate and its attractive surroundings compared with the capital, Seoul.

Gangjin is also famous for being the birthplace of the Shilhak philosophy (practical sciences) of Dasan Jung Yak-yong who spent twenty years in exile in that part of the country in the early nineteenth century. There are as many early twentieth-century remains in the region as there are famous Buddhist temples. Over the centuries, Gangjin adopted the cultural environment of the time which is what has transformed it into the cultural and historical area it is today, as can be seen in the exhibition on Gangjin being held at UNESCO Headquarters from 3 to 14 April 2006. ¶

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Construction and surrounding wall typical of the old town in a city of the Republic of Korea.



Evaluation of eight

After eight years of action-oriented research, the most network “Cities, the environment and gender relations”, presented its research findings in November 2005.

After eight years of action-oriented research, developed in eight different countries – Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Romania and Senegal – the most programme network “Cities, the environment and gender relations” presented its research results at a seminar on 24 and 25 November 2005, held at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Conducted by local teams of researchers, residents and civil society associations, this multidisciplinary project was coordinated by François Hainard and Christine Verschuur with support from the Directorate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO and the most Programme building on an initiative by Yvonne Preiswerk. The main aims of the project were:

- to gain an understanding and to take part in the transformation of social relations – particularly gender relations – and the way they are structured around urban environmental issues;
- to take part in building convivial areas where men and women have equal access to decision-making;



Above:
Processing household waste by the “Lagem Yam” (Joining forces) association in Sector 10 of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

Below:
Discussion among neighbours and local authorities on environmental degradation of the Mladost district in Sofia (Bulgaria).



Right:
Flimsy housing constructions in one of the sectors of the “Ciénaga y Guandules” district of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic).



years of one of MOST's networks

- to shed light on the practices of policy makers and technical officials, in order to help bring about change by encouraging citizen involvement, and changing social relations, particularly gender relations;
- to convert research findings into useful proposals for all actors involved in democratic urban governance – local policy makers, technicians, city professionals and citizens, etc.

“Gaps in the city”

The Geneva seminar provided an opportunity to exchange views on the difficulties encountered over the eight years of research and to confront specialists in the fields studied, funding agencies and the general public, with the research findings. The seminar, entitled “Gaps in the city”, enabled coordinators and all team members of the MOST network, to place their analyses in thematic context – on the one hand, with local district movements and residents’ expressions of their identity, and on the other hand, women’s participation in policy-making decisions. There was also a video showing the various processes of building the network and the way it worked.

This meeting confirmed the effectiveness of the online research system to be launched very soon by Phase II of UNESCO’s MOST Programme (see *SHS Newsletter* nos. 8 and 10). In fact, thanks to Internet, these studies will be among the first to be accessible to everyone, particularly decision-makers.

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Residents’ meeting on district planning in the “Ciénaga y Guandules” district of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic).



© Isabel Rauber

One of many women working for the improvement of the Santhiaba district on the outskirts of Dakar (Senegal).



© Germán Solinis

***** Social cohesion in urban settings – UN-HABITAT with UNESCO

UN-HABITAT and UNESCO have set up a joint working group following their signing of a cooperation agreement. Based on “Urban Policy and the Right to the City”, and with a view to creating regional observatories, the group will hold its second meeting in Barcelona on 27 and 28 March 2006, on the invitation of the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and three international associations of cities: the International

Association of Educating Cities, Metropolis, and Cities and Local Governments United. The long-awaited 3rd session of the World Urban Forum will be organized jointly by Canada and UN-Habitat, in Vancouver, from 19 to 23 June 2006. The main theme for discussion will be “Our future: sustainable cities – turning ideas into action”. The World Urban Forum is a biennial event bringing together

very different partners – NGOs, local government associations, city professionals, academics, governments, local, national and international associations – all will find common ground for formal or informal discussion and debate on urban matters, and for developing action-oriented proposals for sustainable cities. The Social and Human Sciences Sector will be coordinating UNESCO’s participation in this

Conference as well as that of the Canadian National Commission.

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World Urban Forum 3 in Vancouver:
www.wuf3-fum3.ca



Policies and Social Sciences – engaging in a new dynamic

The first International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, organized under UNESCO’s MOST Programme, closed on Friday 24 February 2006, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, leaving an impression that a new work process had begun, linking researchers and policy makers.

With over 2000 participants from all continents, thirteen Ministers of Social Development and Education from Africa, Asia and Latin America, five Secretaries General of regional organizations and numerous government representatives and local authorities, students, university professors, project representatives and members of civil society, this meeting was a true success. And not only because the number of participants went largely beyond the hopes of the organizers who had been expecting no more

than a thousand people to attend.

Indeed, for the first time, policy makers and researchers in the social sciences were able to exchange their experiences and together think about forging a new kind of relationship.

They agreed on a joint Declaration – read out at the closing ceremony by the Argentine Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Daniel Filmus. In this Declaration, emphasis is laid on the need for extending what participants chose to call “the Buenos Aires Process” (see pages 16-17).

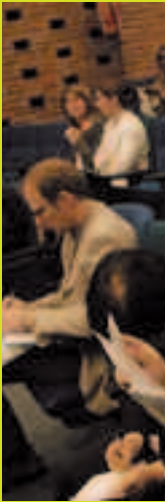
During the 99 workshops – five of which were high-level meetings and events, and two technical consultations, organized around five main themes and in four cities (Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Montevideo and Rosario) – policy makers and social science researchers, who had come all the way to Latin America, identified the strengths and

weaknesses in their cooperation to see how they might improve their working together. The shared objective was to establish mechanisms for dialogue between two worlds that have common concerns but are unaccustomed to active collaboration.

As Peruvian Minister of Women and Social Development, Ana María Romero Lozada noted during the closing ceremony: “The Forum has aimed for three essential results. First, to propose a diagnosis on current collaboration between researchers and policy makers in order to identify their strengths and weaknesses comparatively and transversally with regard to the five themes of the Forum. Second, to underline a certain number of problems that restrain or paralyse the creation of the Nexus. And third, on the basis of this diagnosis, to propose recommendations that will emphasize the strategy needed to overcome the existing gap”.



Marcio Barbosa
Deputy Director-General of UNESCO



“UNESCO – the only United Nations Specialized Agency with a specific mandate to develop social and human sciences, (...) will ensure the most widespread and best possible transmission of the outcome of the Forum. On the basis of this outcome the Organization will endeavour to contribute to the regional and international initiatives that the Forum has produced, with the aim of ensuring follow-up to the Forum as well as its expansion in the future.”

On this diagnosis and the problems hindering the creation of a Nexus, many participants expressed their pessimism, but all agreed that if it was “structural factors” limiting this cooperation, then these should be expanded. All agreed on the need to improve the links between policy-making and social science research so that effective action be taken regarding the problems affecting the international community.

Echoing the analysis of the debates, Ana María Romero Lozada stressed that “although economic integration can help solve certain problems in relation to competitiveness, economic growth and the development of countries, that is not enough (...). Social and cultural dimensions of integration are also needed (...) to face the problems of social exclusion. Thus the tools provided by the social sciences, in terms of methodology and content, are essential”.

Indeed, participants in the Forum also agreed that the University was the most appropriate arena to provide knowledge that would help in drawing up public policies.

An agreement was also reached on the need to strengthen local, regional and national areas of citizen participation, by following the example of experiences in South Africa, Brazil, Australia, Pakistan and Indonesia that are considered to be “best practices” in this field.

Participants identified several points likely to improve cooperation between the worlds of policy-making and research. One is the evaluation of public policies, primarily as a learning process aiming for more transparency so as to reshape policies as well as the social and institutional spheres where they are implemented.

Setting up information systems to encourage the sharing of experiences was also called for, as well as the creation of think tanks, or national observatories, and other research centres.

According to Minister Romero Lozada: “using conclusions and information resulting from arenas such as the Forum, and linking them to decisions and agreements made during Regional Forums of Ministers of Social

Development, as with university bodies, this surely constitutes a solid structure for the link between social science and policy”.

Participants in the Forum have resolved to make this strategy happen by approaching regional development banks, the multilateral agencies of international cooperation organizations and governments.

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Córdoba

15 workshops on “Population and Migration”

International migration and changing population patterns have become major issues in social transformations and political debates throughout the world. In a context of economic globalization, population flows have diversified and now concern nearly all countries, whether as sending, transit or receiving regions. The challenge for the international community is to elaborate concrete and efficient answers to the questions raised by international migration, which includes above all migrants’ vulnerability and violations of their human rights and also ways in which movement of people may benefit both origin and destination countries, and migrants themselves. The 15 workshops addressed the core issues raised by contemporary migration flows: forced migration and asylum, globalization and migrants’ transnational lives and identities, the cultural and environmental impact of migration, the legal framework of migration and migrants’ rights, intergovernmental and regional cooperation in the elaboration of migration policies, and scenarios for the future of migration. Several workshops addressed current demographic tendencies, including changing family structures, and the ageing populations of many countries. The presence of policy-makers, researchers and NGO members has enabled the development of new forms of cooperation between policy and social sciences, with the ambition of bringing better responses to today’s challenges.



Jorge Brovetto

Minister of Education and Culture
of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

“We can no longer govern solely on the basis of an institution, political agreements or social pressure. We have to look objectively at the natural and social facts. These must be analysed and alternative scenarios for the future must be drawn up. We need to bring in a future-oriented methodology to come up with State public policy and government decisions based on knowing the facts.”

Buenos Aires

27 workshops on “Global Issues and Dynamics”

Globalization is a fact in today’s world. However, the dynamics of globalization differ widely: it benefits some but marginalizes and leaves behind many others. How then can social scientists, NGOs, and policy makers affect the process of globalization so that it can accrue to the benefit of everyone, instead of dividing and discriminating?

Under this broad theme, and taking account of the interface between policy and research, the 27 workshops that took place from 21 to 23 February addressed the nature and impact of globalization (including trade and finance, information technology, international migration, labour and employment, and poverty), and paths towards improved global governance (international norms and rules, and the role of international organizations, the State, regional bodies, civil societies and NGOs).

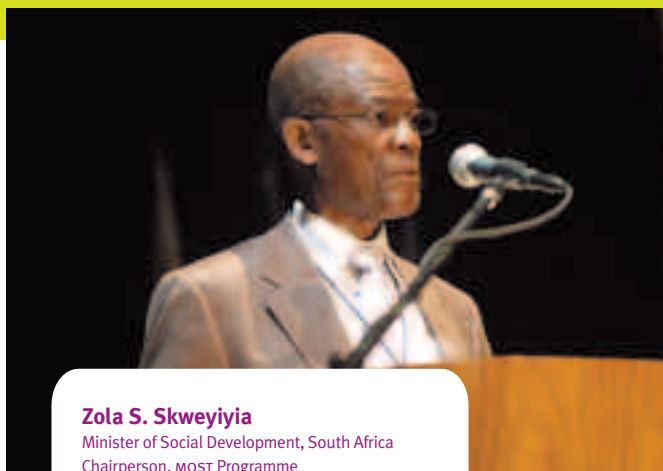


Buenos Aires

36 workshops on “Social Policies”

Contemporary states intervene ever more closely in the fabric of their societies to promote public health, to target social benefits, to address entrenched poverty, to adapt institutions and policies to the implications of ageing populations or new modes of education and knowledge. Such intervention requires detailed knowledge of social situations and the ability to predict their responses, as well as bridges between the inevitably different agendas, languages, timeframes and evaluation frameworks, and interests, of social scientists and policy actors. The objective of the Forum was to understand how these differences can be bridged so that social policy can be better informed by social science.

The 36 workshops emphasized analysis of successes and failures in the use of social science knowledge for policy in such areas as poverty eradication, social integration, health, social insurance, housing, employment and education. Better understanding of what works and what fails is the basis of more accurate scientific analysis of the social world and enhanced capacities for action to address its most urgent ills in order to contribute to achieving the Copenhagen commitments and the Millennium Development Goals.



Zola S. Skweyiya

Minister of Social Development, South Africa
Chairperson, MOST Programme
Intergovernmental Council

“It is often said that we have the means at hand to ensure that nearly every country can make good on the promises of the Millennium Development Goals. The actions flowing from the Buenos Aires Declaration of the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus should contribute to the deployment of these means and the fulfilment of those promises.”

Rosario

14 workshops on “Urban Policies and Decentralization”

Urban policies and territorial development are testing grounds for the connection between science, techniques and policies. As cities expand worldwide, urban policies are becoming an essential element in the territorial regulation of societies. Yet, paradoxically, urban growth over the last 25 years, particularly in the developing world, has gone hand in hand with forsaken territorial planning, increasing basic deprivation and worsening living conditions.

The 14 workshops, held from 21 to 23 February, focused on territories currently undergoing major change. Topics related to the main challenges of change (planning instruments, territorial integration, socio-economic insertion, local democracy and citizenship, municipal action) and to the main responses to them (cooperation, development of legal instruments, quality of public spaces, enhanced analytical capacities, expertise and innovative engagement of professionals, etc.).



→ Montevideo 7 workshops / 1 Symposium on “Regional Integration”

In recent years, regional integration schemes of various kinds have been proliferating in every region of the world. Effective regional integration models can empower people and national governments to cope better with, and benefit from, global economic forces. These agreements can foster powerful links among commerce, economic reform, development, investment, security and democratization. However, at the same time, because of the prevailing focus on economic issues, the social aspects of regional integration tend to be ignored or lose out in terms of priority. Moreover, regional integration raises interesting and important questions for the sovereignty of national governments.

With this in mind, the 7 workshops and the “high-level symposium on social dimension of regional integration” held in Uruguay, provided an opportunity for in-depth consideration of issues such as the reasons for the resurgence of regional integration, different models of regional integration, concrete cases of successes and failures, how to strike a better balance between the economic and social dimensions of regional integration, and the relationship between the state and regional integration schemes, all the while explicitly taking into account the research-policy nexus.



Daniel Filmus

Minister of Education, Science
and Technology of the Republic of Argentina

“Despite arrangements with the United Nations and efforts made by nations, when we take a look at the world today we can see the enormous inequality that exists between and within countries; that is the main obstacle to be overcome in attaining the objectives of humankind. Great changes are still needed and we must not forget our social responsibility.”

13 Ministers attended IFSP

Argentina: Mr Daniel Filmus, Minister of Education, Science and Technology and Mr Juan Carlos Nadalich, Minister of Social Development

Brazil: Mr Douglas Martins de Souza, Vice Minister on Racial Discrimination, Ms Nilcéa Freire, Minister of Women's Affairs, and Ms Márcia Lopes, Vice Minister of Social Development

Guinea: Ms Hadja Mariama Aribot, Minister of Social Affairs and Promotion of Women and Children

Mali: Mr Djibril Tangara, Minister of Social Development, Solidarity and Ageing

Pakistan: Mr Daniyal Aziz, Minister, Chairman, National Reconstruction Bureau

Peru: Ms Ana-María Romero Lozada, Minister of Women and Social Development

Senegal: Ms Aïda MBodj, Minister of Women, Family and Social Development

South Africa: Mr Zola S. Skweyiya, Minister for Social Development, Chairperson, Intergovernmental Council of the MOST Programme

Sudan: Mr Yasin Mohamed Souleman, Minister of Social Development

Uruguay: Mr Jorge Brovetto, Minister of Education and Culture. ¶



Alain Touraine

sociologist

“One of the most difficult problems demanding our attention has to do with the formation of public opinion in the global society. It is not global problems that incite public opinion to mobilise, and nor are strictly local ones. If I may use an ambiguous term, it is “*glocal*” issues (local effects derived from global processes) that ensure an efficient mobilisation capacity.”



***** The Forum continues on the web

This event took place on the initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – and was organized under the aegis of its Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme – thus confirming the Organization’s role as international moderator. Pursuing its objective to make knowledge as widely accessible as possible, UNESCO is continuing discussions on the web.

So pending web access to the server which will post the results of international research in the social sciences, thus making it accessible to policy makers (planned for the second phase of the MOST Programme), a selection of interventions over the five days of workshops will be posted shortly on the UNESCO website, which also carries the official Forum website.

Already available:

- Complete programme of workshops with names of speakers announced by organizers
- Main presentations given at the opening and closing of the Forum; as well as papers by researchers attending the high-level symposium on the social dimensions of regional integration, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 21 to 23 February 2006.
- Final Declaration of the Forum (in English, French and Spanish)
- Summary of debates given by Ana María Romero Lozada (in Spanish)
- Press review of the Forum
- Photo gallery

Website: www.unesco.org/shs/ifsp

Convened by UNESCO, in conjunction with the Governments of Argentina and Uruguay, this event has received support from a wide range of academic, policy and NGO partners, including the city government of Buenos Aires, the University of Buenos Aires, the Municipality of Córdoba, Córdoba National University, the city government of Montevideo, the University of the Republic of Uruguay, the Municipality of Rosario, and Rosario National University.

The Forum was coordinated by an International Steering Committee comprising representatives of the Governments of Argentina, Uruguay, South Africa, Peru and Mali; UNESCO; UNDESA; UNRISD; UNU-CRIS; ILO; UNDP; the World Bank; FLACSO; CLACSO; AICARDES; AASSREC; CODESRIA; the European Commission; the European Science Foundation; SAREC; SSHRC; ODI; GASPP; and the ISSC.



Buenos Aires Declaration calling for a new approach to the social science – policy nexus



We, the participants in the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, which has brought together for the first time social scientists and policy makers from more than eighty countries in all the regions of the world, coming from United Nations agencies, universities and governments, representing the full range of involvement in both social science and policy and meeting on the occasion of the closing plenary session of the Forum in Buenos Aires on February 24 2006, after four days of discussions organized in the cities of Buenos Aires, Rosario, Córdoba and Montevideo.

Inspired by the Declaration of the 1995 World Summit on Social Development, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Resolution, as well as by flagship reports on human development, world development and inequality by United Nations agencies and the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.

Taking note of the demands placed on social science research by the development goals of the international community and of the impetus given by these and other international documents and initiatives.

Taking into consideration the Budapest Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge adopted by the World Conference on Science, which emphasizes the necessary enhancement of dialogue between science and society, as well as the Lisbon and Vienna Declarations on Social Sciences, both of which stress the indispensable contribution of social science to the social development objectives of the international community.

Taking into account several United Nations reports highlighting the sharp increase in inequalities between and within countries, and greatly concerned that the universal thrust of human rights, human dignity and justice is in many instances being eroded under contemporary social and economic pressure.

Assuming that the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals are not only the statement of new moral purpose but also the minimum threshold compatible with the proclaimed values of the international community, and affirming that failure to make serious progress towards achieving them would entail tremendous cost in terms of human lives, quality of life and social development.

Convinced that without moral vision and political will, the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals cannot be met, that meeting these goals requires new knowledge used in innovative ways and better use of existing knowledge, and that, in this regard, the social sciences have a crucial contribution to make in formulating development policy.

Taking note that addressing hunger and poverty, lack of education, poor health and environmental degradation – the five areas to which the eight Millennium Development Goals relate –, is crucial for human welfare, social and economic development, the achievement of social cohesion and the consolidation of democratic governance. None of these areas is solely within the purview of social science, but without social sciences none is fully comprehensible or capable of being addressed.

We thus state our conviction that better use of rigorous social science can lead to more effective policies and outcomes. Such use requires strengthening linkages between the social sciences and policies for social and economic development. For the knowledge that the social sciences seek is precisely the knowledge that policy needs. The world needs new forms of interaction between social scientists and policy actors – and innovative spaces to make them possible.

Commending UNESCO, the government of Argentina and the government of Uruguay for their initiative in launching the process that has led to the International

Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, it is with these urgent concerns in mind that we formulate the following recommendations and bring them to the attention of the international community.

1. We strongly encourage UNESCO to strengthen this initiative and facilitate similar initiatives at the regional level at the request of its member States and in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

2. We call upon UNESCO, through the MOST Programme and in close cooperation with the other organizations, institutes, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to explore the ways and means for ensuring strengthened synergies and complementarities between the various policy-oriented social science research programmes within the United Nations system as a whole and international social science organizations and civil society.

3. With due respect for the autonomy of social science research, we encourage the establishment of new networks and the strengthening of existing ones at the national and regional level to bring together social scientists, policy-makers, and non-governmental and grassroots organizations around their shared concern for the urgent demands of social and economic development.

4. We call attention to the existence of Fora of Ministers for Social Development at regional as well as subregional levels in developing countries and suggest the creation and consolidation of permanent nexuses between the latter and the above mentioned networks.

5. We therefore suggest that the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, otherwise known as the Buenos Aires Process, be organized regularly in order to formalize and promote this linkage between both types of networks at the international level.

6. We call upon the regional organizations such as MERCOSUR and the African Union, in association with social scientists and civil society, to further develop the social dimensions of regional integration, and call upon the United Nations to facilitate inter-regional dialogues on regional social policies.

7. We call upon existing funding programmes, in particular donor agencies and multilateral and regional development banks, to participate in these new spaces of dialogue.

8. We also call upon United Nations, regional and national funding agencies to place particular emphasis in their programming on the development and enhancement of social science research capacities in the developing countries, with special reference to Africa, and to finance policy relevant social science research.

9. We further call upon governments to support social science research and use evidence from research in formulating social and economic policies.

10. We stress that implementation of these recommendations requires relevant funding mechanisms and appropriate institutional structures to support both research capacities and the dissemination of social science research results. We further invite all academic communities, civil society, non-governmental organizations, governments, United Nations agencies, funding agencies and other relevant stakeholders to work towards this end.

11. We call upon all participating national and United Nations agencies to ensure dissemination of this Declaration and of the work of the Forum to all relevant parties that can contribute to the implementation of the present recommendations.

Finally, we thank the governments of Argentina and Uruguay, and the local authorities and universities of Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rosario and Córdoba, for their major contribution to the success of the Forum and for their warm hospitality. We express our gratitude to the various organizations that contributed to this effort, in particular: UNRISD, UNDESA, ILO, the World Bank, UNU-CRIS, the International Social Science Council and the regional social science networks. ¶



Dr Ulrich Maly: “racism endangers and social cohesion”

For the Mayor of Nuremberg in Germany – Lead City of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism – in challenging the threats of racial discrimination the only recourse is to make universally applicable human rights the guideline of municipal politics by strengthening cooperation among cities at international level, and in mobilizing city dwellers, particularly young people, who will soon hold positions of responsibility in our societies.

How has the City of Nuremberg, of which you are Lord Mayor, been brought to play the role of “Lead City” in the European Coalition of Cities against Racism?

In the 20th century, racism and discrimination had plunged humanity into the deepest abyss of history. With this terrible period in mind, the United Nations proclaimed their affirmation of basic rights, dignity and worth of all human beings in the UN-Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This affirmation must also be seen in the context of Nuremberg’s history as the “City of the Nazi Party Rallies” and as the venue for the proclamation of the inhumane racial laws which paved the way for the Holocaust. Nuremberg is fully aware of its historical responsibility resulting from its role during the NS regime. The city, therefore, feels particularly committed to the struggle against racism and discrimination and to the protection and promotion of human rights. For this reason, Nuremberg has strongly supported UNESCO’s initiative to create a European Coalition of Cities against Racism and immediately accepted UNESCO’s offer to play the role of a “Lead City” in this network. We are very honoured that UNESCO entrusted us with this important task.

How do you see your role among a coalition of cities as diverse as Sarajevo, Riga, London, Barcelona or Nuremberg?

In the 20th century, a lot of the member cities of the coalition, among them Sarajevo, Riga and Nuremberg, had already experienced the barbarous consequences of racism and discrimination. In the past years, these threats have again increased in Europe. In all European countries, day-to-day racism and racist violence are rife. As major violations of human rights they endanger peace, security and social cohesion in numerous communities. Apart from all the differences between our cities, we are jointly confronted with these threats. We, therefore, need to promote the research into the multiple causes and

forms of racism and discrimination on the municipal level, to develop individual strategies for our cities on the basis of UNESCO’s “Ten-Point-Plan of Action against Racism”, to exchange experiences and best-practice-examples, and to intensify our co-operation. As Lead City of the coalition, Nuremberg will do its best to promote and co-ordinate these important activities and to convince as many European municipalities as possible to join the coalition.

The coalition project has been extended to other regions of the world such as Africa, Asia-Pacific, etc. Could you imagine establishing synergies or ties of solidarity with one or several cities of these regions, in order to share good practices or undertake common actions against racism and discrimination?

The municipal level is particularly important to counteract the threat of racism and discrimination: Already today, half of the world’s population lives in urban settlements, in thirty years’ time it will be two thirds. This is why municipalities play a key role in dealing with the multiple challenges in a globalized world, e.g. increased international migration and accentuated economic competition with its growing pressure on jobs and social security. The city is an area of encounter, cultural diversity, personal development and innovation. But it is also the place where all the contradictions and risks of global developments are manifest. In the urban sphere, problems such as

Interview



peace, security

public and private poverty, job insecurity and unemployment, lack of appreciation of cultural differences and religious tension are apparent, causing multiple forms of xenophobia, racism and discrimination. In the face of all these problems, how can people live together in peace and dignity, justice and security? In my opinion, the only recourse is to make universally applicable human rights the guideline of municipal politics. In order to promote this, we need a close co-operation between cities on the international level. In this context and on the background of the common challenges to municipalities in a globalized world, I could well imagine to establish ties of solidarity with cities of the regions which you mentioned, and particularly to exchange good practices and undertake joint actions if possible and useful.

By proposing various indicators of evaluation of the impact of municipal politics, UNESCO intends to encourage an effective and qualitative battle against racism and discrimination. How does your city intend to take advantage of these tools?

In order to counteract racism and discrimination effectively, it is, of course, essential to evaluate the impact of municipal politics. Nuremberg has just begun to implement the “Ten-Point-Plan of Action against Racism”, and we are presently discussing the question how to make use of various indicators proposed by UNESCO. But you can be sure that we will take advantage of these tools.

The conference “Living Together – the European Coalition of Cities against Racism”, which was the first meeting of this network, took place in Nuremberg in September 2005, in context with the 10th anniversary of the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award. The conference also comprised an international youth forum on racism and discrimination. How do you consider the role of young people as well as the one of European citizens, in general, in the coalition?

The “Ten-Point-Plan of Action” suggests to involve the local population in the municipal activities and to offer opportunities to discuss the problems of racism and discrimination in the city as well as local policies and their impact. I think this is most important. If we want to combat these threats effectively, it is, in my opinion, essential to promote awareness and mobilization among our city dwellers, and particularly among young people as they will soon bear responsibility in our societies. The same arguments are valid with regard to the European level. If we want the coalition to develop successfully and work effectively, we need the support of European citizens on a broad

➔ BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Ulrich Maly, Lord Mayor of the City of Nuremberg (Germany) was born in Nuremberg in 1960. From 1981 to 1987 he studied political economy at the Friedrich-Alexander-University of Nuremberg. In 1990 he was awarded his PhD for a thesis on “Economy and the Environment in Municipal Development Policies”. Afterwards he was the secretary of the SPD party group in the City Council, and between 1996 and 2002, he was treasurer of the City of Nuremberg. Since 2002, Dr. Maly has been Lord Mayor of the City of Nuremberg. ¶

basis. This, however, is only possible if they are involved in the coalition’s activities, so that they can make our goals their own. For this reason, I would suggest that the Steering Committee of the coalition should discuss the question how the participation of European citizens and particularly of the youth could be furthered and organized.

The European coalition already gathers some forty cities. What are the mid-term perspectives of development?

In my opinion, we have three important tasks: Firstly, we should try to enlarge the number of municipalities joining the coalition. The more member cities we have, the stronger and more effective the network is. Secondly, in this context it is important to find a Lead City for each European country in order to promote the coalition and the “Ten-Point-Plan of Action” on the national level. Nuremberg has increased its endeavours to reach this goal. Thirdly, it is essential that the member cities really implement the Action Plan. Otherwise, the coalition will not be able to work effectively. For this reason, Nuremberg is just organizing a workshop with German cities on the question how to implement the Action Plan. We should promote such workshops in other countries. Fourthly, we should try to organize a close co-operation with other city networks and to get support from the European institutions and organisations in order to promote our goals as effectively as possible. With regard to all these points, we need UNESCO’s experience and support. As a UN organisation, highly reputed all over the world, it should continue to play the leading role in the coalition. ¶

Interview by Jun Morohashi

Dossier

The fight against discrimination

The Dossier was compiled by **Jun Morohashi** and **Kanyana Mutombo**, with **Elisabeth Barot** and **Sarinya Sophia**.

The photographs in this dossier were submitted by competitors in the “Vivre ensemble aujourd’hui” (Living together today) competition organized by “Le Pari(s) du Vivre-Ensemble”, in partnership with *Réponses Photo* magazine.

UNESCO against racism – an old struggle with new ideas

Unesco has an long-standing commitment to the struggle against racism.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s commitment to fight racism is enshrined in its Constitution, and from the 1950s, UNESCO mobilized the scientific community to tackle the issue of race. It contributed to refuting racist theories and demonstrated the lack of any scientific basis for claims of racial superiority. The Organization’s *Declaration on Race* (1950), and particularly the *Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice* (1978) remain key points of reference for UNESCO in its fight against racism. Other basic texts were to follow; these were complemented with several international standard-setting instruments.

With the “Special Programme Against Apartheid” and “The Slave Route” project, UNESCO established its position more visibly in the operational field.

In recent years, new threats have appeared, and particularly new forms of discrimination such as the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS, while globalization and the rapid advances of science and technology are generating a rise in nationalism, intolerant ideologies and new forms of exclusion.

Through the eight points in its Programme of Action, the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in 2001 in Durban, South Africa, called on UNESCO to strengthen its action in the fight against racism. That commitment was recalled and reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in a resolution adopted on 27 March 2002.

In order to carry out this new mission successfully, in April 2002 UNESCO adopted an “Integrated Strategy on the fight against racism” (see Dossier section in *SHS Newsletter* 10). In association with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, this strategy is reviving UNESCO’s action in the fight against racism and discrimination. The Organization is striving to mobilize opinion leaders and decision-makers, through the setting up of a network of a whole range of actors in order to go more deeply into scientific knowledge and thinking, to develop research, define common indicators, and strengthen education and awareness. This is what led UNESCO to choose the city as the prime arena for its specific initiatives in the fight against racism and discrimination. ¶



Uniting cities against racism – a Millennium challenge

The project to build coalitions of cities against racism began as UNESCO's idea. Local authorities on all continents have welcomed the project. Networks are being set up in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, North America and Africa, to establish a world structure that takes account of the specificities of each region of the world in the fight against discrimination.

Populations in today's cities are ever increasing with more and more people coming from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Urban areas now reflect a plurality of spaces: industrial, ecological, urban, rural, regional and international. They are also spaces of diversity, coexistence and a merging of races. There are tensions, violence and exclusion, bringing contemporary societies face to face with major challenges. But cities are also "laboratories" where new kinds of urban citizenship can be invented and new ways of living together can be forged. They are places of decision-making, power and autonomy. Cities represent places where national or international level initiatives can be realized.

With this perspective in mind, UNESCO decided to launch an ambitious project: the International Coalition of Cities against Racism. The main objective is to establish a worldwide network of municipalities interested in sharing experiences, expertise and good practices with a view to improving their anti-discrimination policies. The networks that have already been set up have become important partners in the Coalition.

An international coalition in 2007

There are various stages needed for the Coalition to become operational. The specificities and priorities of each region of the world must be taken into account and so Coalitions are first of all created at regional level: Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Asia and the Pacific, and the Arab States. By 2007, this process should lead to the constitution of the international network of the regional networks – the International Coalition – which will then associate the six regions. Nonetheless, the global struggle against racism remains a challenge and long-term efforts are needed. Regular updating of strategies and practices will be necessary as well as cohesion with international, regional, national and local policies. To structure the initiatives of cities, UNESCO is proposing – in addition to permanent

technical and scientific support – a complete outline including a Ten-Point Plan of Action based on the commitments and related action, and indicators to measure the actual impact of policies when they are implemented.

On 10 December 2004, in Nuremberg (a city already designated as Lead City), representatives of more than 140 European cities, gathered to attend the Fourth European Conference of Cities for Human Rights, unanimously approved the creation of the first Regional Coalition of Cities against Racism. A steering committee was set up for this first Regional Coalition with an administrative secretariat in Nuremberg. London, Berlin, Rome, Madrid, Nuremberg, Geneva, Stockholm, Riga, Barcelona, Lyon and Sarajevo are among over 40 cities that have already adhered to the European Coalition. The process of creating other regional coalitions is ongoing. Some regions (Asia and the Pacific, North America and Africa) have already taken significant steps towards joining the Coalition.



***** The 40 cities in Europe that have signed the declaration of intent



Aberdeen (United Kingdom)	Madrid (Spain)
Badalona (Spain)	Nantes (France)
Barcelona (Spain)	Newcastle upon Tyne (United Kingdom)
Berlin (Germany)	Nicosia (Cyprus)
Bologna (Italie)	Nuremberg (Germany)
Caudebec-les-Elbeuf (France)	Pappenheim (Germany)
Edinburgh (United Kingdom)	Paris (France)
Erlangen (Germany)	Pescara (Italy)
Gap (France)	Pianoro (Italy)
Geneva (Switzerland)	Pontault-Combault (France)
Glasgow (United Kingdom)	Riga (Latvia)
Graz (Austria)	Rome (Italy)
Greater London Authority (United Kingdom)	Saint-Denis (France)
Grenoble (France)	Santa Maria Capua Vetere (Italy)
Lausanne (Switzerland)	Sarajevo (Bosnia)
Leicester (United Kingdom)	Seville (Spain)
Liège (Belgium)	Stockholm (Sweden)
London (United Kingdom)	Stoke on Trent (United Kingdom)
London Borough of Merton (United Kingdom)	Winterthur (Switzerland)
Lyon (France)	Wolverhampton (United Kingdom)

→ **Asia and the Pacific** is clearly the region furthest ahead. Thanks to Bangkok, Thailand, which accepted to play the role of Lead City, an expert meeting was held in October 2005 on “Commitment of Cities Against Discrimination: Defining a Ten-Point Plan of Action for an Inclusive Urban Society in Asia and the Pacific”. City representatives from Bangkok, Chang Mai (Thailand), Matale (Sri Lanka), Sakai (Japan), Suva (Fiji), Vientiane (Lao PDR), Wellington (New Zealand), and representatives of NGOs, national Human Rights Commissions, Ministries and universities, discussed possible action to be considered in drafting a regional Plan of Action. The Plan will be finalized at the Regional Conference of Cities for an Inclusive Urban Society, to be held in Bangkok in August 2006. UNESCO has invited all interested cities to take part in the discussions. It is on that occasion that the Coalition of Cities Against Racism and Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific will be launched, and municipalities in the region will be invited to adhere.

Thanks to the close cooperation between the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the Organization, **Canada** has already embarked on the process. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is relaying the call for cities to join the Coalition. The cooperation of municipal partners, NGO networks and a support group has led to the formulation of ten commitments for the Plan of Action being presented to mayors as commitments of principle, while encouraging them to develop their own plan of action. An inclusive, participatory approach has also been put forward and several local councils have already voiced their intention to take the necessary steps to join the network. At the third UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum in Vancouver from 19 to 23 June 2006, information on the coalition will be widely disseminated. The first meeting of the Canadian network is planned for the second half of 2006. In addition to the finalization of the Ten-Point Plan of Action of the Canadian Coalition, specific areas of research will be delineated for study to back the implementation of some of the commitments.

In **Africa**, the initial process is under way. UNESCO’s initiative was first of all presented to the Governing Council of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) for Africa, in May 2005, in Tshwane (formerly Pretoria), South Africa. Several hundred delegates from all over Africa warmly welcomed this UNESCO initiative. Four cities were chosen to play a major role in this process. In April and June 2007, Durban (South Africa) and Kigali (Rwanda) will host expert meetings to elaborate the Plan of Action for Africa. These two cities together with Bamako (Mali) will also play an active role in their respective regions. And finally, Nairobi (Kenya), will be the launch city for the African Coalition on the occasion of the Africities 4 Summit (from 18 to 24 September 2006) – the Pan-African local government summit, held every three years. ¶

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The Ten-Point Plan of Action – a showpiece

The Ten-Point Plan of Action is at the heart of the Coalition principles. It consists of ten commitments to strengthen vigilance against racism, to encourage programmes of equality with regard to employment, to provide better support to victims of racism, and for policy evaluation.

When they join the coalition, cities agree to integrate this Plan of Action into their municipal strategies and policies. They also agree to devote human, budgetary and material resources to the execution of the Plan of Action, as well as involving civil society actors in its implementation. With regard to action to be implemented, cities have the right to initiate some or to implement those foreseen in the Plan of Action. For example, the European Coalition’s Plan of Action proposes: the inclusion of non-discrimination clauses in business contracts, the setting up of a monitoring network with NGOs or disciplinary measures against racist acts or behaviour on the part of municipal employees, to create a Mayor’s Prize to reward the best high school initiative against racism, and so on.

Although the Ten-Point Plan of Action developed for the European Coalition serves as a guide, each region has its own instruments adapted to its own specificities. The Canadian group, which drew up its Plan of Action around three main categories (the city as model organization, community-based respect for diversity, and vigilance and law enforcement), highlights in Commitment 9 the need to “Promote respect, understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Aboriginal and racialized communities into the cultural fabric of the municipality”. The Asia and the Pacific Plan of Action sets out to promote an inclusive urban society by putting cultural diversity first. ¶





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Fighting against AIDS-related discrimination

In addition to the actual illness, people infected with HIV/AIDS have to put up with stigmatization, discrimination and other human rights violations. These factors make them even more vulnerable and compromise their chances of receiving appropriate health care. Young people are the most affected by HIV and AIDS, particularly in countries of the South where they form the largest section of the population. In cooperation with UNAIDS, the Sector has launched an initiative that aims to mobilize young people through training and action against HIV-related discrimination.

For the next two years, the Sector will be enlarging its activities in this field with new

partners, supported by the International Coalition of Cities against Racism programme. In partnership with civil society organizations, local authorities can contribute significantly to broadening the scope of ways to respond to the HIV/AIDS issue and thus take part in raising awareness in their communities to the discrimination linked to HIV. With this aim in mind, the Sector launched a series of studies to collect experiences and good practices in municipalities in Asia and Africa. These studies will be shared with municipalities in training sessions and workshops to mobilize and develop programmes for their communities. ¶

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 See article in *SHS Newsletter* 11

Launching a series of studies

The International Coalition of Cities against Racism has launched a series of studies in order to make available to decision-makers and city planners information that could be useful particularly in implementing the commitments of their respective Plans of Action:

1. *Indicators for Evaluating Municipal Policies Aimed at Fighting Racism and Discrimination*, CRIEC, 2005 (available in English and French)
2. *Un lexique du racisme : Étude sur les définitions opérationnelles relatives au racisme et aux phénomènes connexes*, Micheline Labelle, 2005 (in French only)
3. *Study on measures taken by municipalities and Recommendations for further action to achieve: Greater Vigilance against Racism, Commitment 1 of the Ten-Point Plan of Action*,

European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, 2005 (in English only)

4. *Study on measures taken by municipalities and Recommendations for further action to Challenge Racism through Education, Commitment 8 of the Ten-Point Plan of Action*, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, 2005 (in English only)

5. *Study on measures taken by municipalities to fulfil commitments 5 and 6 of the Ten-Point Plan of Action*, Paul Lappalainen, 2006 (in English only)

6. *Étude sur l'engagement n° 3 : Pour un meilleur soutien aux victimes du racisme et de la discrimination*, Abdoulaye Barro (in French only)

7. *Fight against Discrimination in the Field of Education, Case Study on Brussels, Belgium*, Reiko Mihara, 2005 (in English only) ¶

All these studies are available on request from **Jun Morohashi**,
 j.morohashi@unesco.org

A Coalition to counter the exclusion of young people

In the modern world, the exclusion of children is a very urban phenomenon: living on the street, working, ill, handicapped or demobilized child soldiers are often exposed to discrimination and exclusion. Created in 1992, the Children in Need programme* aims to help them regain the dignity of their lost childhood and restore their faith in the

future. The Coalition opens up new perspectives for this programme, particularly in cities in the South, where the phenomenon has taken on considerable proportions. The Coalition's Plans of Action commit cities to improve the support given to victims of discrimination and contribute to the capacity-building of these marginalized members of society.

For more information, please contact:
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* On the Children in Need programme, see *SHS Newsletter* 11.



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Indicators of racism – the UNESCO quality label

To give new impetus to this new dynamic for the fight against racism, UNESCO intends to provide effective support when cities implement their commitments. A Plan of Action has no value unless it can be evaluated and appreciated through established action. In renewing its action against racism, the Organization hopes to match the level of quality that has in general come to be expected from its intellectual work. UNESCO therefore carried out specific research to give cities common indicators which would improve identification of racist, xenophobic or discriminatory acts, gauge the impact of committed policies, and evaluate measures and action taken.

By introducing tangible, measurable elements that can improve performance in the fight against racism, the UNESCO Indicators on Racism constitute one of the most pertinent innovations to be introduced by the Organization in a worldwide fight against racism. Efficiency also means quality. A UNESCO “quality” label is attached to cities members of the Coalition, with the indicators becoming tools of evaluation of that quality.

To establish this kind of certification, UNESCO will be setting up partnerships with research bodies. For the time being, the Research Center on Immigration, Ethnicity and Citizenship (CRIEC) at the University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada, has carried out a preliminary study. Indicators were developed on the basis of experiences in Canadian cities (Montreal, Saskatoon, Toronto and Vancouver) and elsewhere (Boston and Stockholm). The indicators are structured around the perception of the city as organization, the city as community and the city as guardian of public order. In October 2005, within the “Metropolis” network, researchers and municipal policy planners from Europe, Canada and Australia shared their experiences in evaluating the impact of municipal policies that promote equality and diversity, and counter racism and discrimination. ¶

For more information: www.toronto.ca/metropolis/metropolistoronto2005/

FURTHER READING

Tools to find out more

- Brochures (updated) on the European Coalition – in English, French, Spanish, German, Swedish, Catalan, Arabic, Amazigh, Tagalog, Urdu and Chinese.
- The Stephen Roth Institute of Tel Aviv University, with the support of the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO, has worked hard to collect and update information on different types of national legislation aimed at the prevention and elimination of discrimination. The collection includes the laws and constitutional provisions of around 180 countries with regard to crucial issues such as freedom of expression and religion, the protection of minority rights, and the struggle against anti-Semitism and racism.

Nina Osin and Dina Porat (eds.), *Legislating against Discrimination: an International Survey of Anti-Discrimination Norms*, 2005, 942 pp. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Leiden/Boston, ISBN 90-04-14529-X ¶



21 March events at UNESCO Headquarters

Debates, a photograph exhibition, a short story competition, music and a film festival – all these events, at UNESCO Headquarters, will mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

In partnership with “Le Pari(s) du Vivre-Ensemble”, an initiative designed and organized by Esther Benbassa and Jean-Christophe Attias in cooperation with the French National Commission for UNESCO, there will be a photograph exhibition, four debates and two concerts to mark the day of 21 March at UNESCO Headquarters. From 22 to 24 March, in cooperation with the Canadian Permanent Delegation, the 4th Festival of Canadian short (and long) films – the “UNInvitéD” Festival will take place at UNESCO. This Canadian cinematographic festival sees film as a way to encourage a cultural openness and a means for real reflection on (in)tolerance towards others in an increasingly weakened society. During the festival, a selection of international short films will be followed by debates and discussions with actors from social and cultural associations.

20 March 2006

At 7 p.m., there will be a **private viewing** of the photograph exhibition: “*Vivre ensemble aujourd’hui*”, organized in partnership with *Réponses Photo* magazine. The exhibition will be open to the public from 21 to 31 March 2006.



21 March 2006

From 9.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., the following themes will be discussed in **a series of round tables**:

- How to overcome obstacles and give minorities the means for social and economic development – the role of the private sector.
- The media and the fight against discrimination.
- The role of schools and universities in countering discrimination.
- Slavery, colonialism and genocide: which school programmes for which collective memory?

From 6.45 p.m. to 7.15 p.m., there will be the **award ceremony** for the prize-winners of the short story competition that was open to secondary school students from Paris in October 2005. Entrants were

asked to write a short story on: “My friend, my neighbour, the Other: French or foreigner, white, Roma, black or Asian, Christian, Jewish, Moslem, believer or non-believer”.

8.30 p.m. Concerts

Rhythm and dance will close the evening with music merging different cultures: Cheb Najim (rai) and BAOBAB (reggae).

For more information on the Day's events:
<http://www.parisduvivreensemble.org>

22 March 2006

The film festival “UNInvitéD” will open with the screening of “*Désastre*”, a 23-minute film by Jay Field (Canada), Petersburg Films Production, in English and French. The story is about an English-speaking couple whose child only speaks French – will they ever really be able to communicate?

For more information on the film festival: www.uninvited-festival.com



The promotion of human rights as inscribed in UNESCO's Constitution is one of the main assignments of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS). Within the United Nations reform strategy, which places human rights at the heart of all its programmes, SHS works to encourage and disseminate human rights research; to promote education in human rights; to lead action in the fight against all forms of discrimination at national, regional and international level; to encourage cooperation among all actors and networks; to promote democracy and to further reflection on new forms of violence, notably by drawing up regional plans for human security.

International Women's Day – SHS mobilizes for equal rights

The celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March is the right time to highlight issues relating to women's empowerment. This year's theme for March 8 is "Women and decision making", which also gives an opportunity to present the Social and Human Science Sector's contribution to the fight for equal rights.

Generally, women face discrimination on practically all fronts and in multiple forms. Considered as the "inferior" sex, they are denied their political rights such as the right to vote or stand for elected office; their economic rights such as to receive equal pay for work of equal value; their social rights such as to adequate housing or to own property in their name, or to live free from violence; their cultural rights such as the right to education. In fact, women comprise two-thirds of the world's 876 million illiterate people.¹ According to Amnesty International, women represent approximately 70% of the 1.2 billion people living in poverty throughout the world.² On the question of violence against women, Amnesty International also notes that a woman is raped approximately every 6 minutes and battered every 15 seconds; 6,000 women are genitally mutilated each day, and thousands sold into sexual slavery.³ Conditions of poverty and illiteracy, war and conflict further compound the denial of women's political, economic, social and cultural rights.

In the Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO is taking a number of initiatives to counteract this double and triple discrimination women face, notably in the areas of their socio-economic rights, by looking at globalization and its impact; their cultural rights, by exploring the impact of cultural practices and traditions on gender equality; and women's political and civil rights during periods of conflict and peace building. The Sector is developing policy-oriented research to support evidence-based decision-making in Member States, as well as supporting capacity and institution building, and awareness raising.

For example, to combat discrimination of women's socio-economic rights, activities include:

- A project to increase women's socio-economic rights and activist participation in decision-making in the trade union movement. A network of women trade unionists, researchers and other relevant parties is being formed and studies on women's socio-economic conditions, rights and roles in the trade union movement will be undertaken. A first exchange of ideas launched this initiative at the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus (Argentina and Uruguay, February 2006).

- Initiated work during 2004-2005 on developing gender indicators to measure women's empowerment which was published in a special issue of the International Social Science Journal dedicated to "Taking stock: women's empowerment ten years after Beijing".

On the question of cultural rights and gender equality, the Social and Human Science Sector is conducting research on

- The status of women in the judiciary in Latin America (from 2004) and the Arab States (from 2006), the objective being to identify obstacles to women's participation in higher courts and gender bias. Ultimately, these studies should lead to recommendations for the strengthening of policies and procedures that would lead to a judiciary which not only dispenses justice but justly reflects a gender balance.

To promote women's political and civil rights in democratic processes, peace-building and (post) conflict situations, the Sector is

ZOOM



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THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA AT UNESCO

- Establishing a women's research and documentation centre in the Great Lakes region in Africa. A similar centre to promote policy-oriented research on issues concerning women's human rights was established in Ramallah, Palestine in 2005 (see photo opposite) in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs. The work of such Centres will serve to provide evidence for policy development in favour of gender equality and strengthen the capacity of women's groups to combat different forms of discrimination and promote women's rights.
- Promoting the development of gender studies programmes at university level in the Great Lakes region in Africa and in Iraq. It is envisaged that these programmes would help develop a cadre of future decision-makers and leaders with competence in applying gender theories and thereby assist in ensuring that women's rights, needs and concerns are respected and taken into consideration in the development of policies and programmes. ¶

For further information, please contact:

Eunice Smith, Gender Equality and Development Section, Division of Human Rights and Struggle against Discrimination,
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or

Valentine Moghadam, Gender Equality and Development Section,
Division of Human Rights and Struggle against Discrimination,
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Within the framework of the celebration of International Women's Day, Ms Ellen Johnson Sirleaf – the first woman to be elected president of an African country – and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, opened, on 8 March, an international round-table entitled "Women in Politics", with the participation of women

ministers from Bahreïn, Pakistan, Nigeria and Paraguay. On this occasion Mr. Matsuura greeted the elections of the Presidents of Liberia and Chile showing the empowerment of women and their awareness as citizens of the role required from them in a democracy. Strongly encouraging women to become

involved in public action in spite of the obstacles they face, Ms Johnson Sirleaf called on the international community to promote measures for social justice for women and to fight against the discriminations and violence suffered by women.

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On January 18, 2006, in Ramallah, Mr. Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant-Director General for Social and Human Sciences, with Ms Zahira Kamal – then Minister of Women's Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority –, opened the Palestinian Women's Resource Center (PWRC). This Center is the first of its kind to be established in an Arab country outside the Maghreb region. Its ambition is to be both an observatory and an information clearing house with respect to women's issues in the Palestinian National Authority.

1. Gender Equality and Development Strategy, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO; <http://www.unesco.org/shs/gender/background>
2. Amnesty International USA, Women's Human Rights, A fact sheet on the economic, social and cultural rights of women, <http://www.amnestyusa.org/women/economicrights.html>
3. Amnesty International USA, Women's Human Rights, Violence against women: A fact sheet; <http://www.amnestyusa.org/women/violence/> ¶

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.” This conviction, inscribed in the Preamble to UNESCO’s Constitution, confers on the Organization the function of intellectual, ethical and strategic watch. The Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) is endeavouring to strengthen this function through the promotion of the Organization’s role as international forum and laboratory of ideas. With the publication and dissemination of prospective studies, supporting research and the teaching of philosophy, organizing World Philosophy Day and lectures to encourage dialogue between civilizations, **UNESCO hopes thus to contribute to a more informed awareness of the human sciences and of philosophical reflection as a “school for freedom”** without which there can be neither understanding nor mutual respect.

Interregional philosophical dialogue: debating democracy in Cairo and Seoul

In the framework of the UNESCO Sector for Social and Human Sciences’ “Philosophical Dialogue” initiative, two international conferences on democracy and justice in Asia and in the Arab world were held in late 2005 in Korea and in Egypt.

The international conference on “Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World”, which met in Cairo (Egypt) on December 19-20 2005, was opened by the President of the Egyptian Parliament and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, in the presence of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and of the Director General of UNESCO.

The conference, which was organized in the framework of the SHS “Philosophical Dialogue” initiative, provided an opportunity to reflect on the current status of democracy and human rights in the Arab states, focusing on “Mechanisms and institutions responsible for the protection of human rights and democracy”, “Women, democracy and governance in the Arab region”, and “Democracy: a bulwark against fundamentalism?”.

The event was attended by around one hundred delegates, mainly although not exclusively from the Arab countries. Speakers included international experts, diplomats, representatives of governments and national human rights commissions, as well as staff members of international organizations. A final declaration was adopted by the delegates.

A few weeks earlier, on November 28-29 2005, another international conference on “Democracy and Justice in Asia and in the Arab World”, also within the “Interregional Philosophical Dialogue” initiative, had brought some thirty philosophers from the two regions together in Seoul (Korea). Along with SHS, the organizers of the event were the National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Korea, the Global Academy for Neo-Renaissance, Kyung Hee University and the Korean Society for Political Thought, with support from the Korea Research Foundation.

Taking advantage of the presence of many philosophers and top international specialists, the meeting also provided an opportunity, in the framework of UNESCO’s 60th anniversary celebrations, to organize a debate in the “Which UNESCO for the Future?” series, featuring Professor Tu Weiming (China) and Mr Yersu Kim (Republic of Korea). ¶

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***** 30th session of the 21st Century Talks

“Can the human species domesticate itself?” was the question raised at the 30th session of the 21st Century Talks, organized on March 30, 2006, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The meeting, which was chaired by the Director General of UNESCO, brought together four internationally renowned speakers:

- **Axel Kahn**, Director of the Cochin Institute of Molecular Genetics, member of the National Ethics Advisory Committee (France) and Chairman of the European Commission

Expert Group on Life Sciences;

- **Paula Sibilia**, researcher in the field of anthropology and communication, former Professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), currently teaching today at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil);

- **Peter Sloterdijk**, Rector of the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Karlsruhe and Professor of Philosophy and Aesthetics at the University of Vienna

(Austria), who sparked an international debate on the possible “end of humanism” and the possible “self-domestication” of the human species, following his contribution to a conference on Heidegger in 1999;

- **Jacques Testart**, biologist and Director of Research at INSERM, self-styled “scientific father” of the first French test-tube baby. ¶

For more information, please contact:
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Discussion on issues in the Horn of Africa

A preparatory meeting on the feasibility of a forum of scholars and intellectuals concerned with issues in the Horn of Africa was held at UNESCO Headquarters from 7 to 9 November 2005.

The meeting was attended by some 20 high-level experts from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, along with the Permanent Delegates to UNESCO of the countries concerned and a representative of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development which covers all the States in the region. Within the framework of a project concentrating on the contribution of African intellectuals to the peaceful resolution of regional conflict, the meeting considered the feasibility of establishing an independent forum or think tank which might provide a suitable framework for researchers, opinion leaders and policy makers to exchange views.

The meeting considered the various contributions on the rationale of the initiative, the code of conduct for participants, organizational and coordination mechanisms of a forum or think-tank, and possible subjects for discussion at future meetings. Discussions were also prompted by two presentations on anticipation and scenario approaches. Participants agreed to create an expert group called "Greater Horn Horizon". As a follow-up to this meeting, studies will be prepared on specific issues, starting with research into the current situation regarding regional initiatives. The group is scheduled to meet in Djibouti in Autumn 2006. ¶

For further information, please contact the Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section, Division of Human Rights, Human Security and Philosophy: peace&security@unesco.org, tel.: +33 (0)1 45 68 45 53



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Human security : a UNESCO-led book

A working meeting to put together a UNESCO publication on human security was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on December 12-13 2005.

Among the key questions that the experts wish to see covered in the book, due in 2007, are: conflict prevention at source; prioritizing women's needs; the relations between sustainable development and human security; the place of human security in public services, with particular respect to education and health; the impact of migration; the role of historical legacies; education in all its forms, etc.

While the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the content of the publication, it was also an opportunity to survey the various international initiatives in the area of human security.

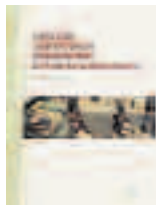
All regions of the world were represented by some 20 international experts; Foreign Ministry representatives from Japan and the member states of the Human Security Network (Canada, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Slovenia, Thailand and South Africa as an observer); the Ambassador to France of the League of Arab States; representatives of the OSCE, of the OEA and of several permanent delegations to UNESCO, as well as the representative of the Human Security Unit (UN-OCHA, New York). ¶

Contact : Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section, Division of Human Rights, Human Security and Philosophy, tel: +33 (0)1 45 68 45 53



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The intersectoral anti-poverty programme launches a book series



***Poverty, Gender and Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management* by Thanh-Dam Truong – just published in the UNESCO Poverty series.**

Poverty, Gender and Human Trafficking: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management is the first publication in the UNESCO Poverty series, co-published with the International Migration Section. This series aims to provide food for thought in understanding poverty as a human rights issue and proposes paths for action through scientific research on contemporary issues.

In this volume on the issue of human trafficking, the author describes the interconnectedness between human trafficking and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, based on a critical analysis of forced migration processes in relation to human rights abuse.

Many aspects of human trafficking remain poorly understood even though it is now a priority issue for many governments. Information available about the magnitude of the problem is limited. While the existing body of knowledge about human trafficking serves for raising public consciousness about the issue it is still not rigorous enough to lend support to comprehensive programmes for action which address the different dimensions of the problem. Knowledge about the intersection between migration and trafficking has not yet brought about any consensus on the underlying forces and their implications for the well-being of women and children. The diversity of forms of human mobility in the contemporary context of global linkages requires an analytical approach which can explain why the needs of the constituents of social structures (gender, class, generation and ethnicity) and human agency have converged to produce what is known as human trafficking. Without adequate explanation, policy tends to shift stance and direction.

This publication points out how practices of migration management can benefit from a more holistic approach – one which addresses a broad set of overlapping livelihood systems. A selected number of practices by organizations participating in this research is presented – giving their profiles, strengths and weaknesses, the way they understand trafficking, and the replicability of their practices. Preventive

measures can benefit from research on migration management that connects issues of human mobility with capital mobility in a sector-specific analytical approach. A reorientation of capital mobility towards social ends may possibly contribute to stability and well-considered migration policy frameworks.

By applying the concept of Best Practices in the context of the fight against human trafficking, UNESCO hopes to encourage a more results-oriented approach to this sensitive issue. It is also hoped that such an approach will provide a much-needed link between research and policy-making by inspiring decision-makers with successful initiatives and model projects that can make an innovative and sustainable contribution to actually solving problems in society. ¶

To receive copies of the publication, please contact:

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UNESCO Project to Fight Human Trafficking in Africa:
www.unesco.org/shs/humantrafficking

Poverty, Gender and Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management, Thanh-Dam Truong (2006), UNESCO, 151 pages.

UNESCO programme to fight poverty Findings presented to Permanent Delegates

An information meeting organized by the Social and Human Sciences Sector will be held for Permanent Delegates to UNESCO on 15 May 2006, from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The aim is to inform Member States on the outcome of each of the 44 intersectoral projects to fight poverty that have been implemented over the past four years. The meeting will take stock of the Organization's strategy on its cross-cutting

theme "the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty", and gauge UNESCO's contribution to this, the first of the eight Millennium Development Goals. This programme is carried out on all continents, and all UNESCO Sectors are committed to building awareness that freedom from poverty is a basic human right, an ethical imperative, and the number one priority of the international community. At the meeting on

15 May, there will be a seven-minute film presenting the projects, and later in the day will be the official opening of a photograph exhibition at UNESCO House. ¶

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What UNESCO for the future?

As announced in *SHS Newsletter 11*, the proceedings of the series of public meetings on “What UNESCO for the future?” have just been compiled in a publication in English and French with the speeches and presentations of all sixteen eminent personalities from the different regions of the world.*

This question is one which – after months of discussion and reflection all over the world – has in the end lost its question mark. The proceedings of all the speeches and presentations given throughout this series of meetings organized by the Social and Human Sciences Sector, “What UNESCO for the future?” is a collection of the texts which question the actual function of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in today’s world.

With a foreword by UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura, and an introduction by Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, this publication has come out at just the right moment – as the Director-General says, in his foreword – “After sixty years of existence UNESCO has embarked on a reflection on the Organization’s future, what it will become – we intend this collective exercise to be transparent, dynamic and entirely open”.

Indeed, at a time when Member States are becoming involved not only in the preparation of the 2008-2013 Medium-term Strategy but also in a wide-ranging debate on the future role of the Organization, this reflection needs to draw on the views of thinkers, philosophers, policy makers and experts on both the future of humankind and the future of the Organization with regard to the new challenges it must face.

It will be noted that the personalities who contributed to these deliberations wanted to ensure that the many different facets of the

future would be taken into account, while at the same time highlighting the great assets of UNESCO’s past action and the values inscribed in its Constitution. Their contributions all have the same overall vision for the future, both with regard to today’s onerous demands regarding international intellectual cooperation and the obstacles the Organization will have to overcome in order to respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable.

These new signposts to guide UNESCO’s future action are also surely reflected in the Organization’s Constitution and in the “spirit” of those who created it sixty years ago. It is to be hoped that the new edition of the exceptional testimony of Frank Richard Cowell on the fascinating process of the actual creation of UNESCO between 1942 and 1946, in which he actively took part, will enable one to understand exactly what that “spirit” was and how important it is to refer back to it when facing the complex challenges that will be confronting UNESCO in the years ahead.

Launched on the occasion of the celebration of Philosophy Day in November 2004, the forum of reflection, which was open to the public, continued throughout 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters, in the Republic of Korea and in Chile, with the valued cooperation of those countries’ National Commissions. ¶

For more information, please contact:
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* Jacques Attali, Robert Badinter, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Fatma Haddad-Chamakh, Ping Huang, Albert Jacquard, Randolph Kent, Yersu Kim, Achille Mbembé, Edgar Morin, Hisashi Owada, Miguel Rojas Mix, Carolina Rossetti, Ghassan Salamé and Tu Weiming.

Les Migrants et leurs Droits au Maghreb

Ed. Khadija Elmadmad, published by La Croisée des Chemins, Casablanca, 2004, 155 pp.

For many years there was a high rate of emigration from the Maghreb region but now it has become a receiving region for many migrants, particularly those from Sub-Saharan Africa. This change has brought with it not only basic social problems, but also the issue of the human rights of migrants, whether or not they have official papers. “Migrants and their rights in the Maghreb” (available only in French) analyses the current situation of migrants’ rights in the region by particularly

exploring the role played by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers. The publication is the end result of a project launched by UNESCO’s International Migrations programme and coordinated by Professor Khadija Elmadmad, who holds the Chair in Migrations and Human Rights at Hasan II University, Ain Chok, in Casablanca, Morocco. ¶



Information Kit on the United Nations Convention on Migrants’ Rights

UNESCO, Paris, 2005, 31 pp.

The United Nations Convention on Migrants’ Rights is the most comprehensive of the international law treaties pertaining to human rights and international migration. Despite the current range of issues to do with migration, and the vulnerability of many migrants, this Convention has been ratified by only a few countries, mainly because little is known about it. The *Information Kit*, published in English,

French, Spanish and Arabic, presents the Convention in clear, concise terms, as well as the issues it raises. This publication will provide a much wider public – NGOs, associations, policy makers, the media and the general public – with information on the UN Convention on Migrants’ Rights. ¶



MARCH

8 March: Workshop on the protection of legal rights of migrant domestic workers. Beijing, China.
(g.domenach-chich@unesco.org)

10 March: Closing of cross-cutting theme "Small-Scale Mining". Lima, Peru.
(c.tekaya@unesco.org)

16-29 March: Promoting Anti-Doping Convention at Commonwealth Games. Melbourne, Australia.
(p.marriott-lloyd@unesco.org)

18-20 March: Speech on Anti-Doping Convention at the Ibero-American Sports Council Meeting. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (p.marriott-lloyd@unesco.org)

20-22 March 2006: International Conference: The Nation States face to the challenge of regional integration in West of Africa, Dakar, Senegal.
(Carrie Marias, c.marias@unesco.org)

21-22 March: On the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, several activities will be organized by UNESCO, in Paris: "Pari(s), Living Together" and the Festival of Canadian short films in Paris "UNinvited (in) tolerance"
(s.lazarev@unesco.org, j.morohashi@unesco.org)

28 March: "60 Minutes to Convince" on Fight against Racism. UNESCO, Paris, France. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

29-30 March: Meeting of coordinators of regional research networks on Human Rights. Rabat, Morocco.
(v.volodine@unesco.org)

31 March: 21st Century Talks: "Can the human species domesticate itself?"
(as.de-goy@unesco.org)

APRIL

Launch of the volume "UNESCO and Women's Human Rights: A Retrospect and Prospects". Paris, France.
(v.moghadam@unesco.org)

2nd Sub-regional Expert Meeting for the elaboration of the Ten-Point Plan of Action against racism for the Coalition of Cities in Africa. Bamako, Mali.
(k.mutombo@unesco.org)

Regional Round Table "Promoting Ethics in Sport". Doha, Qatar.
(p.marriott-lloyd@unesco.org)

6-7 April: 1st Sub-regional Expert Meeting for the elaboration of the Ten-Point Plan of Action against racism for the Coalition of Cities in Africa. Durban, South Africa.
(k.mutombo@unesco.org)

6-7-8 April: Extended national consultation meeting on a human rights-based approach to poverty in Bamako, Mali.
(c.tekaya@unesco.org)

27-28 April: National consultation meeting on a human rights-based approach to poverty in Benin.
(c.tekaya@unesco.org)

MAY

3 May: 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR). Stockholm, Sweden.
(j.morohashi@unesco.org)

16 May: Roundtable discussion on culture and equality in the European Union. Paris, France.
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UNESCO receives the 2006 "Mediterranean without Borders" Prize for its work in the field of international migration

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has received the 2006 "Mediterranean without Borders" Prize for its work in the field of international migration. This prize, awarded every year by the Regional Province of Agrigento (Italy), distinguishes UNESCO as a "prestigious international institute that has worked with success over the years for the protection of migrant workers and members of their families". UNESCO's work in international migration is concentrated on the study of migration policies in relation to human rights, education (brain drain), and culture (cultural diversity and integration).

Representing the Director-General of the Organization, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, the Head of the International Migration Programme, Mr Paul de Guchteneire, participated, on Saturday 11 March, in Italy, in the award ceremony of this Prize, which has distinguished, since its creation, in 2001, various institutions and personalities such as the president of the RAI, the international humanitarian association "Emergency" and the actor and film-maker Roberto Benigni. ¶

For more information on the activities of the Organization in the field of international migration: www.unesco.org/migration.

60 week for 60 years: SHS dates

Instead of commemorating its 60th anniversary with a single event, UNESCO is celebrating over sixty weeks. From September 2005 through to November 2006, the Organization hopes to provide Permanent Delegations, staff, UNESCO partners and the general public with a year-long opportunity of learning more about the Organization's programme. In all, the social and human sciences will take centre stage fourteen times during the

anniversary celebrations. During 2006 there will still be seven opportunities to learn more about the Sector's activities in the following fields:

- 27 March to 2 April 2006:** Fight against racism
- 8 to 14 May 2006:** Foresight and prospective studies
- 26 June to 2 July 2006:** Action against doping in sport
- 10 to 15 July 2006:** Ethics of science
- 7 to 12 August 2006:** Traditional knowledge
- 28 August to 2 September 2006:** Cities and housing
- 4 to 9 September 2006:** Bioethics

Reports of the programme presentations given in September/October – Human security, education and citizenship, Natural disaster prevention, Fight against poverty, and UNESCO's founding ideals – are accessible on UNESCO's website: www.unesco.org

