

newsletter

Advancing human rights in an era of globalization

Over the past few months, the Social and Human Sciences Sector has held meetings with representatives of 102 UNESCO Member States, exploring possible partnerships with those countries' institutions.

Partnerships mean speaking out – advocating a point of view – together. They also mean practical cooperation, using each partner's comparative advantages to meet a common goal. Many institutions share the ideals of international peace through justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Many institutions – and individuals – could become partners to promote these goals.

The Social and Human Sciences Sector has unique strengths as an *international centre for ethics, social sciences and humanities*. As such, we focus on bringing together experts from different countries – balancing each other's comparative advantages.

As an *international centre* in an *intergovernmental* organization, we have certain strengths to offer our partners. Much of our work is to foster research in a number of disciplines. And, in service of the ideals set out in UNESCO's Constitution, we promote public policy decision-making based on the best of this research, including comparative research.



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→ We tend to concentrate on regional work, by developing or reinvigorating regional networks, bringing together national partners across regions and cooperating with regional institutions. In complex issues of social change, we use comparative approaches and transnational outlooks, and therefore can touch upon some of the most pressing issues of our times – the risks and promises of societies in transformation.

Partnership has always been and still is how we meet our goals. UNESCO is its Member States, so it is normal to expect that there are many partners who share our aims: governmental and non-governmental actors, universities, associations, scientific and intellectual communities, individual experts and opinion leaders.

Partners on both sides gain from cooperation. For example, Argentina, SHS and others are now preparing a major social science conference in Buenos Aires in 2005 (see page 21). Argentina's leading role is a sign of faith that the conference will benefit Argentine institutions and individuals in the form of international contacts and new learning.

Partners advise us, plan events with us, share personnel, translate from and into local languages, help our publications and our research. While SHS absorbs very little funding from outside partners compared to other high-profile UNESCO work, we have some projects that are ready to expand, and could well interest outside funders. (We will soon be releasing a detailed briefing on the partnerships being sought to help deliver the priorities identified by UNESCO's governing bodies.)

I hope partners will propose other, unforeseen ways to expand, as one of the most exciting aspects of partnership is *innovation leading us more surely towards our shared goals*. Perhaps an article in this Newsletter will inspire you to propose some form of collaboration. I invite you to explore partnership possibilities with UNESCO SHS – to seek a better world, working together.

Pierre Sané
Assistant Director-General
for Social
and Human Sciences



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CONFERENCE ON ASTRONAUTS, 29 OCTOBER 2004

A one-day conference on “The Legal and Ethical Framework for Astronauts in Space Sojourns”, will be held at UNESCO in Paris on 29 October 2004. It will bring together lawyers, ethicists, other scholars and astronauts to discuss space issues raised by the current geopolitical situation and the new space exploration programmes. It is being organized by UNESCO’s Division of Ethics of Science and Technology together with the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) and the University of Paris XI - Sceaux (Institut du Droit de l’Espace et des Télécommunications - IDEST). The conference will be opened by the Director-General of ESA, Jean-Jacques Dordain and the Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Marcio Barbosa, with closing remarks by Adigun Ade Abiodun, Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). ¶

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ETHICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

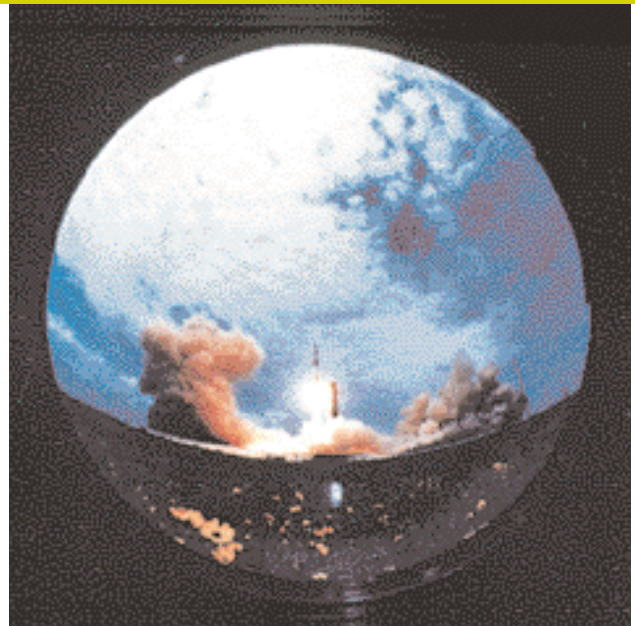
The Division of Ethics of Science and Technology is exploring the possibilities of international action in the field of ethics of the environment and has created a Working Group on this subject. The Group of 11 leading experts will meet periodically from September 2004 to January 2005. They are being asked to establish the state-of-the-art in environmental ethics and to advise the Division in the preparation of international action proposals. These will subsequently be presented to the scientific and political communities prior to being submitted as draft resolutions to the UNESCO General Conference. ¶

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PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

UNESCO has convened a group of experts on the Precautionary Principle to study and define the concept and to advise as to its potential applications. The expert group held its first meeting on 12 and 13 May 2004. The results of their study will be presented in a report to the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) in March 2005. ¶

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BILATERAL CONSULTATION ON THE ETHICS OF OUTER SPACE

From July to November 2004, the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology is exploring the possibility of international action in the field of the ethics of outer space and in particular the advisability and feasibility of an international instrument on the subject. It has prepared a policy document using four sources: the recommendations of COMEST on the ethics of outer space; the report on these recommendations by the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS); international space law; and the activities of space agencies and international organizations. This document will serve as the basis for a series of bilateral consultations within the space community.

The result of these consultations will be a major input for the preparation of a feasibility study on an international declaration on the ethics of outer space, as well as for the drafting of possible resolutions for the next UNESCO General Conference. ¶

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DEADLINE – NOMINATIONS FOR THE AVICENNA PRIZE FOR ETHICS IN SCIENCE

Nominations for the 2005 Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science must be submitted before **1 November 2004**. Established on the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNESCO's Avicenna Prize highlights the importance of ethics in science by rewarding individuals and groups for outstanding contributions in this field. More information and nomination forms can be found on the SHS website. ¶

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A BUSY FOUR MONTHS FOR THE DIVISION

- **15 September**
Rotating conference “Ethics around the world” in Turkey.
- **17-18 September**
Second meeting of the Precautionary Principle Expert Group. UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.
- **23-24 September**
First meeting of the Group of Experts on environmental ethics, UNESCO HQ, Paris.
- **28 September**
Second Meeting of ESA's Ethical Working Group on Planetary protection and astrobiology (EWG), EC Presidency, Brussels.
- **21-22 October**
Regional Meeting of Experts in Ethics Teaching, Budapest, Hungary.
- **29 October**
ESA/ECSL/IDEST/ UNESCO Workshop: “Legal and ethical framework for astronauts”, UNESCO HQ, Paris.
- **2 November**
Rotating conference “Ethics around the world” in Argentina.
- **2-3 November**
Regional Meeting of Experts in Ethics Teaching, Montevideo, Uruguay.
- **10 November**
Rotating conference “Ethics around the world” in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- **18-19 November**
Second and final meeting of the group of experts on environmental ethics, New Orleans, USA.

- **26-27 November**
Third and final meeting of the Precautionary Principle Expert Group. Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA.
- **24 November**
Rotating conference “Ethics around the world” in Mexico.
- **2 December**
Rotating conference “Ethics around the world” in Indonesia.

TEACHING ETHICS

An Ethics Education Programme is being developed to strengthen and increase the capacities of UNESCO Member States in the field of ethics. Among the planned activities are the creation of networks of professional ethics teachers, the development and subsequent implementation of teaching programmes and the setting up of “Schools of Ethics”. Regional meetings will be held during which experts in the teaching of ethics will define possible international cooperation and teaching modalities. The first meeting, with experts from Central Europe, will be held in Budapest on 21 and 22 October 2004, and the second one, with experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, will take place in Montevideo on 2 and 3 November 2004. ¶

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PLANETARY PROTECTION AND ASTROBIOLOGY

The Division of Ethics of Science and Technology is represented in the Ethical Working Group that the European Space Agency (ESA) has set up to prepare guidelines in view of its Mars exploration programme. The Group will prepare recommendations to ESA Director-General on issues such as: what would we do if we detected extraterrestrial life? How would we treat the issue? How would we address the potential risk it might represent? Are there any intellectual property rights applicable? Could genetic engineering be used on it? The Group held its first meeting in Paris, at ESA Headquarters on 14 and 15 June 2004, and will hold its second meeting on 28 September in Brussels. Their first set of recommendations will be submitted to the ESA Director-General by December 2004. ¶

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Joan Clos

This year, Barcelona is the capital of cultures. From 9 May to 26 September 2004, the city is organizing the International Forum of Cultures, in which UNESCO is one of the main partners. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona, here tells us more about the Forum, and about the increasing role of cities in the promotion of democracy and human rights.

What was the origin of the “Universal Forum of Cultures” and how did it come about?

We decided to organize the Forum in the mid-nineties, after the Olympic Games of 1992 in Barcelona. A lot of Barcelonans had expressed the wish that the city should have a new international event that could unite it behind a big project. That is why we decided to call in the Forum. But instead of choosing one of the existing events on the international agenda, we decided to create a new one in order to innovate and to open more space for public debate and public gathering.

What is the purpose of the Forum?

It is to gather different cultures of the world for a discussion of three main topics: cultural diversity, sustainability and generation of conditions for peace. These three topics are very relevant to us here in Barcelona because in terms of cultural diversity we are a bicultural and bilingual society, and in addition to this we are receiving a huge wave of new immigration from different parts of the world. The topic of how to create better conditions for peace was a must, because we are living in a world which is challenged quite frequently by the new dangers of conflict and terrorism. Cities themselves are exposed to social unrest and uprising. This is why we decided that peace – not just peace in itself, but the question of how to generate and create conditions for peace – should be one of the topics of the Forum. And the third topic of sustainability was

Interview



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relevant too, because we wanted to include infrastructures such as a sewage treatment plan and a factory that produces energy within the fabric of the city in a sustainable manner.

But is there a link between the three themes?

Yes, of course. If we don't accept cultural diversity and if we don't accept that we need to sustain our environment, the conditions for peace cannot be fulfilled. So the first two topics set the conditions for the third one.

You mentioned some of the social conflicts that humanity is faced with today. Could you give some concrete examples and tell us how they relate to the problems you encounter in your work as Mayor?

Recently, we have had to face the challenge of terrorism not just at the level of the State, but also within cities such as Madrid, where we have witnessed a devastating terror attack. Besides that, we have had to deal with the Iraq conflict, and the same social problems related to immigration from which many European countries are suffering. Those are three clear examples of how our societies are reaching their limits in terms of sustaining peace. This is why we wanted to propose a dialogue on such subjects, in order to go deeper into these questions and see how we can adapt our urban cultures to these new challenges of cultural diversity.

➡ The United Cities and Local Governments Organization

The United Cities and Local Governments, the largest local government organization in the world, was launched in May 2004. It is the result of the unification of three organizations: the World Federation of United Cities (FMCU), the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and Metropolis, the international association of major metropolises. This new organization is dedicated to promoting the values, objectives and interests of cities and local governments across the globe. It promotes the policies and experiences of local governments in key areas such as poverty, sustainable development and social inclusion. ¶ www.cities-localgovernments.org



→ **Are these issues related to globalization?**

The question of globalization is wider. It is the whole world society which is changing. In Europe, the old model of the welfare state is being challenged; its role and economic means have diminished, which of course also affect cities. In many spheres of society, new challenges are emerging that we even didn't know of in the more comfortable society of the sixties or even the seventies. In the seventies, the oil crisis and, later, the liberalization of society kicked off a process of change, which moved our societies from the 20th to the 21st century. The word "globalization" covers part of this development, but it has become charged with connotations, and this is why we didn't want to focus only on globalization. Different parts of the world are in fact improving their economy and millions of people are improving their living conditions. On the other side, a large part of the world has become worse off. That is the reality nowadays, and it is in this reality that we can find the seed of more conflicts or the seed of a solution for the future.

But do you think that some of these emerging trends you have just described are particularly affecting the social fabric of cities?

Yes, of course. The evolution of cities is becoming day by day more indicative of what is happening in the general population, because most of the world's population is now living in cities. The move from rural areas to city life is probably one of the most impressive trends in modern human history. In different parts of the world, notably in the poor countries, this move is taking place under very bad conditions. It is creating a new form of urban poverty, which also entails a great deal of new conflicts in cities, especially in the mega cities of the Third World. This question of new urbanization in the 21st century is therefore very relevant for the issues of development and peace.

When you say new urbanization, could you be more specific?

For most of the 20th century, migration was mainly related to industrialization and, in particular, to one aspect of industrialization, namely manufacturing. Today, this influx of people from rural to urban areas is taking place without an increase in the creation of workplaces. People come to the city expecting that they will find a better future there, but without the city necessarily having the means to develop that. You see that in the *favelas* or in the slums of most of the big cities of the world.

Barcelona has been chosen as the Headquarters of a new organization, the United Cities and Local Governments... [see box page 5]

This is an initiative of the main associations of cities which decided to merge and to create a united association of cities

There is a need to strengthen local democracy, and, to that end, I think that a new set of rights and duties is required – the right to the city.

around the world, in order to have a stronger position to engage in the dialogue with international institutions, such as the United Nations system and the World Bank. We are very pleased they have chosen Barcelona for their Headquarters and we support this organization because in Barcelona we feel that the future of the world is very related to cities and that cities should play a new role in world politics. Everything that can help cities express themselves and say what they want is good news, and this is why we are so pleased with this decision.

This new organization has also been called "the UN of Cities". What can cities do, that governments can't do?

City governments, or local governments, are very close to the citizens and deal with everyday problems that affect our citizens. They have the power to introduce a new kind of politics, in the sense that in order to improve democracy – apart from big issues that only the State can deal with such as defending the frontiers and the independence of the nation – there is a demand on the political system by the citizens to provide services and to perform better. Today, people around the world are not just asking those in government to give direction and a feeling of meaning and identity, they are demanding them to perform. Therefore, local government is a very interesting level of government because it is close to the citizens. The citizens know very well who the Mayor is as well as those they have elected to local government. They can meet for discussions on the streets every day. It creates the possibility of rehabilitating politics in the best way, because it combines a sense of community with the need to provide services and good performance. I think that this mixture is very authentic in today's politics, and it is becoming even more relevant every day. In that sense, politicians become public servants because they have to serve the community, not just through rhetoric but also on a very practical level. So I think local governments are very well suited to fulfil an important role in the political scenario. Strengthening the cooperation between local authorities is a way to strengthen democracy.

Your city seems to concentrate a great deal on human rights issues. What in your opinion is the role of cities with regard to the promotion of human rights?

Together with a number of cities in Europe and around the world, we have developed a Charter of Urban Rights,

because – in addition to the existing Human Rights instruments – we need to begin thinking about a new set of rights and duties, in order to meet the expectations of a modern and democratic society. Citizens have the right to expect that public servants provide certain services and that these correspond to the ones that are being promised during political campaigns and not changed later on. In that sense, there is a need to strengthen local democracy, and, to that end, I think that a new set of rights and duties is required.

Are you referring to the concept of the “right to the city”?

Yes, the right to the city, which means the right to a peaceful city, an educational city, a healthy city, etc.

Could you give some more concrete examples of how to implement this concept?

For example, we are now trying to improve citizens’ rights by placing in our city an ombudsman to the local authorities; and we are creating a new local justice system in order to install a platform for dealing with conflicts within neighbourhoods, that allows us to resolve the problems without going to the traditional judicial system.

UNESCO has launched the idea of creating an International Coalition of Cities against Racism and Barcelona is involved in the drafting of its charter. What do you think about this initiative?

I totally agree with that kind of initiative. The cosmopolitan city today has a new face and a new structure, in the sense that, in the past, a city used to be a place of national affirmation, but now they are becoming places of international and cosmopolitan affirmation. In our part of the world, we are receiving many people who come from all parts of the world looking for a better life. Racism was eating our souls and consciences during the 20th century and is something that we always need to “revaccinate” against periodically, in order to protect ourselves from this ill. Strengthening the international cooperation in this field is one way to do that.

You have been the Mayor of Barcelona since 1997.

What do you consider your most important accomplishments?

I am quite pleased with the fact that Barcelona is increasingly affirming its role as a city. We are not the capital of the State, but we grow, we dream, we change and

we transmute with the strength of our own dynamics. In a sense, Barcelona is a city in a pure state. That creates the special “Barcelona feeling”, which I think is the most interesting aspect and very particular to the city. A mixture of pride and *existencia*, criticism and demand. This is, to my sense, what makes Barcelona different. Concretely, my priorities have been, and still are, the promotion of low income housing, the improvement of the quality of services that the city offers to its citizens, and the investment in the creation and maintenance of a public space. It is equally important for Barcelona to have projects that can help make new strides in the transformation of the city, such as the renewal of the seaside in the Besòs zone with the creation of new public spaces, renewed economic activity, new districts and new infrastructures, hospitals and schools, etc. The Barcelona Forum 2004 has also been a driving force behind this sustainable transformation of the Besòs zone and of the city as a whole. Another important project is the enlargement of the public transport systems and its metropolitan area, such as the new High Velocity Train (TGV) station in La Sagrera. Finally, efforts are being made to improve employment policies and create knowledge-based industries. Barcelona is a city which lives and transform constantly thanks to new ideas; it is a proud and demanding city which fights to achieve and maintain a high quality of life. ¶

➔ The International Coalition of Cities against Racism

The International Coalition of Cities against Racism is an initiative launched by UNESCO to establish a network of cities interested in sharing experiences in order to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination, exclusion and intolerance. The cities participating in the coalition will commit themselves to two principles: adherence to an ethical and political Charter; and adoption and implementation of a Ten-Point Plan of Action.

In order to respect the specificities of the different areas of the world, a regional approach has been adopted. The first region, under the guidance of UNESCO and Nuremberg, designated as Lead City, has just finalized a draft Plan of Action which will be discussed and approved in December 2004 (see page 9). ¶

www.unesco.org/shs/citiesagainstracism

Children in distress

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CAPACITIES IN AFRICA

Within the framework of the project “Strengthening community capacities: an approach through law and social equity”, several seminars have been organized in Bamako, Gorée, Djenné and Niamey. The seminars were designed for intellectuals and civil society NGOs with a view to putting into operation the concept of “Poverty as a violation of human rights”. In the three countries covered by the UNESCO Bamako Office – Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger – follow-up committees have been established and placed under the imprimatur of the presidency of the countries concerned. The mandate of these committees is to undertake further research and to identify other financial and technical partners, as well as to support the government in reviewing the strategic framework of the fight against poverty which constitutes the single frame of reference for policies and development strategies. It is the main document governing relations between the government and all the financial and technical partners. ¶

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In 1992, UNESCO established a specific, entirely extrabudgetary programme for the education of children in distress. Hundreds of projects aimed at relieving the suffering of disadvantaged children have been created the world over.

The objective is to restore dignity to a damaged childhood and to give children renewed faith in the future through education – the key to development and success, for without it a child has no hope, no dignity and no rights.

For 12 years now, more than US \$26 million have been collected through charity galas, media campaigns and events organized to raise broad public awareness of the plight of these excluded children.

Over 225 direct, tangible, practical aid projects have now been carried out in 80 countries in Asia, Africa, the Arab States, Europe and Latin America.

Cyrano de Bergerac evening

On behalf of the world’s disadvantaged children suffering from a heart condition, UNESCO’s programme for the education of children in distress organized in partnership with the *Association Mécénat Chirurgie Cardiaque – Enfants du Monde* a fund-raising theatre performance, on 21 June 2004. More than 1100 people wishing to be part of this tremendous chain of solidarity came to UNESCO Headquarters to see the play “Cyrano de Bergerac” by *Les Parçœurs*, a troupe of amateur actors who gave a voluntary performance.

The *Mécénat* sponsorship association, chaired by Professor Francine Leca, Head of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery at Necker Hospital in Paris, was created so that disadvantaged children with a heart malformation could have cardiac surgery in France, free of charge, when it is not available in their own country. Through fund raising and private donations, the *Mécénat* pays for the travel of doctors who identify children in need of an operation, organize their journey to



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Lasavong Thong, two year old Laotian boy, is to be operated on in Paris in November 2004.

France, cover operation and hospitalization costs at Necker Hospital, and find host families for the children where they can convalesce before returning home.

Thanks to the sale of tickets and the generosity of the guests, UNESCO was able to collect over 17,000 euros in just one evening. This year, exceptionally, all the funds raised will go to the *Association*. In the coming weeks, these funds will give meaning to the word “tomorrow” for two children whose cardiac malformations require urgent surgery. ¶

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➡ A few figures

- From 1992 (when the Programme was set up) to 2002 – US \$23,250 were invested in 200 projects in 80 different countries.
- For the year 2003 – US \$1,315,030 were invested in 32 projects in 19 countries.
- For the first half of 2004 – US \$1,100,000 were invested in 21 projects in 16 countries. ¶

NEWS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH NETWORK OF OMBUDSPERSONS

The first workshop of the Latin American Research Network of Ombudspersons' Offices on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights working in cooperation with UNESCO took place in Quito, Ecuador, from 16 to 18 June 2004. The researchers of the various Ombudspersons' Offices and the international and regional experts met for a dual purpose: to discuss the nature and normative content of the right to education, and to elaborate a common methodology for the research on the implementation of this right in the different countries. The countries currently participating in the network are: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. The right to education was analysed from an international, regional and national perspective, with particular attention given to the legal aspects of this right, as well as to the public policies in the field of education. Different tools to measure the implementation of the right to education, including indicators, were explored. A central point of the workshop was the analysis of the project prepared by the Office of the Colombian Ombudsperson on the implementation of the right to education in Colombia, including a well-developed system of indicators.

The workshop, organized by the Human Rights Division of UNESCO in cooperation with the regional UNESCO Offices of Brazil and Quito, was considered by all to be very useful and productive. The participants have agreed on a joint method of work and the Ombudspersons will present the first results of the research in Summer 2005 in order to prepare regional reports and recommendations. ¶

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UNESCO WORKS HAND IN HAND WITH THE BRAZILIAN STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The technical cooperation agreement between the UNESCO-Brazil Office and the State Secretariat for Human Rights aimed at implementing the National Program of Human Rights, is working as a catalyst for many activities. This cooperation started in 1996 and is showing significant outcomes in terms of concrete results and the activation of partnerships. The work is focused basically in two areas: consciousness-raising and institutional and social structuring aimed at valuing and promoting human rights, and the construction of subsidies for the formulation of government policies. In the area of consciousness-raising and institutional and social structuring, the work has involved national campaigns, seminars, workshops and meetings; prizes for pupils in secondary

school, university students and young people taking part in voluntary social service; courses to train multipliers and human rights activists, with some of the courses included in extension programmes of Brazilian universities. A computerized system has also been developed for the use of the Councils for the Care and Rights of Children and Adolescents. A significant number of relevant publications completes this area of work. ¶

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THE COALITION OF CITIES AGAINST RACISM IN EUROPE

The plan for the creation of an International Coalition of Cities against Racism, an idea initiated by UNESCO this year (see page 7), is successfully moving forward: the draft of a Ten-Point Plan of Action for the Coalition of Cities Against Racism in Europe has just been finalized.

In close collaboration with the City of Nuremberg (Germany) which plays the role of the Lead City for the region, UNESCO organized an experts meeting on "*Commitment of Cities Against Discrimination: Defining a Ten-Point Plan of Action to Combat Racism at the Municipal Level*" on 9-10 July 2004 in Nuremberg. The city representatives of Barcelona, Krakow, Paris, Saint-Denis, Stockholm and Nuremberg, together with

representatives of NGOs and experts in the field of discrimination and public policies discussed priority issues and possible actions to be taken into account in the Plan of Action. The Ten-Point Plan of Action is composed of ten commitments covering the various areas of competence of city authorities such as education, housing, and employment. It also suggests some examples of practical policies that city authorities might consider with a view to fulfilling each of the commitments. The signatory cities will undertake to integrate the Plan of Action in their municipal strategies and policies and to involve the various actors within civil society in its implementation. The European Coalition of Cities Against Racism will be launched in December 2004, on the occasion of the Fourth European Conference of Cities for Human Rights that will take place in Nuremberg. ¶

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Weekends for Brazilian youth



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The UNESCO-Brazil office launched the programme “Making Room” in 2000 in order to help youth in difficulty. Four years later, more than five Brazilian states are actively participating in the project.

The programme is the outcome of several research projects which led to the following observations: there is an increase in the number of deaths among youth during the weekend; there is no space for social encounters in poor communities; and schools are insufficiently used and safeguarded on weekends.

“Making Room” was therefore created to promote the development of a culture of peace in local communities by opening schools on weekends for cultural and citizenship activities, sports and art workshops. It was developed in partnership with Brazil’s State governments of Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Pernambuco, São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul and others, and is part of UNESCO’s Education for a Culture of Peace Programme.

The public includes both youngsters and their families, with around 600 schools involved in the programme. “Making Room” focuses on three aspects: Youth, School and Community. It uses vacant spaces where low-income youngsters in situations of high personal and social risk can have access to culture, sports, arts and leisure. The project has significantly contributed to keep young people away from danger and risky situations and increase their participation in citizenship activities.

This is one of the most successful programmes in Social and Human Sciences in Brazil and before long it should be able to count on five cooperation agreements: three have already been signed with the State Secretariats of Education of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Bahia and Pernambuco and a further two agreements are under discussion with São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul.

The programme falls into UNESCO’s broader framework of building a culture of peace, lifelong education for all, the eradication of poverty and the creation of new forms of education. For more information on “Making Room”, please consult the publications listed in the research section of the UNESCO Brasilia Office website. ¶

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PLACING HOPE IN OUR CHILDREN: *CRANÇA* *ESPERANÇA*

Criança Esperança is one of the most successful social strategies for children and young people in Brazil. Run by the Globo television network since 1986, the campaign is organized annually and raises funds for accredited organizations. In its 18 years of existence, the campaign has raised more than us \$40 million, undertaking 4,500 projects and helping more than a million children and adolescents. This initiative, which has received international praise, has been exported to Colombia, Ecuador and Argentina. Starting this year, UNESCO is to take on a decisive role in implementing the campaign. The Globo network has opted to shift the responsibility of this large programme to UNESCO after considering both the national and international reputation of the Organization in the areas of its mandate. The new partnership is not restricted to this programme only but extends to the Globo network as a whole. UNESCO will also be offering advice and support in education matters, youth-oriented issues and culture of peace campaigns. ¶

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2004 the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition. This marks, in particular, the bicentenary of the proclamation of the first black State, Haiti, symbol of the struggle and resistance of slaves, and triumph of the principles of liberty, equality, dignity and the rights of the individual.

A number of events are being organized throughout the year, two of which have already been held in Uruguay. On 1 June, the Cultural Centre for Peace and Integration (CECUPI), a Uruguayan NGO for African descendants, together with the backing of the UNESCO Montevideo Office and the Montevideo UNESCO Centre, organized a debate entitled “African-Uruguayans discuss the heritage of slavery and its past, present and future consequences”. This was followed on July 13 by a seminar, also held in Montevideo, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the UNESCO Montevideo Office and CECUPI. ¶

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More information about the year can be found at:
<http://portal.unesco.org/culture>

SHS Human Rights Programme in Brazil

In addition to partnerships, UNESCO in Brazil directly commissions original research linked mainly to the theme of “violence, youth and citizenship”, as a way of contributing to the expansion of knowledge and providing material for formulating government policy. These research projects are planned and carried out directly by UNESCO, using relevant methodology and instruments that are especially developed for each case study. The research helps in the discussion topics studied through the publication of results and organizing debates.

Another strategy adopted by UNESCO is to make use of the capacity of Brazilian universities, taking advantage of the potential of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair Programme and working with the university extension programmes through the National Forum of Pro-Rectors of Extension Programmes in Public Universities. In the area of human rights, the University of São Paulo has created a chair in “Education for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Tolerance” and extension courses in human rights have already been held by the Federal University of São Carlos, the Federal University of Goiás and the Federal University of Paraíba. Seminars and debates dealing with the theme of “adolescents who committed an infraction” have also been held at the University of Paraíba, the Federal University of Santa Catarina and the State University of Santa Catarina. ¶

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Contribution to the eradication of poverty and to strengthening human security

Since 2002, the UNESCO Office in Bamako has been entrusted with the project “Eradication of poverty by strengthening human security in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger”. In its first phase, the project concentrated mainly on meeting people’s basic needs, and at the same time providing training and awareness sessions on their basic rights.

Different activities

Among the various activities undertaken in 2003-2004 were:

- 2 studies: “Diagnostic study of the socio-economic situation in the village of Villy (Burkina Faso)”; and “Endogenous methods of management, resolution and prevention of conflicts in the village of Villy (Burkina Faso)”;
 - the installation of two television sets in Diogo and Semba, thus allowing their populations to follow national and international news as and when it happens;
 - workshops and/or training seminars on several subjects, for example, “Human Rights and Citizenship”.

This project has had positive repercussions on the population as a whole but particularly on those who received the human rights training. They were able to reflect on the possibility of setting up interpellation facilities at village level, which would be composed of the heads of the villages and two notables. The project also encouraged acknowledgement of the role of women and the importance of gender issues in providing answers to their specific needs.

Following the workshop which took place in Gorée in March-April 2004 (see *Newsletter* 05), the project is being remoulded in order to integrate action that strengthens the concept of “poverty as a violation of human rights”. ¶

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A NEW WEBSITE TO HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

UNESCO’s Human Rights and Poverty website is now on line. It is an extensive source of information on UNESCO’s efforts to address the first UN Millennium Development Goal, that of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger through twenty innovative, multidisciplinary, pilot and research projects.

Projects are presented in terms of the human rights issues they address and the regions in which they are implemented. A growing network of links provides additional project information, international human rights standards related to poverty, and the work of other inter-governmental, non-governmental and governmental agencies working to combat poverty as a violation of human rights. ¶

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Dossier

World Forum

“ We all have a part to play in making the enjoyment of all human rights a reality for everyone.”

Sergio Vieira de Mello

The World Forum on Human Rights was dedicated to the memory of Sergio Vieira de Mello, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, killed in Baghdad on 29 August 2003, and to the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition.



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The World Forum on Human Rights at Nantes

From 16 to 19 May 2004, the City of Nantes in France became the centre of a major event on the international agenda: the World Forum on Human Rights. With over 1000 participants from 76 countries, the first objective was reached: to offer a space for meetings and exchanges to all the different categories of actors working to uphold and strengthen human rights.

Organized by the City of Nantes on the initiative and with the support of UNESCO, the Forum brought together representatives of States, parliamentarians, researchers, students, activists and others, giving them the opportunity to speak out and participate in discussions on an equal footing, during the plenary sessions and the round tables.

Under the high patronage of French President Jacques Chirac, the Forum was organized in cooperation with the French National Commission for UNESCO with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Labour Organization.

A new concept: strengthening research-policy links and building partnerships

The idea of the World Forum was to respond to one of today's imperatives: the need for an open and free dialogue on priority human rights issues amongst all actors in this field. In an area where condemnations and mutual accusations are common ground, the aim of this Forum was to confront ideas in order to understand the pressing challenges of today and exchange on ways and means to address them. In particular, it was designed to encourage joint reflection and the free flow of ideas within an inclusive setting and to establish a closer interaction between the world of research and the worlds of decision-making and action.

Another aim of the Forum was to build and strengthen partnerships amongst the various actors working in the field of human rights. In this sense, the Forum proved very successful. A large range of actors gathered at the Forum: representatives of Governments, United Nations bodies, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), international judicial bodies, parliamentarians, NGOs, research centres, national human rights institutions, human rights specialists, etc.

Three days, three themes: terrorism, discrimination and poverty

The Forum was organized around three closely interrelated themes, which had been identified by the Scientific Committee of the Forum as some of the most pressing issues on the human rights agenda today: *Terrorism and Human Rights*; *Globalization and the Struggle against All Forms of Discrimination and Exclusion*; and *Poverty as a Violation of Human Rights*. Each of these themes was examined and discussed during the three plenary sessions of the Forum (see following pages). In order to ensure the highest degree of interaction between the speakers and the public, the sessions started with the presentation by an expert of a discussion paper on the topic of the day. Following the presentation, panelists were invited to comment on the discussion paper before giving the floor to the public. The debates were greatly enriched by the contribution of participants from all walks of life.

In addition to the plenary session, a series of parallel round tables, which were organized in the afternoon, highlighted specific aspects and features of the three major themes. Some of the round tables were organized by external partners, others by UNESCO. The themes included topics such as *Media and terrorism*; *A human rights based approach to poverty eradication: strategies and experiences from the field*; and a round table on *Human Rights Education*.

A challenge: strengthening the international and national human rights frameworks

The Forum was also the occasion for an exchange of more general views about what needs to be done in order to reinforce the international human rights framework. Bertrand Ramcharan, Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights who spoke at the opening ceremony, pointed out that the current crisis in the application of human rights and humanitarian law calls for a strengthened role of the United Nations and its institutions, especially the Security Council and the International Court of Justice. He emphasized that efforts should be pursued at the national level, where the effective implementation of human rights would require the adoption of relevant legislation, judicial

➔ Mobilizing civil society

The Forum of Human Rights mobilized many members of civil society and local associations in Nantes. Showing the strong commitment of the citizens of Nantes to human rights and their support for the Forum, a committee of about 80 local NGOs organized complementary debates, cultural events, and activities throughout the City, prior and in parallel to the Forum, from 11 to 20 May 2004. ¶

mechanisms and education initiatives. He stressed that “All Governments must be held accountable for abiding by international human rights and humanitarian law”. Turning to one of the themes of the Forum, he called for the setting up of mechanisms to detect and prevent discrimination adding that “National courts should be vested with the competence to hear claims from the victims of poverty in situations where they consider that the government could have acted to prevent it but has failed to do so”.

Jean-Marc Ayrault, Mayor of Nantes, underlined the importance of finding, at the multilateral level, responses to human rights crises occurring in a given country and stressed that the rule of law should prevail over the use of force when dealing with complex challenges such as the fight against terrorism. He also indicated that the need to enforce the right to economic and social security is the main challenge of today in the developed countries and especially in countries where large sections of the population live below the poverty line. Jean Favier, President of



Page 12: Concert during the opening ceremony of the Forum.

Left: Bertrand Ramcharan, Acting United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, speaking at the opening ceremony.



→ the French National Commission for UNESCO, insisted that all actors should work together to ensure the rule of law and social justice, to provide equal opportunities for all and to eliminate poverty.

An innovation: bringing together all actors on an equal footing

As stated by Kari Tapiola, Executive Director of the Standards and Fundamental Rights at Work Sector of the ILO, “More systematic dialogue is needed within and between emerging networks of State and non-State actors... These dialogues need to take place at all levels. They should be able to provide a basis for more coherent action to link economic progress with employment and social justice. The Forum here in Nantes brings together actors from various disciplines, on an equal footing, to discuss and deepen the knowledge base of critical issues which face our world today. The added value of the Forum is that it promotes a dialogue from a human rights based perspective, with the aim of finding solutions... All too often, we stop at the identification of the problems, without finding the solutions and building the bridges to them”.

The Forum also received wide media coverage, including local, regional, national and international press, radio and television. Many articles emphasized the innovative and inclusive character of the event where all categories of human rights actors had a chance to freely debate and exchange views on pressing challenges to human rights.

A need: creating a space for open dialogue

For three and a half days participants debated freely about complex and pressing issues. Though a number of controversial and sensitive issues did give rise to some heated debate, for instance concerning the situations in Iraq, in Palestine and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the spirit of constructive discussion, mutual respect and a responsible dialogue prevailed. While diverse opinions were expressed, the Forum’s main feature was thus open dialogue rather than confrontation.

The World Forum on Human Rights proved that there is a need for a space for such a dialogue. UNESCO, drawing upon its ethical and intellectual mandate and its functions

as a laboratory of ideas and catalyst for international cooperation, put forward the initiative of this Forum to complement the efforts of other members of the United Nations system and to respond to its constitutional mandate “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms...”. Representatives of UN agencies and other IGOs concurred on the need to continue such efforts and expressed their interest in becoming more closely involved in the future.

Many participants were supportive of the idea that Nantes could become for human rights what Porto Alegre is for social issues and Davos for the economy. This opinion was formulated by several people, in particular Abdelfattah Amor, Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations and Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of religion or belief. During the closing ceremony, the Mayor of Nantes expressed his hope that the World Forum on Human Rights in Nantes would be institutionalized.

For all those working to build a world order based on human rights, the World Forum was a major encounter – a place to step back and gain a new perspective on the challenges ahead and the ways to address them. As expressed by Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, “Times as dangerous as these call for investing in reflection with priority given to ethics, reason and honest dialogue. We have nowhere else to go apart from this Earth which belongs to us all. It is not as though anyone from another planet will be arriving to solve our problems or, in desperation, put an end to everything. Removed from distractions, our challenge here and now is to think together and to motivate one another before returning to our respective tasks and daily struggles”. ¶

Jeanette Blom et Christine Allen

www.unesco.org/shs/humanrightsforum

“Activists from all over the world mark respect for human dignity... They’re here to understand, reflect and learn.”

Presse Océane, 19 May 2004.

➔ Cultural events

During the World Forum, the Nantes City Congress Centre, which hosted the meeting, became the centre of a series of cultural events. A new exhibition of royal wall hangings, presented by the City of Schoelcher, Martinique, and produced by craftsmen and women from Benin, was held to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the abolition of slavery. A series of films and documentaries relating to the themes of the Forum were shown in partnership with the television channel ARTE, and several concerts were organized with music and artists of different cultural traditions. ¶



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➔ For more information

A publication on the Forum, based on the reports of the rapporteurs of the plenary sessions and the round tables, is scheduled to be released in late 2004. Statements and documents of the Forum, as well as news on the latest follow-up, are available on the following website: www.unesco.org/shs/humanrightsforum ¶

Dossier

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Globalization and the struggle against all forms of discrimination and exclusion

Racism, discrimination and xenophobia have existed in one form or another throughout history. Despite the fact that equality and non-discrimination are recognized as basic principles in the international system of human rights protection, discrimination persists.

Globalization encourages the free flow of people, information, goods and capital, but it also engenders inequality, excludes peoples from global dynamics and generates discrimination. The latest economic, scientific and technological strides are giving rise to new kinds of exclusion. New forms of racism, xenophobia and discrimination are spreading in economic, social and cultural areas.

Addressing the roots of racism

The plenary session of the Forum on Tuesday 18 May, which focused on the issue of how to combat discrimination and exclusion in a globalized world, was introduced by Mr Doudou Diène, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. He highlighted that, despite well-developed legal standards and mechanisms, discrimination persisted and new forms and manifestations were emerging all over the world. Some speakers noted that efforts to counter discrimination were sometimes

overshadowed by the priority given to the fight against terrorism. This new ordering of priorities often led to the creation of new categories of victims.

The keynote speaker emphasized that the struggle against discrimination should also address the roots of racism, underlining that slavery and the slave trade are at the origin of many racist stereotypes of today. A panelist stressed the need to address culture and the various systems of values as underlying factors of discriminatory practices. Many speakers underscored the impact of poverty and migration, as well as of power relations within societies, and called for a special focus on discrimination against women. The role of the media and of new information and communication technologies to the propagation of hate speech and prejudices was another issue of concern for many.

Round tables

The Plenary Session was followed by a series of round tables addressing more specific issues, such as the round tables on *Discrimination against people with disabilities: from discrimination to social participation*; *Women, Fundamentalism and Human Rights*, and *Language and Cultural Diversity and Human Rights*. ➔



Poverty as a violation of human rights

→ Poverty, especially extreme poverty, undermines human dignity. Having no access to food, shelter, education and health facilities constitutes a violation of social and cultural rights and impedes the enjoyment of other civil and political rights. However, the awareness of poverty's many dimensions and its recognition as a human rights violation by the international community and the entire United Nations system is quite recent. These dimensions were at the heart of the debate of the third plenary session of the Forum, which took place on 19 May.

An approach based on human rights

In his introductory presentation, Mr José Bengoa, Member of the United Nations Sub-Commission for the promotion and the protection of Human Rights, stated that the alarming increase of poverty in many parts of the world together with the failure, so far, of policies and actions to change the situation called for a human rights-based approach to poverty eradication. He stressed that this new paradigm which was in line with the principle of the indivisibility of all human rights entailed obligations binding upon States and non-State actors.

One speaker highlighted the relation between rights and needs and the importance of accessibility to justice. Many participants agreed that a participatory approach and broad

cooperation in building poverty reduction strategies are indispensable. One speaker suggested that a more effective approach would be to emphasize the contribution of the fight against poverty to security and peace rather than focusing blame solely on States and non-State actors. According to another speaker the value of a rights-based approach in fighting poverty lies more in the reordering of priorities and less in the denunciation of human rights violations and the attribution of responsibility.

Round tables

Many speakers agreed that a human rights-based approach is the cornerstone of the fight against poverty. This was reiterated by the UN agencies and bodies participating in the round table organized by SHS on the subject. Several other round tables focusing on ways and means to eradicate poverty were organized on themes such as *The very poor lead the way to the indivisibility of human rights* and *Globalization of knowledge and education*. ¶

Human rights and terrorism

Terrorism is a violation of fundamental rights – the first of which is our right to life – and it poses a serious threat to democracy and the rule of law. Terrorist acts are attacks on human rights, which cannot be justified by any cause or ideology. At the same time, the fight against terrorism cannot justify the deprivation of certain fundamental rights nor must it endanger the achievements and foundations of the rule of law and democracy. Protecting and promoting human rights must be an integral part of the fight against terrorism.

This dual challenge was the subject of the first plenary session of the Forum, which took place on Monday 17 May. In introducing the debate, Mr Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, gave a brief overview of the actions taken by the UN system in the fight against terrorism and clarified UNESCO's role in this field as an intellectual and ethical organization, in the eradication of intolerance, discrimination, inequality and ignorance which provide fertile ground for terrorism.

“Like the Davos Economic Forum, UNESCO is striving to build a connection between those who think and those who act on these issues.”

Le Point, 15 April 2004

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

Conformity with international legal standards

The participants in the panel, while strongly condemning the spread of terrorist practices, deplored the growing tendency to justify the curtailment of several human rights in the name of security and underlined the non-derogable character of certain human rights (e.g. the right to a fair trial, the presumption of innocence, the prohibition of torture). They insisted that “law-free zones” should not exist and that all actions against terrorism should be carried out in full conformity with international legal standards.

Some speakers stressed that the UN should react more effectively to human rights violations committed within the framework of the fight against terrorism. The creation of an independent expert

group to monitor respect for human rights when fighting terrorism was proposed as a possible solution to the inherent limitations of UN human rights treaty bodies. Some speakers stressed that the fight against terrorism would be much more effective if coupled with preventive action, including the struggle against discrimination and poverty. Many speakers insisted that education should play an important role in this regard.

Round tables

Following the plenary session, specific issues relating to this theme were debated at a series of round tables, for instance on *The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism*, and on *Media and Terrorism*. ¶

➔ Guest speakers of the World Forum

Abdelfattah Amor
Jean-Marc Ayrault
Taieb Baccouche
José Bengoa
Paul Bouchet
Khémais Chammari
Rao Chelikani
M. Alexander Cherkasov
Brice Dickson
Doudou Diène
Andreas Eshete
Jean Favier
Gérard Fellous
Loubna Freih
Diego García-Sayán
Joseph Ingram
George N. Jabbour
Hina Jilani
Anders B. Johnsson
Sidiki Kaba
Gabriel Keller
Berma Klein Goldewijk
Stephen Marks
Xavier Michel
Florizelle O'Connor
Amii Omara-Otunnu
Khaled Ramadan
Bertrand Ramcharan
Gloria Ramirez
Pierre Sané
Kari Tapiola
Joël Thoraval
Michel Tubiana
Steven Wagenseil
Beate Winkler

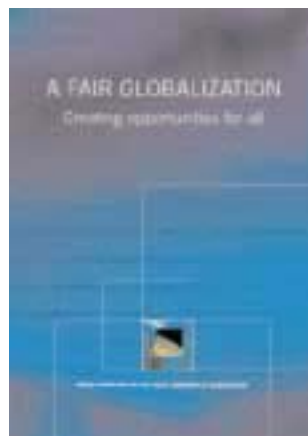


Jean-Marc Ayrault, Deputy, Mayor of Nantes and Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO

“Nantes – world capital of human rights. Close to 1000 participants assembled to give greater thought to action.”

Communiqué MIF-Agence multimédia RFI, n° 228

Social dimension of globalization



Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, established by the ILO.

UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) joined hands on 7 July 2004 at UNESCO Headquarters to present and discuss the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization: "A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All".

The World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization was established by the ILO in 2002 with *inter alia* the purpose of preparing a major authoritative report on the social dimension of globalization. The members of the Commission include a Nobel Prize winner in economics, elected officials, experts in economic and social affairs, key actors from business and civil society, union leaders and academics. Co-chairs of the independent Commission are Mrs Tarja Halonen, President of Finland, and Mr Benjamin Mkapa, President of Tanzania.

The Commission strongly recommends an urgent rethink of current policies and institutions of global governance. The report "A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All" calls for a series of coordinated measures across a broad front to improve governance at both national and international levels. These include fairer rules for international trade, investment, finance and migration, measures to promote core labour standards and a minimum level of social protection in the global economy, and new efforts to mobilize international resources to meet the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

The Commission underlines that fairer rules are critical, but these will not be sufficient to ensure that globalization delivers for all people. There must also be respect for the international framework of human rights and measures to promote social justice. The report is building a global socio-economic floor, dealing with global production systems and how they can deliver on the needs of people, enterprises and countries, helping countries to construct integrated responses to globalization and coherence in action among international organizations.

The report represents a turning point in the discussions concerning what are the challenges for a fairer globalization, and which are the policies to be undertaken in order to achieve a better and more inclusive world. Several of its recommendations are of relevance for UNESCO, such as the focus on human rights based approaches, the social dimension of regional integration, the policy coherence initiatives, the establishment of a Global Policy Forum and the preparation of a regular State of Globalization report, as well as the chapters on "Education, skills and technological capacity" and "Local values and cultural heritages".

A role for MOST

The chapter on "More systematic research programmes" is especially pertinent for the MOST Programme. Among the recommendations are a call for "... general support to existing multidisciplinary task forces and policy forums which bring together researchers, policy-makers and civil society networks to identify viable options in these and other domains". MOST Phase II and its focus on research-policy linkages is contributing to implement this recommendation. It was because of the high relevance and quality of the report that MOST wanted to show its contribution and commitment to the follow-up to the report by co-organizing an event focusing on the content of the report with ILO and ISSC at UNESCO Headquarters.

Following the words of welcome from MOST (represented by Mr Gonzalo Abad-Ortiz), ILO and ISSC, the Report was presented by two of the Commission members, Mrs Ruth Cardoso, President of the Programa Capacitação Solidária, Brazil, and Mrs Aminita Traoré, author and Director of the Centre Amadou Hanyrat Ba (CAHBA), and one of the organizers of the African Social Forum. After the Report presentations, there were two discussion panels of high-level scientists who stated that social sciences should become more social. Attention was also drawn to the fact that many people are not only facing economic deprivation, but also knowledge deprivation. The event generated ideas for further reflection which hopefully can be built upon.

Great interest was shown in the event: attendance was around 130 with strong representation on the part of UNESCO's Permanent Delegations, NGOs, researchers and members of the Secretariat. In response to the interest and positive feedback, MOST/ILO/ISSC will be issuing a brochure or publication of the proceedings. ¶

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The Commission report is available at: www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdgc

WORLD URBAN FORUM

UNESCO is the main partner in this year's Universal Forum of Cultures in Barcelona (see also page 5 the interview with the Mayor of Barcelona). During the Forum, which runs from 9 May until 24 September, UN-Habitat is holding its second World Urban Forum on the theme "Cities: Crossroads of cultures, inclusiveness and integration?" (13 to 17 September). This will include Partners Dialogues and Networking Events.

UNESCO is taking part in two of the Partners Dialogue sessions and organizing three of the Networking Events.

"Dialogue on Urban Realities – Best practices in fighting discrimination and exclusion in cities" will be held on 14 and 15 September. The second Partners Dialogue session is "Dialogue on Urban Governance – Democratic urban governance as a key mechanism of partnerships towards public regulations", scheduled to take place on 16 September.

Networking events

UNESCO is also organizing three Networking Events, the first of which is a Round Table of experts on "Social sustainability in historical districts".

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The second Networking Event is "Cities as world heritage" scheduled for the morning of 14 September. This is being organized by UNESCO's Culture Sector.

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The third Networking Event "Rivers and Urban Culture", to be held in the afternoon of 14 September, is being organized by the Culture and Natural Sciences Sectors.

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<http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2004/default.asp>

For more information on any of the above, please contact UNESCO's Focal Point for the World Urban Forum: g.solinis@unesco.org

PATHWAYS OF THOUGHT AND DIOGENES

Diogenes 202. The results of the International "Encounter of Rationalities", held in Porto-Novo, Benin, in August 2002, have just been published in English in issue 202 of *Diogenes*, the International journal of the ICPHS.

Diogenes 206. The results of the International Pathways of Thought Symposium on "Emerging Humanisms", held in Alexandria, Egypt, in December 2003, have just been published in French.

The English version is expected soon. ¶

www.dioгене.org

TRAINING IN HUMAN RIGHTS, CITIZENSHIP AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN SENEGAL, BURKINA FASO AND MALI

Within the framework of the promotion of human rights, UNESCO launched a training project on human rights, local democracy and citizenship for local representatives (see *Newsletter 05*). The project is funded by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the plans are to organize 20 training modules in human rights, participatory democracy and local governance. The training courses will take place in the Kidal, Ségou, Gao and Bamako districts as well as in the provinces of Boukhiemdé, Houet and Tuy, and for Burkina Faso, in the capital, Ouagadougou.

The training courses will be conducted as a participatory process, and will comprise several sessions: one training session will be for expertise, two sessions for local representatives and civil society leaders, representatives of decentralized services of the State and development partners. Radio programmes

will be broadcast to provide the public with general information on the project. Focal points have already been designated in the Ministries of the territorial Administration of the country concerned for follow-up and implementation of the activities. With regard to Mali, the plan is to create an inter-ministerial pilot committee around the project in order to involve other State structures as well as civil society. It is also planned to create synergies among all the partners engaged in this field. The UNESCO Bamako Office chairs the group on human rights, so exchange and sharing of experiences will take place within this framework. ¶

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HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Human Security Network took place in Bamako, Mali, from 27 to 29 May 2004.

Around twenty Member States of the Human Security Network attended. Mali held the Presidency of the Network in 2003 and this year it is Canada. UNESCO contributed to the implementation of the Network activities by

translating the training manual "Understanding Human Rights" into Arabic. ¶

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The HSN manual can be currently consulted in English at www.etc-graz.at/human-security/manual/modules/Manual%20komplett.pdf

Studying social transformations



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Every year, Headquarters and Field staff from UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences meet for four days of intense debate to exchange information, experiences and views about the Sector's activities. It is the occasion to discuss how to carry the work of the Sector forward and adapt its strategies and programmes to an evolving world context.

This year, the SHS Retreat took place from 28 June to 1 July in Gressy, France. Several guest speakers had been invited to present subjects relevant to the Sector's work, namely the issues of social transformations, research-policy linkages and best practices (see boxes).

The mission of the Social and Human Sciences Sector is to advance knowledge, standards, and intellectual cooperation in order to facilitate social transformations conducive to the universal values of justice, freedom and human dignity. UNESCO is the only UN agency which has the social and human sciences in its mandate, and an important part of its role is to further intellectual cooperation and exchange. But working with universities and research institutes is not an end in itself; it has to be for a purpose. This is why SHS seeks to encourage academia to address issues which will help decision-makers design policies that could bring about social changes in line with the values of the Organization. The concept of social

transformations thus lies at the heart of the Sector's mission.

According to one of the guest speakers, Professor Siebers from the Department of Organizational Sciences at Tilburg University (The Netherlands), the study of social transformations provides a new conceptual framework for interlinking research and policy on critical issues of our times. This requires analysis of the processes of radical social change which give rise to some of the problems society is faced with today – such as increasing inequality, rising fundamentalism and emerging violence – and relevant knowledge needed to tackle these problems must be retrieved and unlocked.

The study of social transformations is relatively new for the social and human sciences, and it still requires more attention to be mapped out. Although some processes may be encompassing the globe and are relentless in their drive and dynamics, the ways they affect specific people and the way in which they are being dealt with always differ from one place and epoch to another. Global trends need to be broken down into specific processes that have specific meanings for specific people. Accompanying and unfolding this kind of knowledge is essential in order for SHS to assist decision-makers in designing policies that can bring about social transformations leading to the values that UNESCO is seeking to promote. ¶

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➔ Promoting best practices

One way of encouraging positive social change is by identifying and disseminating knowledge about best practices relevant to the goals to be obtained. Mr Nicholas You from UN-Habitat in Nairobi, spoke about how to assess and manage knowledge of best practices.

The UN defines best practices as initiatives that have demonstrable and tangible impact on people's lives and result from effective partnerships between the public, private and civic sectors of society. Another criterion is that they must also be socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.

UN-Habitat's original call for best practices was launched in 1996 during the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) as a means of identifying solutions to some of the most pressing social, economic and environmental problems facing an urbanizing world. They are now widely used within and outside the UN system. SHS, which has already used this approach – concerning indigenous knowledge, for example – will collect and disseminate best practices in areas such as women and conflict resolution, and poverty eradication. ¶

➔ Examples of good practices: the ADVA Center in Israel and the Institute of Economic Affairs in Ghana

Leaders of two NGOs – the Institute of Economic Affairs of Ghana (IEA) and the ADVA Center for Information on Equality and Social Justice in Israel – presented their experiences in working with academics and decision-makers to further ideals of democracy and social justice. Both NGOs represent examples of best practices: they have efficiently managed to establish research-policy linkages, in particular by working with parliamentarians and the media, and by generating increased public debate.



Action-oriented policy analysis

The ADVA Center (*adva* means “ripple” in Hebrew) defines itself as an action-oriented policy analysis centre. It works to promote equality and social justice in Israeli society through policy analysis and advocacy. Its network of committed scholars and researchers produces analyses and policy recommendations that integrate dimensions of gender and ethnicity. Its principal task is to monitor social and economic trends as well as fiscal policies. According to Dr Shlomo Swirski and Ms Barbara Swirski, who presented the activities of the Center, it has established itself as a reliable source to which policy makers and the media turn for a second opinion on government economic and social policy, and contributes to enrich parliamentary debate by proposing policy alternatives. Its annual reports provide a concise view of major social and economic trends and are widely quoted by the media.

For more information: www.adva.org



Public policy think-tank

IEA, Ghana’s first public policy think-tank, was founded in 1989 with a view to broadening the debate on public policy, generating private sector-led economic growth and strengthening the pillars of democracy. Mr Charles Mensa, President of the IEA, explained how the Institute regularly brings together Parliamentarians, Ministers of State, business leaders, representatives of donor countries, academics and civil society to deliberate on national policy issues. It also organizes training programmes and workshops for key institutions of democracy such as Parliament, the media and civil society organizations.

By bringing the world of ideas and action together, the IEA translates academic research and analysis on policy issues into more practical information, and makes recommendations for policy makers. Through its numerous publications, the Institute makes relevant information available to the Ghanaian public and contributes to raise the level of debate on numerous policy issues. ¶

For more information: www.ieaghana.org

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MOST PREPARES ITS FUTURE

From 2 to 5 July 2004, at UNESCO Headquarters, the MOST Programme organized the first Joint Meeting of its newly appointed Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the MOST IGC Bureau members. During the meeting, Professor Nazli Choucri, a renowned political scientist at MIT, Cambridge (USA), was unanimously elected Chairperson of the SAC. During three days of extensive deliberations, both SAC and IGC Bureau members assisted the MOST Secretariat in fine-tuning its action with a view to bridging more efficiently research, policy and practice, improving impact and producing synergies – in strategic, programmatic and geographic terms. Special emphasis was placed on the coalition strategy of MOST-Phase II. The International Social Science Forum to be held in September 2005 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, will advocate the usefulness of comparative social science research for clients as diversified as Ministers of Social Development, advocacy NGOs and UN agencies. ¶

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Academics and film-makers “Together with Migrants”

Every year in China, about 100 million people migrate from rural to urban areas. In order to gain insight on the various dimensions of this phenomenon, UNESCO's Beijing Office devoted 8 July 2004 to academic debate, films and discussions with the general public.

The events were organized within the framework of UNESCO's “Together with Migrants” project. The overall aim of the project, which began in 2002, in partnership with the Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), is to break through the discrimination gap separating rural labour migrants from city dwellers and to help migrants integrate with the rest of urban society. A radical change in law and policy as well as in mentality and behaviour is clearly needed. So “Together with Migrants” is not only fieldwork in the eight Chinese pilot sites with 20,000 migrants as beneficiaries, but it also involves scholars, the general public, and national and local policy-makers. Chinese society as a whole needs to be involved in order to move forward on this issue of gaining greater respect for the human rights of migrants, whose fundamental rights are still violated.

Discussions and documentaries

The discussion panel “Urban poverty and rural to urban migration in China” was organized on the occasion of the 36th World Congress of International Institutes of Sociology, with the support of CASS. The four speakers stressed the need for a non-discriminatory approach on Chinese migration policy, proposing useful strategies for fighting discrimination in the different aspects of migrants' daily lives. The main concerns were elementary education for migrant children, employment and supportive systems for migrants, as these represent key elements for managing the flow of migrants. Central government was called on to take immediate action.

The discussion then moved to a cinema where Chinese film-makers, involved in the issue of migration in China, presented their documentaries on migrant workers. The films* shown were Wang Shiqing's “Drifting Dust” – a 50' documentary made in 2002 – and a ten-minute excerpt of Wu Wenguang's 60' film, “Dance with Farm Workers”. Both films focus on the difficulties migrant workers face daily in their urban environment. The aim was to team artistic expression with research – academic research in the social sciences, day-to-day fieldwork of the poverty project and the independent Chinese film industry on social issues.



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Cinema, a powerful tool for mobilizing

The films were shown in order to interest Chinese society in crucial social issues such as poverty, social integration and rural labour migration, and to draw attention to UNESCO's activities helping migrants, especially young women. The screening was followed by a debate among the film-makers, social scientists and migrants themselves, to explain and discuss the Chinese migration phenomenon and migrants' actual needs.

The creation of policies dealing with social inequalities and political and legal reforms can only result from a combination of two processes: *top to bottom* – (from State to society) and *bottom to top* (from society to the political sphere). The screening – attended by artists, scholars, UN agency representatives, diplomats and journalists as well as the general public – was an important step in the bottom-to-top process for the creation of new migration-related policies. Indeed, the day's activities showed how all actors should be concerned by the poverty and social exclusion of migrants.

SHS/Beijing has already fixed the next appointment with film-makers involved in migration issues in China, and a further two screenings will be held in October and December of this year. ¶

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* For a synopsis of the films, see the SHS website agenda: www.unesco.org/shs

ONG et gouvernance dans le monde arabe

Eds. Sarah BEN NÉFISSA, Nabil ABD AL-FATTAH, Sari HANAFAI and Carlos MILANI. Paris, 2004, Karthala – CEDEJ, 2004, 421 pp. ISBN 2-84586-527-9

“NGOs and governance in the Arab world” is published in French only. It is a selection of papers given at a conference held in Cairo, in March 2000. The conference was organized by the MOST Programme, the Institute for Development Research (IRD), the Centre for Social, Economic and Legal Studies and Documentation (CEDEJ), and the Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies. The Conference’s main aim was to encourage scientific debate around the actual functions of NGOs as political and social actors in the Arab States.

“Are Arab NGOs positive entities for their societies or is their contribution to development and democratization overrated?” That is the core question addressed by the authors. Opinions are divided: some are optimistic and others pessimistic, but they all provide a clear picture of Arab NGOs and they show that the latter, as a whole, are not really equal to the political, scientific or ideological investments that have been placed in them over recent decades. ¶

International Social Science Journal (Issue 180 – June 2004)

Excellence in Social Science

The traditional organization of research systems is currently subjected to a range of pressures as a result of financial constraints, internationalization, disciplinary trends and the growing concern, not least in the social sciences, to relate research to emerging societal issues. In the quest for research of both high quality and strong social relevance, evaluation plays a key role. In current thinking on evaluation, the idea of excellence is of great significance, but is also far less clear than it appears at first sight. On the face of it, no one could possibly object to excellence. Who, after

all, would wish to promote inept, mediocre or even merely adequate research? However, in contemporary usage, “excellence” has a comparative rather than an absolute sense. Researchers, projects or institutions are “excellent” in so far as they count among the best. Can excellence be promoted without preferential support for the best endowing them with durable rents that may paradoxically contribute to sclerosis?

This issue also includes a second thematic section on rethinking poverty. In the official language of the international community, extreme poverty is now said to be a human rights violation. Is this coherent? And what follows if it is taken seriously? If human rights that are already formally recognized entail a fundamental right not to be confined in extreme poverty, would it be acceptable if those who suffer from it had no enforceable positive right? Conversely, however, if extreme poverty is to be actionable, upon whom is responsibility for its eradication incumbent? ¶

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Femmes et politiques urbaines : ruses, luttes et stratégies

François HAINARD and Christine VERSCHUUR.
UNESCO PUBLISHING - KARTHALA, PARIS, 2004,
103 pp. ISBN 92-3-203885-4

Published in French, “Women and urban policy: stratagems, struggles and strategies”, attempts to develop, for the general public, the results of the first phase of the study carried out by a network of research teams from seven transition countries in Eastern Europe (Bulgaria and Romania), Latin America (Argentina, Dominican Republic and Brazil), and West Africa (Burkina Faso and Senegal). This study, which has been under way since 1996, falls within the framework of UNESCO’s MOST Programme: “Cities, the environment and gender relations”. It consists of comparative research into the way in which social

relations between men and women – gender relations – have a bearing on initiatives taken by residents in order to improve their social and material living conditions. ¶

La ilusión del buen gobierno - Sociedad civil, democracia y desarrollo humano en América Latina

Eds: Manuel BERNALES ALVARADO and Víctor FLORES GARCÍA, 308 pp., UNESCO-MOST Montevideo, Uruguay, 2004, ISBN 92-9089-078-9

The illusion of good governance – Civil society, democracy and human development in Latin America (in Spanish only) is a contribution to international reflection on the situation and prospects of Latin America and the Caribbean. The collection of papers reproduced in this volume is representative of the varied, inexhaustible and increasingly intense discussion on democracy in Latin America. Going against current thinking which emphasizes the vulnerability of democracy in the region, the democratic political systems of Latin America have shown, over the years, strong resistance to the evils undermining them: poverty and particularly the increasing inequalities, dictatorships, corruption, drug trafficking and organized crime.

This publication puts together arguments from both sides: governability and human development as an extension of freedom, and a critical evaluation of the role of development NGOs. Eight chapters, beginning with “Ten fallacies about the social problems of Latin America”, and ending with “The eternal democratic dream” attempt to provide answers as to what UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Sector input should be to Latin America and the Caribbean over the next 20 to 25 years. ¶

AUGUST

7-8 August: *Criança Esperança* fund-raising campaign co-organized by UNESCO Brasília and Globo TV Network. São Paulo, Brazil. (Marlova.Noletto@unesco.org.br)

SEPTEMBER

3 September: Presentation of the UNESCO Integrated Strategy to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly. Toronto, Canada. (s.warde@unesco.org)

5 September: "Dialogue on Migration without Borders" organized by UNESCO within the 2-5 September HMI World Congress on Human Movements and Immigration. Barcelona, Spain. (p.deguchteneire@unesco.org)

5-9 September: Governance for Urban Change (48th International Federation for Housing and Planning). Oslo, Norway. (g.solinis@unesco.org)

13 September: Ethics around the world rotating conference on the declaration on universal norms on bioethics and opening of the Bioethics Documentation Centre. Vilnius, Lithuania. (s.colombo@unesco.org)

13-16 September: Second World Urban Forum (UN Habitat), organized within the Universal Forum of Cultures (Barcelona 2004). Meetings organized by UNESCO: Round table of experts on Social Sustainability in Historical Districts – Cities as World Heritage – Rivers and Urban Cultures – Dialogue on Urban Realities: Best practices in fighting discrimination and exclusion in cities – Dialogue on Urban Governance: democratic

urban governance as key mechanism of partnerships towards public regulations. Barcelona, Spain. (g.solinis@unesco.org)

15 September: Ethics around the world rotating conference on the declaration on universal norms on bioethics. Ankara, Turkey. (j.tort@unesco.org)

16-17 September: Meeting of the International Jury for the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education. Paris, France. (i.zoubenko@unesco.org)

17-18 September: Meeting of the Precautionary Principle Expert Group. Paris, France. (s.scholze@unesco.org)

18-22 September: Management of Urban Regions, 40th World Congress of the International Society of City and Regional Planners. Geneva, Switzerland. (b.colin@unesco.org)

23-24 September: Working Group on Environmental Ethics. Paris, France. (j.tort@unesco.org)

29 September: "Migration without Borders? Investigating a New Scenario". Workshop organized within the Ninth International Metropolis Conference "Co-operative Migration Management: International, National and Local Answers" from 27 September to 1 October. Geneva, Switzerland. (p.deguchteneire@unesco.org)

OCTOBER

18 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Paris, France. (c.tekaya@unesco.org)

21-22 October: Ethics teaching in Central Europe. Regional conference of experts on ethics teaching. Budapest, Hungary. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

29 October: International Conference: Legal and ethical framework for astronauts in space sojourns, co-organized with the European Space Agency (ESA). Paris, France. (j.tort@unesco.org)

NOVEMBER

2-3 November: Ethics around the world rotating conference with regional consultations on the declaration on universal norms on bioethics. Montevideo, Uruguay. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

10 November: Ethics around the world rotating conference with national consultation on the declaration on universal norms on bioethics. Seoul, Republic of Korea. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

16 November: Award Ceremony of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, within the celebration of the International Day for Tolerance. Paris, France. (s.warde@unesco.org)

18 November: Philosophy Day at UNESCO. Events organized at UNESCO Headquarters and around the world. Paris, France. (m.shino@unesco.org)

18-19 November: Working Group on Environmental Ethics. New Orleans, United States of America. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

22-24 November: Pathways of Thought International Symposium: *Readings of Utopia*. Organized by UNESCO's Pathways of Thought steering committee, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Mexico. Morelia, Mexico. (f.albernaz@unesco.org)

24 November: Ethics around the world rotating conference with national consultation on the declaration on universal norms on bioethics. Mexico City, Mexico. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

26-27 November: Meeting of the Precautionary Principle Expert Group. Princeton, NJ, United States of America. (e.kuok@unesco.org)

29 November-4 December: "Peri-Urban Landscape and Environment". First international workshop of the UNESCO Chair in Landscape Architecture and Environment. Marrakesh, Morocco. (b.colin@unesco.org)

"PATHWAYS OF THOUGHT": A SYMPOSIUM IN MEXICO

As paradigms lose their stability, the teleological issue of the perfectibility of our world takes a severe blow. The need arises most forcefully to rethink the spaces and the faces of human relations and exchanges. Should utopian thought and practice still be pursued in our day and age, or should it not? Can it be? Can it not be? Such are the philosophical issues to be discussed at the International Symposium on "Readings of Utopia" to be convened in Morelia, Mexico, 22-24 November 2004. ¶

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PHILOSOPHY IN THE PARK

For four days, from 20 to 23 November 2004, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo will be celebrating Philosophy. The events, which are being organized by the NGO Palas Athena Association, will include round tables, meetings, plays and movie discussions – all on the theme of Philosophy. The Philosophy Faculty of the University of São Paulo will be celebrating its 70th anniversary and, coinciding with their celebrations, will be a series of round tables as well as two workshops with professors from the University participating. ¶

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