



Quito Office
Representation for Bolivia,
Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



BOLIVIA
COLOMBIA
ECUADOR
VENEZUELA

**ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR THE
BIENNIUM 2014-2015**

**ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR
THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015**



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 Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela

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FOREWORD The UNESCO Quito and Cluster Office to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela¹ is pleased to present the activities to be reported for the 2014-2015 biennium, from February 2014 to December 2015, on the special occasion of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, Organisation at the service of human dignity.

At the beginning of February 2014, the Office set up a strategy to implement key actions, implying two challenges: guaranteeing effective development of the institutional strategy, and reorienting programmatic activities in the four sectors of that strategy: Education, Natural Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information. Accordingly, a substantial objective was to promote intersectorality, as a guiding principle, from a systemic perspective with an emphasis on the interrelation and the complementarity between activities that had to be implemented.

The Office has continued the labour of the previous biennium, namely:

a) The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) vis-à-vis the new Post-2015 Development Agenda, as a general reference framework.

b) The strategic objectives and lines of action defined in Document 37 C/4, Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021, and in Document 37 C/5, Approved Programme and Budget for 2014-2017.



c) The targets and groups of results defined and agreed in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). A special accent was given to this aspect, with a view to strengthening relations with each of the four Member States covered by this Office and to meet their specific needs through inter-agency action.

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¹Hereafter referred to as “the Quito and Cluster Office”.

Thus, and with attention to the above mentioned reference framework and the Organisation's mandates, the Office has stressed gender equality, a strategic cross-cutting goal and global priority of UNESCO. Education, culture of peace and inter-cultural relations configure the essence of the activities implemented, all pursuant to the principles of respect for human rights, affirmation of peaceful coexistence and recognition of diversity. These principles also comprise: freedom and citizenship; equality, equity and social inclusion; culture as an expression of multi-faceted knowledge, collective and identity-forming memory and creativity; and environmental conservation for harmonious and sustainable development.

In light of the above, the present 2014-2015 biennial report follows a structure based upon lines of action and expected outcomes for each of the four sectors, including specific activities assumed by the Office's leadership according to their nature. These lines of action cover the different activities organised by this Quito and Cluster Office and others in which it took part such as cooperation projects designed and implemented in an inter-agency synergy with the United Nations, international cooperation agencies and extra-budgetary projects. In addition to the former lines of action, the Office provided technical support for public institutions to assist in public policy design, and experience exchange and knowledge transfer

during national and regional events organised by this Office in synergy with governmental, academic and private entities. Other relevant activities include the development of UNESCO Chairs, publications completed jointly with public and academic institutions and cooperation agencies, institutional backstopping and signing of framework agreements for inter-institutional cooperation, and support for capacity-building to improve public, community and private administration by each sector.

At the end of the document, there is a timeline of activities carried out between February 2014 and December 2015, outlining the Office's actions during the 2014-2015 biennium.

In this context, the Education Sector has focused its work on two lines of action:

Main Line of Action 1: Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all.

Main Line of Action 2: Empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens.

Priorities are related to equal and equitable access to high-quality education for all and the opportunity to build a culture of peace and to promote inter-cultural relations.

The Natural Sciences Sector has based its activities on five lines of action:

Main Line of Action 1: Strengthening STI policies, governance and the science-policy-society interface.

Main Line of Action 3: Promoting knowledge and capacity for protecting and sustainably managing the ocean and coasts.

Main Line of Action 4: Fostering international science collaboration for earth systems, biodiversity, and disaster risk reduction.

Main Line of Action 5: Strengthening the role of ecological sciences and biosphere reserves.

Main Line of Action 6: Strengthening freshwater security.

The Culture Sector has based its work on two main lines of action, which have defined their strategic direction and operational context as follows:

Main Line of Action 1: Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development.

Main line of Action 2: Supporting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, the safeguarding of the intangible cultural

heritage, and the development of cultural and creative industries.

Finally, the Communication and Information Sector's activities have followed the substantial criteria defined under two lines of action:

Main Line of Action 1: Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions.

Main Line of Action 2: Enabling universal access to and preservation of information and knowledge.

In the framework of the Communication and Information objectives, the following actions are of particular relevance. On one hand, issues involving women and media, media contents, deconstruction of female stereotypes and prevention of gender-based violence have been tackled. On the other hand, the encouragement of a new view of knowledge-oriented societies focusing on building peace, inclusion and social justice has been pursued.

Furthermore, in order to disseminate UNESCO's work and values, for the first time in this Office's institutional history, a bimonthly

bulletin has been published and distributed on a regular basis, consolidating up-to-date information about this UNESCO Office's activities, including information on the National Commissions for Cooperation with UNESCO in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. Moreover, thanks to a sustained communication strategy, this Office's institutional presence on social networks and media, measured between September 2014 and October 2015, increased significantly by over 100%.

Finally, the initiative to integrate efforts with major regional stakeholders promoted links and held coordination meetings to achieve the strategic objectives of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) as a mechanism for regional dialogue and integration. Likewise, this initiative aims to facilitate technical cooperation pursuant to the mandates of UNESCO and thereby contributes to advancing the Strategic Regional Coordination Agenda towards the fundamental goal of eradicating poverty and inequalities in the context of harmonious and sustainable development.

The future poses a great challenge of undertaking a synergistic effort within UNESCO, the United Nations agencies, the international cooperation and other interested parties. The goal is to comply with the Organisation's

mandates and those of its Member States, to define and agree on common lines of action under the new 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of global reach, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

Saadia Sanchez Vegas

Director of the UNESCO Office in Quito and Representative to Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela

EDUCATION SECTOR

The Education Sector of the Quito and Cluster Office, pursuant to the Organisation's mandates and the programme goals set forth in the Approved Programme and Budget for 2014-2017, has the priorities to work for inclusion, equity and quality of lifelong education, and to promote human rights, a culture of peace, prevention of violence, and education as a public good, which in turn are fundamental centrepieces of sustainable development.

Accordingly, in the course of the 2014-2015 biennium, the Education Sector has focused on two lines of action. The first area is related to assisting Member States in developing educational systems to promote high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all. The second area seeks to contribute to the empowerment of young students as creative and responsible world citizens.

In order to meet these goals, the Sector has offered technical cooperation through projects implemented in partnership with the governing



UNESCO has the priority to work for inclusion, equity and quality of lifelong education.
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public institutions and with the academic sector. It has promoted experience exchange on the regional level by participating in events and presenting papers on the challenges of quality and access to education. It has also contributed to defining public policies, and has provided capacity-building for this Cluster Office's Member States, in its task of moving towards the achievement of the goals of the global initiative of "Education for All" (EFA), the goals of the Post-2015 Agenda for Education and other national and international commitments, pursuant to the fundamental human right to education.

Main Line of Action 1:

Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all.

Expected result:

Strengthening national capacities for the formulation and implementation of education policies and plans within a framework of lifelong learning.

Third Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study - TERCE

On 7 and 8 April 2014, the Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE) and this Office hosted the “Thirty-second meeting of national LLECE coordinators” to agree on technical and methodological aspects to present the findings of the Third Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (TERCE).

The TERCE studied learning achievement in 15 countries of the region: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, plus the State of Nuevo Leon in Mexico. The study focused on evaluating common elements of school curricula, with a representative sampling of third and sixth-year students in primary schools of the region, which

corresponds to the fourth and seventh year of General Basic Education (EGB) in Ecuador.

On 4 December 2014, this Office participated in presenting TERCE’s findings in Ecuador, along with this country’s Ministry of Education and the National Institute of Educational Evaluation (INEVAL). This presentation highlighted Ecuador’s remarkable progress in learning achievement, analysing that the fourth and seventh years of EGB groups improved their performance in Language and Mathematics, as did the seventh grade group in Natural Sciences, scoring above the 500-point average, estimated as the region’s mean, for the first time.

“First Meeting of Regional and Sub-regional Integration Mechanisms for the elaboration of the Strategic Regional Cooperation Agenda in Social Matters for the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)”. Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The Director and Representative of the Quito and Cluster Office, Saadia Sanchez Vegas, participated from 18 to 20 June 2014 in the “First Meeting of Regional and Sub-regional Integration Mechanisms for the elaboration of the Strategic Regional Cooperation Agenda in Social Matters for the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)”. The

meeting gathered the diverse Regional and Sub-regional Integration Support Mechanisms of Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies such as ECLAC, FAO, UNESCO and ALADI to contribute to the preparation of the CELAC Strategic Regional Cooperation Agenda in Social Matters.

This Office participated as panellist in the second session on “Constructing the Strategic Regional Cooperation Agenda: Experiences in concrete implementation and proposals”, in which the “Overall outlook for access to education, literacy and post-literacy in Latin America and the Caribbean” was addressed.

This talk pointed out that an evaluation of literacy in Latin America and the Caribbean is positive, though with major challenges yet to overcome, such as raising educational quality by improving teacher training and instructional practices, making access universal, strengthening lifelong education, always with the approach of education as a human right.

This meeting enabled participating countries to share their common goals, to define top-priority needs and to establish the expected outcomes of cooperation. Gathering these inputs allowed to design shared programmes and projects to favour the citizens of CELAC Member States in vulnerable conditions, that are based on the two axis that were presented in the meeting: a CELAC Action Plan for Social Public Policies

geared towards universal access to healthcare and the Latin American and Caribbean Literacy and Post-literacy Programme.

“Public Forum: challenges to popular education in the present-day context, and diversity in forms of citizen participation”. Quito, Ecuador

The Education Sector participated on 29 August 2014 in the “Public Forum: challenges to popular education in the present-day context, and diversity of forms of citizen participation”, presenting “The right to education and to citizen participation”. The presentation highlighted the role of education in catalysing economic growth, solidarity, social justice and environmental protection, based on inclusion and equity.

This event was organised by the Council of Popular Education of Latin America and the Caribbean (CEAAL) to reflect more deeply on the role of adult education in strengthening participatory democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also discussed the current situation, the challenges in popular education, and the importance of mainstreaming intercultural relations, gender equity and solidary economics in all educational offerings.

“Seventeenth Latin American Education Workshop: Freedom in education for peoples’ development”. Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia

The “Seventeenth Latin American Education Workshop: Freedom in education for peoples’ development”, held from 25 to 27 September 2014, was organised by the Federation of Private Educational Associations of Latin America and the Caribbean (FAEPLA) to discuss and reflect on issues of educational quality in high-schools, technical and technological institutes, and universities of the region.

The Education Sector presented the lecture “Cultural diversity and Inter-cultural relations in Education”, emphasising UNESCO’s mission to contribute to guaranteeing the fundamental human right to education and promotion of intercultural dialogue. The importance of education enriches cultural diversity and generates direct and positive impact on inclusion, equity, the social fabric, governance and the exercise of citizenship, which all directly influence the building of inclusive and sustainable societies.

The paper showed how intercultural education fosters culture of peace, and discussed the challenges faced by teachers, students, schools and families to incorporate the principles of intercultural education in educational

contents, particularly in classroom practice and in achieving harmonious relations among all stakeholders involved in the educational process.

Presentation of the EFA Global Monitoring Report at the “Second Andean Meeting on the Culture of Peace: the role of Education for All”. Cali, Colombia

On 16 and 17 October 2014, the Quito and Cluster Office, in coordination with the Pontifical Xavierian University of Cali, the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador and the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (FLACSO), organised the “Second Andean Meeting on the Culture of Peace: the role of Education for All”. This initiative discussed the findings of the EFA 2013-2014 Report and reflected on the important role of teachers and social communicators in promoting a culture of peace, non-violence and inter-cultural understanding.

Public policy-makers from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, experts on culture of peace, teachers, academics, students and representatives of the civil society interacted in the different exchanges organised around the Meeting’s lectures. This Office’s Director and Representative presented the “EFA Global Monitoring Report for 2013/2014 – Teaching and Learning”. The event was structured around thematic panel discussions: “Culture

of peace, non-violence and inter-cultural experiences with the Ministries of Education in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru”, and working sessions on “Education for Peace”, “Inter-cultural relations for Peace” and “Journalism for Peace”. Participants attended two cultural presentations inspired by culture of peace and non-violence: “Tumaco Peace Theatre” and “Art Resists, Art Transforms for an Education for Peace”.

Regional Ministerial Meeting: “Education for All in Latin America and the Caribbean: Stocktaking and Challenges Post-2015”. Lima, Peru

On 30 and 31 October 2014, the Regional Ministerial Meeting on “Education for All in Latin America and the Caribbean: Stocktaking and Challenges Post-2015”, organised by the Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC/ UNESCO Santiago) and the Peruvian Ministry of Education, was attended by this Office.

Strategies to support the Member States of this Cluster Office enabled a critical review of countries’ progress to accelerate the achievement of “Education for All” (EFA) goals, consolidating basic information to estimate progress with the efforts made, and reporting on key challenges in the discussion on the Post-2015 Education Agenda and the global programme defined in the “Global Forum on Education for All”.

Presenting the publication: “Fiscal Magnifying Glass: The Ten-Year Education Plan and the focus on human rights through the public budget”. Quito, Ecuador

On 21 November 2014, at Simon Bolivar Andean University, this Office participated in the launch of a publication of the Faro Group, “Fiscal Magnifying Glass: The Ten-Year Education Plan and the focus on human rights through the public budget”. This publication analyses, in terms of human rights, the public budget (2009-2013) for the eight policies of Ecuador’s Ten-Year Education Plan (PDE by its initials in Spanish) for 2006-2015. This analysis applied the principles of progressive allocation of resources, maximum resource utilisation, and non-discrimination.

The main findings presented by Andrea Yanez, author of the publication, emphasised that the eight PDE policies do follow the principle of progressive allocation of the education budget. In this respect, the policies receiving the most investment were the ones on early education, on improving educational quality and on enhancing teachers’ career training. The PDE attained its goal, and the mandate of Ecuador’s 2008 Constitution and the goals of UNESCO’s global initiative of “Education for All”, by increasing investment in education by 0.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per year.

At this event, the Office stressed the importance of increasing investment in education as a coherent and committed response by States, in their role as rights enablers and providers of education as a public commodity. UNESCO also emphasised the need to continue working for universal education by actively involving all relevant sectors in guaranteeing this fundamental right. Although many binding international treaties position education as a right that is no less important than civil and political rights, challenges remain regarding educational quality, inclusion and equity.

Commemoration of 20 Years after the Beijing Action Platform. Quito, Ecuador

In the context of the national events organised by UN Women – Ecuador in 2015 to commemorate 20 years after the “Beijing Action Platform. Action Sphere of Education and Training for Women – Progress and Challenges – Ecuador” on 29 January 2015, the Quito and Cluster Office participated, along with the National Council for Gender Equality, in a discussion workshop with students and professors from the Central University of Ecuador, the International University, the University of Cuenca and the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador.

Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Office Director and Representative, presented a paper entitled

“Overview of Education and Gender in Ecuador”, underscoring the need for further efforts to compile better statistics and construct educational indicators with a gender focus, to develop studies on the effectiveness of investment and of public policies in reducing gender gaps in education and enhancing the role of research in gender equality in education.

Discussions organised at each of the four participating universities addressed these topics: women generating scientific thinking and knowledge, indigenous women and formal education, and gender discrimination in higher education. Proposals for the higher education system included: encouraging more women to participate in exact sciences and knowledge generation, in the faculties and in higher education institutions’ decision-making and representation bodies.

“International Educational Leadership Workshop: Be Part of the Change”. Quito, Ecuador

In the framework of promoting educational quality and the culture of peace, the Quito and Cluster Office, as a strategic ally of the “International Educational Leadership Workshop: Be Part of the Change”, sponsored educational leaders of the public-school system who are engaged in promoting the culture of peace and non-violence in their schools, to take part in this workshop.

The initiative that took place on 18 March 2015 and was promoted by the Institute of Teaching and Learning (IDEA) of San Francisco University of Quito, updated educational leaders and enabled them to exchange experiences with outstanding national and international experts regarding school leadership.

“International Workshop on Systems to Evaluate Educational Quality”. Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

On 9 and 10 April 2015, the “International Workshop on Systems to Evaluate Educational Quality”, organised by the Ministry of People’s Power for Education of Venezuela, offered teachers and researchers from the country’s 24 states an experience exchange with national and international experts, with emphasis on evaluating educational quality. This activity provided support to Venezuela’s development of a National System to Evaluate Educational Quality, a platform to implement the findings of the National Educational Quality Survey conducted in 2014.

The Education Sector gave a delivered paper summarising UNESCO’s vision on education from a human rights perspective, and the goals of the Education for All Programme, issues agreed upon in the Lima Declaration for the Post-2015 Education Agenda, and progress by the Latin American Laboratory for Assessment

of the Quality of Education (LLECE-UNESCO), the overall findings of the Third Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (TERCE) and UNESCO’s different contributions to educational evaluation systems.

Book presentation: “The Ups and Downs of Educational Quality in Ecuador, 1980-2010”. Quito, Ecuador

On 22 April 2015, this Office and the UNESCO Office in Lima, along with the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) and the Institute of Higher National Studies (IAEN) presented the book “The Ups and Downs of Educational Quality in Ecuador, 1980-2010”. This initiative, under the tripartite agreement among the above mentioned institutions, began this work in 2008 to examine contributions to educational quality by the Schools as Change Agents Programme, implemented by VVOB and Ecuador’s Ministry of Education.

The research, conducted by Analia Minteguiaga, covers 30 years of public educational policy implementation in Ecuador, analysing successes and challenges of these policies through constructive criticism that is expected to contribute to the construction of national educational planning. It analyses processes to strengthen educational quality, based on co-responsibility among all stakeholders in the

educational community, to face the challenge of putting the principles of the education's new legal framework into practice.

This Office is supporting initiatives that promote reflection on educational quality, with a rights-based approach, in the framework of new development paradigms set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“International Seminar on Good Practices by the Open Schools Programme”. Brasilia, Brazil

On 12 May 2015, the Quito and Cluster Office, represented by Saadia Sanchez Vegas, participated in the “International Seminar on Good Practices by the Open Schools Programme”, organised by the UNESCO Office in Brasilia, to gather the UNESCO Offices in Latin America to exchange progress, experiences and best practices in the use of the Open Schools Programme methodology.

The Open Schools Programme is an educational policy experience of great relevance due to its contributions and the positive results from its implementation in reducing and managing violence in schools by consolidating community social capital for preventive purposes, as well as training school stakeholders in skills to protect them from interpersonal violence.

In the seminar, participants discussed the Open Schools methodology, presenting case

studies from Asuncion, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, enabling a learning experience about the methodology with an eye to potential replication in other countries of Latin America.

Discussions gave rise to the proposal of joining institutional efforts among the different sectors of education to implement other experiences using the Open Schools methodology in the region, with technical support from the UNESCO Office in Brasilia.

“Meeting of National Commissions of South America”. Lima, Peru

On 25 and 26 June 2015, the “Meeting of National Commissions of South America” took place, organised by Peru's National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, in coordination with the UNESCO Office for Foreign Affairs and Public Information, which invited this Office's Director and Representative.

This meeting put in practice the opportunity to gather the National Commissions of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay in one venue, with the UNESCO Offices of the region. From Ecuador participated as observer Amparo Miranda, delegated by the Coordinating Ministry for Human Talent of Ecuador.

The UNESCO National Commissions and Offices in South America had the opportunity to

strengthen their inter-institutional relations, to share experiences and good practices in their working settings, to visualise the work done by the National Commissions with UNESCO's Offices, to support the improvement of interaction between the Commissions and the Organisation, and to coordinate the planning framework and labour within the sub-region.

Technical cooperation for the Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Colombia. Bogota, Colombia

The Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota (SED) and UNDP Colombia worked on a strategy for government transition to meet the need to ensure continuity for processes initiated by the SED administration during its 2012-2015 period, which are considered relevant for building a quality public education model in the city of Bogota.

In late 2014, SED and UNDP approached the Quito and Cluster Office to request specialised technical cooperation for qualitative assessment of four flagship programmes and the development of research inputs for a proposal for public policy on education in Bogota. In order to facilitate this process, a Framework Agreement for Inter-institutional Technical Cooperation was signed and has specifically resulted in the implementation

of the Technical Educational Assistance for the Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota and UNDP Colombia Project.

Project activities were implemented from August to December 2015 with the purpose to generate relevant information for decision-making about sustainability and replicability of the projects being analysed. The qualitative assessments will yield findings about technical-educational, pedagogical and operational aspects that should be maintained, and those that should be reinforced, so projects could generate innovations and continue implementation over a sustainable timeframe, to achieve the expected impacts in terms of educational quality.

The programmes analysed mainly addressed public proposal education for citizenship, through an innovative proposal to transform reality by linking school and community, and expanding the school-day by a curricular development strategy that values cognitive, socio-emotional and physical aspects of learning. The analysis also included the evaluation the public policy proposal by SED in Bogota for early education and, in coordination with the Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE), evaluated learning in the areas of arts, physical education and citizenship. Also, research was pursued regarding the international experiences in educating the domains of being.



School choir focus centre "Sing, Bogota, sing!" Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota, Colombia. Courtesy ©SED

"First International Congress on Education, Quality and Good Living". Cuenca, Ecuador

From 14 to 16 October 2015, the "First International Congress on Education, Quality and Good Living" took place, organised by the National Education University (UNAE) and the Ministry of Education of Ecuador, supported by this Office. This event gathered representatives of the principal institutions of education in Ecuador, and scholars and researchers from national and international universities, to reflect and show progress and

remaining problems regarding issues including: education for diversity, inclusive education and bilingual intercultural education; education for peace; education and citizenship; educational quality and flexible curriculum; instructional innovations and learning methodologies; measuring and evaluating educational quality, among others.

The Director and Representative of this Office gave a speech during this event, discussing education as a process to build peace and citizenship for the 21st century.

South-South Cooperation. Experience exchange between the Ministry of Education of Ecuador and the Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota. Quito, Ecuador

Within the framework of actions to promote South-South cooperation pursued by this Office, on 15 and 16 October 2015, the first experience exchange was held between Ecuador's Ministry of Education and the Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota (SED).

The SED presented its experience in the implementation of four emblematic educational projects set up in the District related to education for citizenship and means of linking school and community, expanding the school-day with an innovative curricular proposal for academic excellence and comprehensive education, early childhood education and evaluating educational quality in the areas of arts, physical education and citizenship.

The Ministry of Education of Ecuador shared its experiences in implementing programmes for teacher training, improving educational infrastructure, reorganising educational offerings and management by processes, and efforts to eliminate gaps in access to the right to education, through school meal programmes, school uniforms, textbooks and eliminating the registration fees.

This South-South cooperation initiative enabled the two institutions' teams to share their successes and lessons learned while implementing public policies to improve educational quality, while strengthening the bonds of cooperation between institutions and countries.

Second Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

In the follow-up to the mandates of the CELAC Action Plan for Public Policies in social matters, approved by Heads of State at the Havana Summit in January 2014, and reiterated in CELAC's 2015 Action Plan, approved in Costa Rica, the "Second Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development of the CELAC" was held on 22 and 23 October 2015.

In this Second Meeting the Strategic Regional Cooperation Agenda, in the framework of the Action Plan for Public Policies was discussed and approved, besides the evaluation of progress in eradicating hunger and poverty, especially extreme poverty and the identification of funding sources to achieve social integration goals in order to attaining concrete outcomes that will significantly improve quality of life of Latin America's citizens.

The Director and Representative of this Office was invited to participate in the Second Meeting with the objective to design a proposal for cooperation with UNESCO, to help implement actions for universal education proposed for approval on CELAC's Strategic Regional Cooperation Agenda in social matters. The Strategic Agenda will define a pathway towards inclusion and equality in education, as well as in health, food sovereignty, social inclusion and employment.

Expected outcome:

Strengthening Member States' capacities to design and implement policies to transform Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

"Course in Public Policies on Technical- Vocational Education and Training"

UNESCO is contributing to the global debate to improve Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and their role in developing more equitable and sustainable societies. The Organisation is helping its Member States to reform their TVET systems by setting standards and a global strategy for 2010-2015. One of the three main thrusts of this strategy is advisory support for public policies and related capacity-building activities in the field of TVET.

In this context, this Office, in coordination with the Regional Bureau of Education for Latin

America and the Caribbean (OREALC/UNESCO Santiago), UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and the International Centre UNESCO UNEVOC, are working on developing a sub-regional blended course on reviewing, designing, implementing and evaluating public policies for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This educational offering will be aligned with national development plans in the Member States of this Cluster Office and their respective socioeconomic goals and priorities.

The course will be designed for public policy-makers of TVET from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, and will be given in February and March 2016. Currently, the contents and the virtual delivery are being elaborated, in coordination with the *Colleges and Institutes Canada* (CICAN) that was selected to provide specialised technical cooperation to develop this course.

Technical Cooperation in Technical Artistic Baccalaureate. Ecuador

In the course of 2015, the Education Sector has been working with the High-School Directorate of the Ministry of Education of Ecuador on the design of an extra-budgetary project to expand and strengthen the offering of Technical Artistic High-School Programmes. This initiative will provide opportunities for technical education enabling early insertion in the job market and young people's access to the social and

solidary economic system of Ecuador, as well as access to higher education, in accordance with the requirements of the national development policy for comprehensive education of human capital and the change of the production matrix.

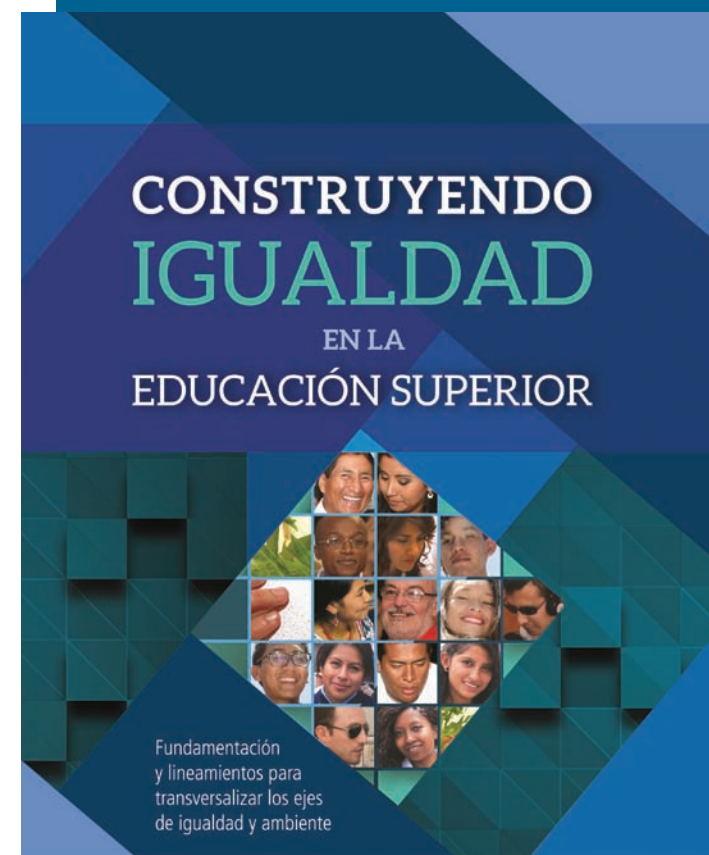
The project will specifically target the Technical Artistic Programmes on the basis of the Ecuadorian Government's interest in offering stronger, well-consolidated options to foster development of cultural and creative industries. Activities planned for this project include assessing the relevance of current vocational training, updating and surveying competencies through functional analysis, adjusting and defining curricular grids, designing instructional materials, training teachers and developing a methodology to evaluate and monitor quality.

Expected result:

National capacities strengthened to develop evidence-based higher education policies to address the challenges of equity, quality, inclusion, expansion, mobility and accountability.

Building Equality in Higher Education. Quito, Ecuador

On 19 February 2015, the Framework Agreement on Technical Inter-institutional Cooperation was signed by this Office, the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (SENESCYT), the



Book published as a result of the Framework Agreement signed with SENESCYT. ©UNESCO

Institute of Higher National Studies (IAEN), and the Public Enterprise Centre for Ongoing Education, with the objective to mainstream equality and environment in higher education.

Under this agreement, the Education Sector of this Office has joined the initiative led by the Ancestral Knowledge Coordination Office of SENESCYT to develop the publication: "Building Equality in Higher Education – Rationale and Guidelines to Mainstream Equality and Environment". This document proposes standards and guidelines to establish and mainstream gender equality, inter-cultural relations, disabilities and environmental agendas. It also includes contributions by different public and academic institutions, international agencies and civil-society organisations that have reviewed its contents.

In October 2015, the support process for SENESCYT and institutions of Higher Education began, by distributing the publication, systematically summarising good practices, and enabling synergy and experience exchange to incorporate equality and environment approaches in higher education.

Main Line of Action 2:

Empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens.

Expected result:

Peace and human rights education components in education policies and practices integrated by Member States.

"Local Capacity-building Programme for Peace and Development along the Northern Border with a Human Security Approach". Northern border zone, Ecuador

The Local Capacity-building Programme for Peace and Development along the Northern Border with a Human Security Approach was launched in September 2014, as an initiative by this Office, along with another five United Nations System agencies in Ecuador (UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and WFP) to support national efforts for development, Good Living and integrated security along the Northern border. This Office's actions to promote quality and inclusive education include several activities to guarantee the human right to quality education, by promoting the culture of peace, preventing violence and encouraging inter-cultural understanding.

On the national level, technical cooperation to Ecuador's Ministry of Education was provided to review the norms and prepare new instructions to facilitate participatory construction of school coexistence codes. This activity has been based on participatory assessment that identified the concerns and observations of educational technicians, administrators, teachers, students, parents and other stakeholders regarding the tool of codes for coexistence.

On the territorial level, a process of technical cooperation to construct and implement these

codes in 30 schools in the border provinces of Esmeraldas and Sucumbios, with a total of over 300 students, was initiated in October 2015.

Law 1732 to implement the Peace Chair in Colombia's educational system. Colombia

Under Law 1732, which institutionalises the Peace Chair at all levels of Colombia's educational system, this Office's Education Sector took part in the Inter-institutional Round Table: higher education as a vector for peace, with Colombia's National Ministry of Education, the Pontifical Xavierian University of Colombia and the Ibero-American Institute of Education in Human Rights (IDEDH). The analysis and reflection aimed at supporting the Ministry to define its guidelines and contents, and to promote peace competencies in higher education.

Furthermore, the Pontifical Xavierian University of Colombia received technical assistance which will be incorporated into the contents of its programme "Peace Chair and Pedagogy" in order to provide tools enabling teachers the planning of the Chair (Law 1732) and its implementation.

The Pontifical Xavierian University was also advised on submitting a proposal for a UNESCO Peace Chair on the basis of contributions to the "Peace Chair and Pedagogy" programme,

since this initiative will consolidate education in pedagogy and education for peace and contribute to promoting social justice, equity, tolerance, living well together and all values that are conducive to sustainable peace.

Signing of the Framework Agreement for Inter-institutional Collaboration with the Pontifical Xavierian University. Bogota, Colombia

On 17 December 2015, this Office and the Pontifical Xavierian University signed a Framework Agreement for Inter-institutional Collaboration, in order to establish and consolidate the groundwork to generate synergies and cooperation within the two organizations programmes, on the basis of technical cooperation and capacity-building. Both institutions recognise the importance of social development, training, innovation and access to up-to-date information for progress in Colombia and the region, and for educating their professionals to contribute to social, national and regional economic growth.

“Second International Congress on Building Peace in the 21st century”. Bogota, Colombia

The Quito and Cluster Office participated in the “Second International Congress on Building

Peace in the 21st century” that took place from 24 to 26 September 2014. This event was organised by La Salle University and the “Peace Letter addressed to the UN” Foundation to contribute to reflection, research, generation and dissemination of specialised knowledge on peace-building in the 21st century at the local and international level. Experts’ interventions covered six themes: historical memory, reconciliation and post-conflict; rebuilding, reconciling and resolving; culture of peace; new rural realities; women and peace; and rethinking democracies.

On this occasion, Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Director and Representative of this Office, conveyed the message from Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, highlighting women’s role in building inclusive and peaceful societies, and stating that women still offer immense un-tapped potential to produce changes in societies by using just one part of their creative capacity. She also addressed the issue of how important for UNESCO is the building of a long-lasting and sustainable culture of peace and non-violence, the everyday coexistence and restoration of ethical principles such as solidarity, tolerance, integrity, trust, respect for others, and recognising difference and diversity of all kinds – values that should be part of comprehensive education starting at very early, basic levels.

Discussion on the UNESCO Chair for Culture and Education for Peace. Quito, Ecuador

On 18 November 2014, this Office was invited to participate in the discussion workshop organised by the Private Technical University of Loja (UTPL), to present their UNESCO Chair for Culture and Education for Peace. This is one of the 763 chairs developed by the “University Twinning and Networking” (UNITWIN) Programme, a UNESCO initiative for university partnership and interconnection, addressing topics such as conflict prevention and management, inter-cultural relations and environment, sustainable development, peace and human rights, social responsibility and women as peace-makers.

This Office promotes the creation and consolidation of UNESCO Chairs and, on this occasion, congratulated UTPL for its initiative which will favour capacity-building and knowledge management in the field of culture and education for peace. This UNESCO Chair is highly relevant to the current context of threats to peace due to internal contradictions that societies and individuals face, such as unemployment, inequitable access to opportunities, unequal distribution of resources, extreme poverty, gender-based violence, disrespect for human rights and environmental degradation.

Shirin Ebadi, 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner and scholar, contributed to this ceremony. Her outstanding work for human rights has particularly emphasised children and women. Ebadi stressed the importance of teaching values associated with peace and the role that universities play in disseminating and consolidating these values in society.

Commemoration of International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. Quito, Ecuador

On 27 January 2015, the Quito and Cluster Office joined the Jewish Community of Ecuador, the Embassy of Israel, the Embassy of Germany and other sectors of the Ecuadorian society to commemorate the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

The message from Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, addressed the international community for this commemoration, emphasising that teaching the history of the Holocaust must prevent other genocides and enable young people to live a culture of peace and confront any discourses preaching racism.

The ceremony included a candle-lighting by survivors Blanchet Mintzer, Panny Markovits, Gerti Zentner, Sida Baier, Harry Rosenberg and Ana Steinitz on behalf of her mother, Trude Sojka, offering each candle to the refugees of

the Holocaust and all conflicts, to the hope and to the countries that received these refugees, to the survivors of the Holocaust, to the courage of Jewish refugees in rebuilding their lives, and to the resonance of the Holocaust for future generations who have the duty to remember.

“Regional Workshop on Orientation and Capacity Development about Education for World Citizenship in Latin America and the Caribbean”. Santiago, Chile

From 1 to 3 September 2015, the “Regional Workshop on Orientation and Capacity Development about Education for World Citizenship in Latin America and the Caribbean” took place, with the objective to deepen knowledge about world citizenship and helping to integrate it in the region’s educational systems. This Office’s Education Sector attended the workshop, beside government officials working on planning and policy, curriculum, teachers’ training, school and teachers’ health, gender equality and human rights and other topics, members of civil-society organisations working on education, youth and peace, members of teachers’ unions, and universities and international agencies.

The workshop explored the concept of education for world citizenship, using the tools and documents developed by UNESCO to implement it. It also discussed the inter-

relationship of the concept with other related fields such as the culture of peace and human rights, and education for sustainable development, among others. Additionally, it identified entry points to incorporate education for world citizenship in curricula and exchange good practices in this field.

Expected result:
Capacities of Member States strengthened to integrate Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into the education system.

Risk Management in the Educational Sector

During 2014, under the Regional Project on “Reducing disaster risks through education and science in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru”, this Office provided technical cooperation to the Ministry of Education of Ecuador to develop initial and ongoing training courses for teachers on managing natural disaster risk reduction. The courses of study included training for trainers and compliance with quality standards set by the Under-Secretariat for Professional Educational Development of Ecuador’s Ministry of Education.

On 24 and 25 July 2014, the National Forum on the “Role of Universities in Strengthening the National Decentralised Risk Management System of Ecuador” was carried out, in order

to meet the need to coordinate training supply and demand in the disaster risk management sector. This Forum involved the Secretariat of Risk Management, delegates from decentralised autonomous governments, institutions of higher education that offer training in risk management and the Undersecretariat of Academic and Professional Education of SENESCYT.

As part of that project, in August 2014, high-school students from the provinces of Manabi and Guayas participated in the national contest entitled “More education, less risk”, to raise awareness among students, teachers and administrators on the importance of risk management in the educational community, as a means of creating a culture of taking care of oneself and preventing risks.


Regional project “More education, less risk: strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience through education”. Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru

Since the beginning of the second half of 2015, in the framework of the DIPECHO 2015-2016 Action Plan, the Quito and Cluster Office and the Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC/UNESCO Santiago), in cooperation with Save the Children and Plan International, are implementing, over



a 20-month period, the regional project “More education, less risk: strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience through education” in order to contribute to building a culture of safety and resilience, through education on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and promotion of safe and protective educational environments in the South American region, with emphasis on Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru.

For UNESCO, peace-building and long-lasting and sustainable non-violence are essential. Colombia.
© Raul Peñafiel.



This initiative will promote an integrated approach to DRR in the educational sector, through three well-recognised pillars of general school safety: safe schools, risk management at the school level, and education for DRR and resilience. The project includes three areas of intervention: assisting regional, national and local authorities to lead and implement an overall framework of integrated school safety; bolstering the role of universities in risk management and outreach to local and educational communities; and promoting activities led by girls, boys and youth to reduce levels of vulnerability and enhance resilience in their schools and local communities, introducing new conceptual elements of rights and principles of protection.

This project will be implemented with the ministries of education of the beneficiary countries, national risk management agencies, universities offering training in risk management and UNASUR to promote strategies of integrating disaster risk reduction into higher education.

NATURAL SCIENCES SECTOR

The Natural Sciences Sector of the Quito and Cluster Office has based its actions on two strategic objectives as defined in the Document 37 C/4, Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021: Strategic Objective 4 “Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally” and Strategic Objective 5 “Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development”.

In order to comply with the Sector’s mandate in the Cluster Office’s Member States, including components of technical cooperation, strengthening of institutional capacities, networking and following-up on the Organisation’s key issues and promoting sustainable development strategies, this Office identified priority fields of action, covering two major areas of the Sector’s work: science policies, including indigenous knowledge with dialogue among different kinds of knowledge, and environmental sciences for sustainable use of natural resources.

The Natural Sciences Sector promotes inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary interaction with other UNESCO sectors and offices in order to



Indigenous leaders participating in the process of the Spiritual Reserves of Humanity. ©UNESCO

provide alternatives and flexible and reliable answers to complex present-day challenges. The Sector includes women and youth in particular and emphasises the work with indigenous peoples, promoting human rights and gender equality.

The Sector also works with agreements and conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Sector coordinates activities to strengthen processes rather than isolated instances with lesser impact, efficiently contributing to achieving the Organisation’s expected results.

The Natural Sciences Sector has participated in several inter-agency processes conducted by the United Nations System, such as the UNDAF and the debate on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sector also joins in celebration of international decades, years and days; in 2015, it has backstopped UNESCO’s 70th anniversary celebrations.

It has partnered with national, international, governmental, non-governmental and academic institutions, indigenous associations, civil society organisations and others working in the Sector’s field of action, including the

International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Programme (LINKS), Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) being the most active in the Member States of the Andean subregion.

During the 2014-2015 biennium, this Sector has communicated fluently with the National Commissions for Cooperation with UNESCO in the subregion. It has also kept Permanent Delegations informed and contacted embassies, such as Bolivia and the Republic of Korea, and has interacted with National Committees and Focal Points, such as for MAB and IHP.

An information, communication, discussion and visibility strategy has been designed and launched, including reflection and debate on priority topics for the Sector and publishing them in the bimonthly bulletin of this Office, on social networks and UNESCO's websites. The Sector and its activities have also been present in the press and government entities' websites, mainly in Ecuador.

During the 2014-2015 biennium, the Natural Sciences Sector has worked intensely in the Andean subregion along the following main lines of action and corresponding expected results.

Main Line of Action 1:

Strengthening STI policies, governance and the science-policy-society interface.

Expected result:

STI policies and governance bolstered nationally, regionally and globally.

Expected result:

Science-policy interface enhanced and sustainability science both promoted and applied.

Expected result:

Mutual engagement of science with society reinforced to promote equity and inclusion of vulnerable groups, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and indigenous peoples.

SPIRITUAL RESERVES OF HUMANITY

- Recognising sites with special spiritual value beyond their cultural wealth, biodiversity or potential to implement alternative development models.
- Promoting exchange among Latin American indigenous authorities and helping prepare the preliminary proposal for representatives of participating indigenous peoples to be publicly discussed and interactively enriched and validated.

Under the LINKS Programme and the IHP-LAC Water and Culture Regional Programme, the Natural Sciences Sector has shared and provided technical cooperation for preliminary

work lead by indigenous representatives of Latin America with a special emphasis on Colombia and other Andean countries to propose to the Organisation a new international nomination for sites: the Spiritual Reserves of Humanity.

Colombia's Science, Art and Culture Foundation (FUNDARCULTURA) has been a key stakeholder in this process, and on 14 August 2015 a cooperation framework agreement was signed between Compensation International Progress S.A. (Ciprogress Greenlife) and this Office to work together on Spiritual Reserves of Humanity and the IHP-LAC Water and Culture Programme.

This Sector also participated in the "Second World Conference of Peoples on Climate Change and Defending Life" in Cochabamba, Bolivia, from 10 to 12 October 2015, to contribute to construct a Culture of Life and Defend Mother Earth.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICIES – INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Science, technology and innovation (STI) are key elements to develop sustainable knowledge-based societies. National capacities drive socioeconomic development.

After consulting with the region, UNESCO is pursuing the following strategic lines of action in 2012-2017:

- Regional cooperation for STI policies,
- Information platform about scientific policy in LAC (SPIN),
- Capacities in sciences and engineering, education and popularising STI,
- Indigenous, local and traditional knowledge regarding STI policies.

In addition to the above actions with LINKS, the Natural Sciences Sector has coordinated UNESCO's participation in the First CELAC China Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, held in Quito in September 2015.

Lidia Brito, Director of the Regional Office for Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO Office in Montevideo), presented "Science and global sustainability – Challenges and opportunities for a shared Regional Agenda" at this event.

Main Line of Action 3:

Promoting knowledge and capacity for protecting and sustainably managing the ocean and coasts.

Expected result:

Scientific understanding of ocean and coastal processes bolstered and used by Member States to improve the management of the human relationship with the ocean.

Expected result:

Member States' institutional capacities reinforced to protect and sustainably manage ocean and coastal resources.

Main Line of Action 4:

Fostering international science collaboration for earth systems, biodiversity, and disaster risk reduction.

Expected result:

Global cooperation in the ecological and geological sciences expanded.

Expected result:

Risk reduction improved, early warning of natural hazards strengthened and disaster preparedness and resilience enhanced.

Main Line of Action 5:

Strengthening the role of ecological sciences and biosphere reserves.

Expected result:

Use of biosphere reserves as learning places for equitable and sustainable development and for climate change mitigation and adaptation strengthened.

Main Line of Action 6:

Strengthening freshwater security.

Expected result:

Responses to local, regional and global water security challenges strengthened.

Expected result:

Knowledge, innovation, policies and human and institutional capacities for water security strengthened through improved international cooperation.

MANGROVES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- To pursue the open initiative on mangroves and sustainable development, to reinforce

cooperation among Member States and communities living in and using mangrove resources, and to exchange successful experiences and lessons learned to sustainably manage this ecosystem and its natural heritage.

- To formulate action plans and project proposals to sustainably manage mangroves and sustainable development so that interactions among Member States share experiences to manage this ecosystem sustainably.

In late 2012, the Natural Sciences Sector applied for an Emergency Fund, and the Director-General of the Organisation approved special funding for a project on sustainable management of mangroves. In order to make this sustainable, the Sector expanded the project to a regional open initiative on mangroves and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with special emphasis on the Andean subregion countries. Project partners are the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), Conservation International (Ecuador) and since 2015, also the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS) in Ecuador.

The initiative comes under the MAB Programme and the IberoMAB Network, IHP (contributing to the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015) as well as the LINKS Programme of UNESCO, given the fact that human beings are often intimately



Sustainable use of mangrove resources. Ecological Reserve "Manglares Churute". Ecuador.
 Courtesy: ©Adriana Soto

involved with the mangrove ecosystem, benefitting from its presence, biomass and productivity. The indigenous peoples who live in its surroundings and use its resources have created local knowledge, balancing sustainable development and ecosystem conservation. In Venezuela, as an example, the Warao ("boat people") have been living in the mangrove environment of the Orinoco delta for over 7000 years.

The initiative also interacts with the SPINCAM Project (Southeast Pacific Data and Information Network for Integrated Coastal Area Management) along with CPPS and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

In the follow-up of actions of the last biennium, this Sector continues with the open initiative on mangroves and sustainable development. Technical representatives of CPPS Member States and the Action Plan for Marine Environment Protection and Coastal Areas of the South-east Pacific (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru) have decided to formulate a Regional Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangroves in the South-east Pacific (RAP-Mangroves).

This Sector is actively participating in, and co-financing, the preparation of RAP-Mangroves specifically taking into account documents from MAB and IberoMAB, including elements from IHP and LINKS.

At the same time, it is emphasizing the biosphere reserve concept, involving World Network of Biosphere Reserves sites (and sites with potential to be included in the Network) and natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

This Sector's open initiative on mangroves and sustainable development is also backing a project proposal submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with Conservation International and CPPS: "Improving mangrove conservation across the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape through coordinated regional and national strategy development and implementation". The GEF project will be implemented in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama in 2016 and 2017.

The initiative's promotional video is on-line: <http://vimeo.com/71773992>

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

Every 26 of July, the International Day for the Defence of the Mangrove Ecosystem is celebrated worldwide even though it had not been declared as an international day as such by the United Nations or any of its agencies.

Under the open initiative on mangroves and sustainable development, and preparations for RAP-Mangroves, technical representatives

of the governments of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, in view of the importance and particular characteristics of this unique and vulnerable ecosystem, formulated a recommendation for UNESCO to internationally recognise the Day.

Under the leadership of Ecuador's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, the support of GRULAC and this Sector's participation in formulating documents and conceptual guidelines, the proposal was submitted in 2015 to the Executive Board and to the Organisation's General Conference, and the Member States decided that UNESCO declares the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem.

This Sector also joined in celebrating this international day in the Environmental and Cultural Cinema Cycle, described in the chapter of the Culture Sector.

SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

The Man and the Biosphere Programme is one of UNESCO's International Science Programmes. The MAB Programme is governed by the International Coordinating Council (ICC-MAB), with representatives of 34 Member States



Mangroves in the Caribbean coast. Colombia.
Courtesy ©Adriana Soto

elected by the General Conference for a two-year term.

Andean Member States' main ecosystems are duly represented in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The network includes island, coastal, Andean and Amazonian sites. In 2014, new sites included the Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve in Ecuador. By late 2015, the World Network had 651 biosphere reserves in 120 countries, including 15 transboundary sites.

Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela belong to our planet's 17 megadiverse countries and

include particularly vulnerable sites, such as coral reefs, mangroves and moorland. Bolivia and Peru share the emblematic Lake Titicaca.

Additionally, the biological diversity goes hand in hand with cultural diversity, such as indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, who position this subregion as an ideal setting for the biosphere reserve concept as sites of excellence, to foster "harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue, knowledge sharing, poverty reduction and human well-being improvements, respect for cultural values

and society's ability to cope with change, thus contributing to the MDGs." [Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves (2008-2013), still conceptually valid, even though it has expired; also see the IberoMAB Action Plan 2010-2020].

The Andean Member States have enormous potential to work with the biosphere reserve concept on new sites, within countries and in transboundary sites. The Member States are analysing potential new biosphere reserve proposals, to combine conservation strategies for biological and cultural diversity with sustainable development for these territories' inhabitants.

The MAB Programme finds itself in a critical juncture on both regional and global level, including the approval of the new MAB Strategy 2015-2025 and the Fourth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, set for 14 to 17 March 2016 in Lima, Peru.

IberoMAB Network

The Network of MAB National Committees and Biosphere Reserves of Ibero-America and the Caribbean (IberoMAB) is reactivating after its meeting in 2011 in Tumbes, Peru. Thirty countries from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal were convoked to meet at the Sixteenth IberoMAB Meeting, held from 21 to 23 October 2015 in Barcelona, Spain.

This Meeting revitalised the IberoMAB Network and positioned Andean biosphere reserves in the regional context, strengthening IberoMAB's presence in several cooperation efforts, such as sustainable management of natural resources in biosphere reserves and special ecosystems such as mangroves.

Biosphere Reserves

- Provide technical cooperation and advisory support for integrated management of biosphere reserves in the Andean subregion and consolidate national biosphere reserve networks.
- Support initiatives to work with the biosphere reserve concept and strategies to conserve biological and cultural diversity through sustainable development.

Ideally for the MAB Programme, our entire planet could be managed as a immense biosphere reserve.

The Natural Sciences Sector promotes the network, systematic analysis, experience and lessons learned exchange among the sub-region's biosphere reserves. It assists with thematic networks and other processes at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. It supports the Network of Amazonian Biosphere Reserves, which has sites in all Andean Member States, and the "Biosphere Reserves as a Tool for Coastal and Island Management in the South-East Pacific Region (BRESEP)" project. BRESEP

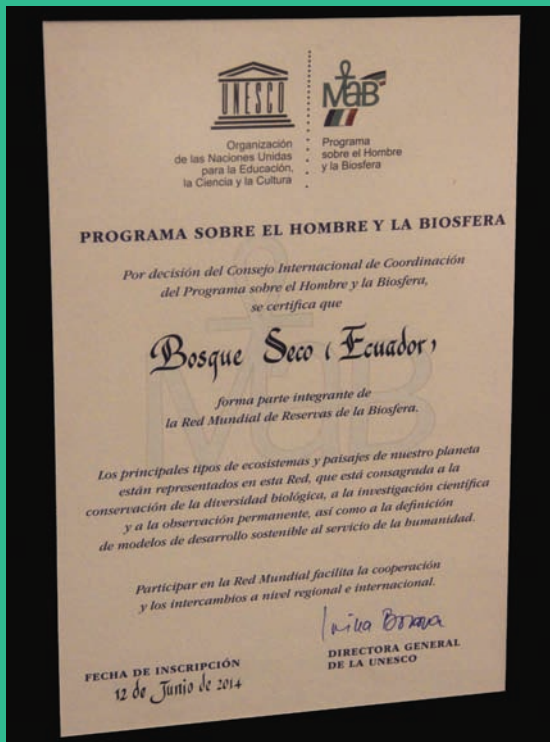
has already held meetings in Chile, Ecuador and Peru. This Sector provides technical cooperation and advisory support to leverage biosphere reserves for strategies to conserve biological and cultural diversity by sustainable development at new sites, such as the Colonso Chalupas Biological Reserve in Ecuador in coordination with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Regional Amazonian University IKIAM and the Ministry of Environment.

This Sector also helps and provides technical cooperation to prepare potential new biosphere reserve proposals, both national and transboundary. Sites already internationally recognised can be extended, rezoned, and are periodically reviewed (every 10 years). In transboundary areas, the Sector helps with preliminary actions for possible biosphere reserve initiatives, like Lake Titicaca (Bolivia and Peru), and the coastal border between Colombia and Ecuador, including its mangroves. It is also helping in the triple Amazonian border area shared by Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

It also encourages joining forces and possible twinning between the Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve of Southern Ecuador and the Northwest Biosphere Reserve of Northern Peru, a specific recommendation of the ICC-MAB of 2014 when Bosque Seco was nominated. Under the MAB Programme, the Sector has attended events at the Peruvian Oxapampa-Ashaninka-



Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve. Ecuador. Courtesy ©Ministry of Environment Ecuador



Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve certificate, awarded by UNESCO to the Government of Ecuador. Courtesy ©Ministry of Environment Ecuador

Yanesha Biosphere Reserve (Fourth Meeting of Peru's Biosphere Reserves Network; 28-29 September 2015 in Villarica) in collaboration with UNESCO Montevideo and UNESCO Lima; the Ciénaga Grande Biosphere Reserve of Santa Marta (Second Meeting of Colombia's National Network of Biosphere Reserves; Santa Marta, 2-4 December 2015); the Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve (Seventh Meeting of Ecuador's Biosphere Reserves Network; Loja, 5-6 August 2015); and the Macizo del Cajas Biosphere Reserve (Cuenca, Ecuador, 5 November 2015).

Other MAB Programme actions

- Delivery of the Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve certificate of inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Environment of Ecuador (Quito, January 2015).
- Delivery of duplicate certificates of the Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve by Ecuador's Environment Minister, Lorena Tapia, and Jorge Ellis of the MAB Programme to the mayors of the Municipal Association of the South – Bosque Seco (Loja, 5 August 2015).

Biosphere reserves and sustainable management of vulnerable ecosystems

The Sector has worked on natural resource conservation and integrated management



Archipelago of Colon Biosphere Reserve. Galapagos. Ecuador. Courtesy ©Adriana Soto

and sustainable use strategies for special ecosystems, such as mangroves.

Special Case: Galapagos

Work on special and vulnerable ecosystems has included the Archipelago of Colon Biosphere Reserve (Galapagos), Ecuador, which is also a property inscribed on the List of World Heritage. The following actions have contributed to integrated management of the site:

- In coordination with the Culture Sector, the Natural Sciences Sector represents UNESCO on the Board of the Galapagos Invasive Species Control Fund (FEIG), chaired by Ecuador's Ministry of Environment.



One of the emblematic species of the Archipelago of Colon Biosphere Reserve. Giant tortoise. Floreana Island. Galapagos, Ecuador. Courtesy ©Adriana Soto

- UNESCO is also a Governing Member in the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) General Assembly, via the Science Sector.
- The Sector supports technical and capacity-building work with this UNESCO Office's Culture Sector, e.g. for the Governing Council for the Galapagos and Sea Shepherd.

EARTH SCIENCES

Global Geoparks Network

The central idea of a global geopark is to promote territories with outstanding geological features, integrating protection of significant geological heritage into an integrated strategy

of conservation, and socioeconomic and culturally sustainable development.

As of late 2015, with 11 new sites included in 2014 and 9 in 2015, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) has 120 global geoparks located in 33 countries, including two in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Araripe Geopark in Brazil,
- Grutas del Palacio Geopark in Uruguay.

Processes underway in the Andean subregion include:

- Imbabura Geopark Project, Ecuador,
- Tungurahua Volcano Geopark Project, Ecuador.

The Global Geoparks Network gathers sites of international importance, geologically exceptional and/or their extraordinary beauty, using this heritage to promote sustainable development of the communities who live there.

Created in 2004 under the auspices of UNESCO, the GGN's primary objective is to encourage cooperation among experts in geological heritage and to promote awareness of geological risks and natural disaster mitigation strategies, such as climate change and the need to sustainably manage the planet's natural resources.

The Natural Sciences Sector has promoted experience exchange and networking with the Grutas del Palacio Geopark, the Araripe Geopark, with geoparks in Spain and France, and with other geopark processes underway in the LAC region. It is also contributing to set up the Geoparks Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Therefore, the Sector is helping raise the profile of the global geopark concept in the Andean subregion and beyond, and is positioning the region for possible international nomination of sites of excellence because of their geological heritage and sustainable development potential.

Activities promoted by the Global Geoparks Network

"Workshop on Geoparks in Latin America" (Mexico City, Mexico, 28-29 May 2015).

"Geoparks Symposium", with regional presence (Arequipa and Cañon del Colca, Peru, 14-17 July 2015).

Events and actions of GOAL (Geo-Network of Latinamerican-German Alumni).

Several events and work meetings in Ecuador, including the "First National Conference on Geoparks in Ecuador", held by the Department of Geology, Mines, Petroleum and Environment, Central University of Ecuador (FIGEMPA-UCE) (Quito, Ecuador, October 2015).

Other actions in earth sciences, risk management and IGGP-IGCP

Under the new International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP; the former International Geoscience Programme, IGCP) and capacity-building in earth sciences, this Sector has taken actions with the Department of Geology, Mines, Petroleum and Environment, Central University of Ecuador (FIGEMPA-UCE), under a framework agreement for inter-institutional cooperation between UCE and the United Nations System in Ecuador (December 2014), after long-standing cooperation like these examples, along with other counterparts:

- “Thirty-second Latin American Course on Metallogeny UNESCO-SEG-SGA” (Quito, Ecuador, 19-22 May 2014).
- “International Seminar on Risk Management –Slope Stabilisation Methodologies and Landslide Prevention” (Quito, Ecuador, 23-26 July 2014).
- “Seminar on Rock Mechanics, Geology and Geo-technology applied to Civil Engineering” (Quito, Ecuador, 29-31 July 2014)
- “First International Seminar on Enhanced Petroleum Recovery” (Quito, Ecuador, 20 July 2015).

Jointly with Ecuador’s Risk Management Secretariat and the Quito Metropolitan Potable Water and Sanitation Public Enterprise, in coordination with the Geohazard Risk Reduction



The geopark concept reflected in a church painting. Geopark Project Tungurahua Volcano. Baños de Agua Santa, Ecuador. Courtesy ©Adriana Soto

unit of UNESCO Paris, the natural disaster risk management activity “Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards in South America” (Quito, Ecuador, 23 April 2015) launched the ENHANS project (Enhancing Natural Hazards Resilience in South America) for Ecuador, which is also being implemented in Chile, Peru and Uruguay.

INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME (IHP)

The International Hydrological Programme is the inter-governmental programme for

UNESCO’s scientific cooperation with research, management, education and capacity-building regarding hydrological resources, the only scientific programme addressing this field broadly within the United Nations System.

Pursuant to its goals and through its implementation mechanisms, the International Hydrological Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean (IHP-LAC) handles the regional component of global initiatives, as well as regional and local initiatives in coordination

with the region's Member States through IHP National Committees and Focal Points.

The overall conceptual and strategic umbrella is the 8th phase of IHP, 2014-2021: "Water Security: Responses to Local, Regional and Global Challenges".

The Andean subregion is very active in the IHP and participates in multiple actions, especially the "Snow and Ice" programme, ISARM Americas (Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management in the Americas), and "Water and Culture", whose coordinator, Roberto Restrepo (Colombia), also collaborates actively with the Spiritual Reserves of Humanity.

Seventh World Water Forum

IHP had an outstanding presence at the "Seventh World Water Forum", held in the Republic of Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015. Regional participation, as IHP-LAC, included topics of water and culture, sacred sites and indigenous perspectives, heritage and related cultural expressions, and involving the Spiritual Reserves of Humanity.

Atlas of the Water Cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean (ACHALC)

The Atlas of the Water Cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean (ACHALC) is being



Island of the Sun. Titicaca Lake, Bolivia. Courtesy ©Adriana Soto


prepared under the IHP's Regional Programme on Water and Culture, to contribute to the need to recognise cultural dimensions to find sustainable solutions for water issues.

This project is collecting information on different water cultures of the region, from the oldest to the most recent ethnic groups. It highlights different strategies and technological alternatives applied to protect and use water sustainably, emphasising cultural, ethnographical, ecological and economic concepts.

In this biennium 2014-2015, ACHALC is active in Andean countries, working with the national components of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela to gradually incorporate some of them into the regional atlas.

IHP National Committees Meeting

Member States' IHP National Committee chairpersons and focal points meet every two years with IHP-LAC programme, project and working group coordinators, UNESCO



Category II Centre directors and Chairs, and special guests.

The IHP National Committees meeting provides this regional forum to report on activities performed and assess results achieved at the end of each biennium, with information exchange, discussion, coordination, and decision-making by Member State representatives for IHP implementation in the region during the next biennium.

Following-up on the previous IHP National Committees meeting, held in Mexico City in December 2013 in the framework of the closing of the International Year of Water Cooperation, the “Eleventh Meeting of National Committees and IHP-LAC Focal Points” was held from 26 to 30 October 2015 in Santiago, Chile, to plan activities for the 2016-2017 biennium.

UNESCO CHAIRS AND CATEGORY II CENTRES

The Natural Sciences Sector has helped disseminate the guidelines of the UNITWIN programme and UNESCO Chairs in the Sector’s fields of action, among interested institutions, and regarding Category II Centres.

CULTURE SECTOR

In 2014-2015, the Culture Sector of the Quito and Cluster Office has pursued its institutional mandate along two Main Lines of Action. Main Line of Action 1: Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development, and Main Line of Action 2: Supporting and promoting diversity of cultural expressions, the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, and the development of cultural and creative industries.

Based on the understanding of culture as the key to sustainable development (UNESCO, Hangzhou Declaration, May 2013), the Culture Sector has focused its activities on providing technical cooperation to build capacities in this Cluster Office's Member States, emphasising access to and practical use of UNESCO instruments such as resolutions, declarations, recommendations and conventions on culture and heritage. It has also provided technical support to improve management of cultural and natural properties, protect diversity of cultural expressions, safeguard intangible cultural heritage and use cultural and creative industries in the context of an inclusive and innovative economy.



Additionally, the Culture Sector works to integrate culture into Member States' public policies and development programmes, and to promote culture, cultural rights and access to cultural goods and services to promote and consolidate sustainable development.

Main Line of Action 1:

Protecting, conserving, promoting and transmitting culture, heritage and history for dialogue and development.

Expected result:

Tangible heritage identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 1972 Convention.

Kalasasaya Temple. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture. Tiwanaku, Bolivia. ©UNESCO

Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis (*Conjunto Conventual de San Francisco*). Quito, Ecuador

The Culture Sector, national and international experts, national and local institutions and the Franciscan Community have continued implementing the “Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis in Quito”. The plan promotes the Monastery’s conservation and guarantees its sustainability through activities to generate income for the trust created for this purpose and by implementing its four main components: Conservation of Movable Heritage, Conservation of Immovable Heritage, Sustainable Tourism, and Risk Awareness and Management.

The management system incorporates and harmonises participation of public and private institutions and other diverse actors. Its steering committee comprises Ecuador’s National Institute of Cultural Heritage (INPC), the Quito Metropolitan District Municipality (Metropolitan Institute of Cultural Heritage and Quito Tourism), the Franciscan Order, the Fray Pedro Gocial Museum and the Monastery’s Guardian.

The activities carried out during 2014 included: official launching of the Plan, publishing events and activities in the media, reaching



Atrium of the Saint Francis Monastery, Quito, Ecuador. ©UNESCO

an agreement for technical and academic collaboration between the Equinoctial Technological University and the steering committee, conservation initiatives for religious textiles and large-format easel paintings, restoring specific parts of the church and rehabilitating areas with humidity problems, thematic exhibitions on current projects, presenting the Plan at various exhibitions and forums and creating audio guides and improved tours, among others.

Activities during 2015 to consolidate the Plan include: conservation projects and setting up a

temporary exhibition, publishing about events and activities in the media, continuing with restoration projects in the church including the rehabilitation of areas with humidity problems, organising thematic exhibitions on current projects, presenting the Plan at different forums, implementing a course on managing religious heritage and tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean, and presenting commemorative postage stamps on the “Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis in Quito”, among others.

Capacity-building under the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Ecuador

In coordination with Ecuador's National Institute of Cultural Heritage (INPC) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Culture Sector helped organise a workshop to update Ecuador's Tentative List. The workshop, from 8 to 11 September 2014, included the participation of two international experts on the Convention. Representatives from the Ministries of Culture and Heritage, Environment, and Tourism, the INPC, the international experts on natural and cultural heritage from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) analysed the cultural, natural and mixed sites that are likely to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The work agenda considered concepts of outstanding universal value, authenticity and integrity of the sites proposed during the workshop. The experts also presented the primary guidelines for drafting comparative analyses, which are important in the elaboration of nomination files for the World Heritage List.

Official mission for the monitoring of UNESCO extra-budgetary projects for the conservation and safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia

The Quito and Cluster Office, represented by Saadia Sanchez Vegas, conducted an official visit from 3 to 6 June 2015, in order to meet with national counterparts and communities involved in implementing the project of "Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid" and "Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Kallawayas Communities", financed by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of World Heritage and the Safeguarding of the Intangible Culture Heritage.

The first project aims at cooperating with the State Party to implement the Management Plan for Tiwanaku, to ensure its sustainable protection and guaranteeing preservation of its outstanding universal value. The Kallawayas project objectives are linked to creating favourable conditions and capacity-building, to facilitate and ensure inter-generational transmission of knowledge to sustain this culture's traditional medicine practices.

Meetings to discuss these projects' aims and to agree on appropriate procedures for their implementation highlighted the importance of

actively involving partners and communities in joint decision-making. Thereby, the expected results contribute to protecting, preserving and safeguarding Bolivian tangible and intangible cultural heritage, ensuring this heritage is preserved for future generations' enjoyment.

These meetings convened key stakeholders of cultural institutions, local administration and communities: Ignacio Soqueré, Vice Minister of Interculturality; Marcos Michel, Director-General of Cultural Heritage, both from the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism; Julio Condori, Executive Director of the Tiwanaku Centre for Archaeological, Anthropological and Administrative Research (CIAAAT in Spanish); the municipal authorities and cantonal Mallkus of Tiwanaku, and the native authorities of the Kallawayas people.

During these meetings, this Office reaffirmed its commitment to continue backstopping the implementation of these projects.

Project on "Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid". La Paz, Plurinational State of Bolivia

In order to take the necessary measures to conserve and preserve the outstanding universal value of one of the country's most emblematic archaeological sites, a project was drafted in line with the Management Plan prepared by Bolivia, the reports from

experts' missions to the site, and decisions by the World Heritage Committee. The project, funded by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of World Heritage, includes capacity-building, conservation, equipment, awareness-raising, promotion and education, with emphasis on community participation.

The project's main counterparts are the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism of Bolivia, the Tiwanaku Centre for Archaeological, Anthropological and Administrative Research (CIAAAT), and the 23 indigenous communities from the area. The Municipality of Tiwanaku and the prefecture of the Department of La Paz also participate in the project.

The project started its implementation with an international expert mission from 10 to 14



Stone heads in the underground temple. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture. Tiwanaku, Bolivia. Tiwanaku, Bolivia. ©UNESCO

August 2015, with the objective to conduct an assessment in three main areas: risk management, education and promotion, and cultural and sustainable tourism. Additionally, work meetings were held to share the project's contents, distributing responsibilities among participants, defining technical issues to prepare complete topographic mapping of the property, acquiring the necessary specialised equipment and creating a work plan.

International Meeting: "The Historic Urban Landscape as a tool for sustainable urban development". Quito, Ecuador

Half of the world's population now lives in urban environments, in an accelerating global process of urbanisation that many experts consider irreversible. In this context cities become drivers for development both economically and socially, hence this must be sustainable and just. Conserving cities' cultural heritage has become a major challenge.

The Culture Sector, in coordination with the Metropolitan Institute of Heritage of the Quito Metropolitan District Municipality and CAF – Development Bank of Latin America, organised an International Meeting on "The Historic Urban Landscape as a tool for sustainable urban development", held in Quito from 9 to 11 September 2015. The meeting was directly linked to UNESCO's World Heritage Cities Programme and its Recommendation on the

Historic Urban Landscape, and was organised to coincide with UNESCO's 70th anniversary and to commemorate the 37th anniversary of Quito's inscription on the World Heritage List.

This International Meeting brought together over 10 experts on issues regarding heritage management in urban environments, mass tourism, resilience and risk factors, creative cities and intangible heritage, and heritage cities in the context of sustainable development. Public policy authorities from various Latin American cities – Bogota, Buenos Aires, Cartagena, Cuzco, Panama City, Santo Domingo and Valparaiso – attended the meeting.

The event's results were included in the report on the implementation of the Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape in Latin America, presented during UNESCO's General Conference in November 2015.

Additionally, recommendations from the International Meeting provide a starting point for further discussions during the Habitat III Conference, to be held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

"Symposium on the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage". Guayaquil and Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

In view of the importance of capacity-building for civil servants responsible for decision-

making, and the binding character of the 1972 Convention, the Culture Sector, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Ecuador's Judicial School, held training sessions on the 1972 Convention for 300 civil servants of the Ecuadorian judiciary.

The training, that took place from 23 to 29 September 2015, included on-line instruction and on-site courses in Guayaquil and Puerto Ayora, Galapagos. Participants included judges, prosecutors and other judiciary personnel responsible for administering justice on environmental matters, regarding the Galapagos Islands.

In addition to the 1972 Convention, the training included sessions on environmental law and involved renowned national and international experts.

"Second Forum on Sustainable Tourism on Small Islands". San Andres, Colombia

The Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina (CORALINA) and Colombia's Vice-Ministry of Tourism, invited this Office's Culture Sector to participate in the "Second Forum on Sustainable Tourism on Small Islands" that took place from 10 to 14 November 2015.

The forum for businesspersons from Colombia's tourism sector, civil servants from local and

central government and representatives from various island countries and countries with islands within their territory, presented best practices as alternatives to the mass tourism model that is spreading in the Caribbean.

It also highlighted the importance of protecting cultural diversity, the relevance of connecting culture and development and the possible benefits of a respectful and integrated approach for the tourism industry.

The participation of this Office is linked to UNESCO's programmes on cultural and sustainable tourism, such as the Programme of Sustainable Tourism under the 1972 Convention, and those regarding Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Fifth Latin-American Symposium on Physical and Chemical Methods in Archaeology, Art and Cultural Heritage Conservation (LASMACH). Quito, Ecuador

LASMACH 2015 was organised by the Chamber of Restorers and Museologists (CARME), the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (INPC), the Metropolitan Heritage Institute (IMP) Quito Metropolitan District Municipality, the Equinocial Technological University (UTE) and this Office. This academic event brought together specialists, academics and students from the fields of archaeology and conservation, with the aim to consolidate this regional forum as an initiative devoted to disseminating and

discussing latest developments, technical contributions, experiences and best practices in methods for innovative management of cultural heritage.

This symposium, held from 21 to 25 October, pursued the specific goal of stimulating the exchange of interdisciplinary research generated in the region, the transfer of knowledge and the strengthening of academic networks for cooperation in matters relating to the use of non-invasive scientific methods for studying cultural heritage. These methods focused on accelerators and nuclear techniques, optical and electronic microscopy, imaging techniques, experimental archaeology, archaeomagnetism and chemical techniques, among others.

Expected result:

Policy dialogue promoted to combat illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property through enhanced, strengthened and more efficient international cooperation, including the implementation of the 1970 Convention and enhanced capacities of museums.

“Third International Conference on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property”. Lima, Peru

The Culture Sector, in coordination with Peru’s Ministry of Culture and the UNESCO Office in Lima organized from 10 to 12 November 2014 the “Third International Conference on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property” for cultural authorities, police and customs agents of Latin America responsible for controlling illicit trafficking of cultural property.

The workshop specifically emphasised the following themes: creating police bodies specialised in protecting heritage; customs controls; technical reports to recover illicitly exported cultural property; and proposed policies for the 1970 Convention regarding measures that should be adopted to prohibit illicit importation, exportation and transfer of cultural properties.

The event included the participation of specialists from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Venezuela.

Working Group of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries – COMJIB – to fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural properties. Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

Acting by delegation of the Secretariat of the Convention, the Culture Sector participated in the meeting organised by COMJIB, from 8 to 9 April 2015, at which representatives from the judiciary and public agencies from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Spain and this Office reviewed topics regarding the current situation of illicitly traded cultural property. These included protection from illicit trafficking through national and international legal instruments, criminal-law protection of cultural heritage, the need for regulatory harmonisation, strengthening institutions and international cooperation to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property, and national and international action proposals. The meeting approved an outline of thematic areas to create COMJIB’s Work Plan.

The conference had two main objectives: to propose concrete lines of action to promote regulatory harmonisation and create international legal instruments to improve cooperation among countries to prevent plundering and facilitate restitution, and to strengthen the sector’s institutions by improving institutional coordination procedures.

The following countries have shown their willingness to work on these lines of action: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Spain and Uruguay.

Expected result:

Access to knowledge enhanced through the promotion of shared history and memory for reconciliation and dialogue.

International Decade for People of African Descent: presentation of UNESCO’s vision to the collective of Ecuadorians of African Descent. Ecuador

The International Decade for People of African Descent originated with the Resolution of 10 December 2014, the day when the United Nations chose the slogan: “African Descent: recognition, justice and development”, and when it reaffirmed that the Decade is an opportunity to join voices and renew political obligations in the framework of human rights, to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

In the context of the Decades’ activities, the Culture Sector of the Quito and Cluster Office gave a presentation on 12 March 2015 in the forum “Voices of Ecuador in the Decade of African Descent”, organised by the “TAMBOR:

Voices and Sound”, a cultural collective, with support by the Haitian Embassy and Ecuador’s Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

The Culture Sector discussed the Slave Route Programme, which contributes to the culture of peace and fosters reflection on cultural pluralism, intercultural dialogue, construction of new identities and citizenship, and the international commemorations to remember acts that have excluded people of African Descent, such as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March).

The presentation also included international instruments accepted and ratified by Ecuador with the United Nations favouring Afro-descendant people, and cooperation goals working towards plurinationalism, eliminating racial discrimination and ethnic and cultural exclusion, as well as the Millennium Development Goals and the development of the Post-2015 Agenda.

Main Line of Action 2:

Supporting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, and the development of cultural and creative industries.

Expected result:

National capacities strengthened and utilised to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage, including indigenous

and endangered languages, through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention.

Capacity building in the framework of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Culture Heritage. Plurinational State of Bolivia and Ecuador

Various activities presented the principles of the 2003 Convention in Bolivia and Ecuador, including participation by the Culture Sector in several events, such as the “Sixth Conference for Regional Cuisine of Andean Countries” from 28 to 30 May 2015 in Quito, Ecuador, covering public policy design to safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage and promote cultural diversity. The Culture Sector also participated in the “Second Continental Conference for Heritage Cuisine” from 17 to 19 July 2014 in Quito, Ecuador, coordinating three thematic panels to strengthen transmission of knowledge and know-how about uses of food.

With the goal to train reporters and social communicators, the “International Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage” was implemented together with the Metropolitan Institute of Heritage of the Quito Metropolitan District Municipality. The Culture Sector also participated in the “Second Plurinational Conference on Anthropology in Bolivia”, held from 22 to 25 September 2014 in La Paz, about

safeguarding of uses and knowledge regarding heritage cuisine.

Finally, on 25 November 2014, the Sector participated in the “Fifth Conference on Tourism” in Quito, Ecuador, to familiarise students and managers of tourism with the advantages of implementing the 2003 Convention.

Project “Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Kallawayá Communities”. Plurinational State of Bolivia

This project is being implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism of Bolivia, the Radio and Television Training Service for Development (SECRAD) of the San Pablo Catholic University of Bolivia and the eight Kallawayá communities. It is funded by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Culture Heritage.

Its objective is to assist the Bolivian government, other entities and the Kallawayá communities in creating favourable conditions for sustained practice and transmission of Intangible Cultural Heritage via effective application of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Culture Heritage.

Activities included the elaboration of transmission and awareness raising modules, adapting UNESCO’s global capacity-building



Preparation of traditional Kallaway medicine. Bolivia. ©UNESCO

programme in the area of inventorying with community participation, facilitating knowledge transmission workshops for new practitioners and a communication and awareness raising strategy, training 30 new practitioners and over 300 public officials and journalists.

The communication and awareness raising strategy included designing a graphic image, creating short videos, radio spots and interviews to sensitise the public on safeguarding Kallaway traditional medicinal practices and their rich worldview, as its transmission from generation to generation is currently at risk.

These activities took place in successive work sessions on 14 July, from 14 to 19 September, and from 17 to 22 October 2015.

Simulation of the Inter-governmental Committee for the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage with young students. Ecuador

In coordination with the Intercultural Relations Club of the Department of Legal and Political Sciences of the University of the Hemispheres (UDLH) in Quito, the first simulation of the Inter-governmental Committee for the 2003 Convention was held on 16 June 2015.

This exercise presented the Convention's mechanisms and familiarised young people with the importance of safeguarding cultural manifestations.

Project on "Capacity-building to Safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage in Ecuador"

On 27 March 2015, this Office and the INPC signed a Plan of Operations to implement this project. Mr. Toru Kodaki, Japanese Ambassador to Ecuador signed as witness of honour. The project, funded by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Culture Heritage, was designed to facilitate the elaboration of community-based inventories and the elaboration of tools for policy-making in Ecuador.

The workshops for inventorying were held in the provinces of Chimborazo, Loja and Manabi, from 24 to 29 June, from 24 to 29 August and from 2 to 7 September 2015.

They covered the following topics: the creation of inventories; prior, free and informed consent; codes of ethics regarding inventories with community participation; and techniques to generate information. Field exercises allowed 75 participants from communities bearing Intangible Cultural Heritage, public officials from various government agencies and local municipalities to become familiar with the 2003 Convention's principles.

Workshops are scheduled for 2016 for participatory construction of tools for public policy-making.

Expected result:

National capacities strengthened and utilised for the development of policies and measures to promote the diversity of cultural expressions, through the effective implementation of the 2005 Convention.

**“Seventh session of UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum (WUF)”
Medellin, Colombia**

The “Seventh session of UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum (WUF)” with the theme “Urban Equity in Development – Cities for Life” was held from 5 to 11 April 2014, and attended by the Quito and Cluster Office, represented by Karim Hendili, World Heritage Cities Programme Coordinator, and Saadia Sanchez Vegas, on behalf of Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General.

The World Urban Forum is a non-legislative technical space coordinated by the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT), sponsored every two years in a different city, gathering a rich variety of experts from national and local governments, non-governmental organisations, community organisations, research and academic institutions, private sector, development



Weavers crafting the traditional Ecuadorian toquilla straw hat. Pile, Ecuador. ©INPC

funders, foundations, media and international organisations to examine the most important and pressing topics in the area of human settlements, especially those that are rapidly urbanising, and their impact on cities, as well as factors increasingly pressuring local economies, governance and public policy-making.

The Forum signed the Medellin Declaration which seeks to integrate urban equity into the development agenda via methods and resources that transform cities into inclusive, safe, prosperous and harmonious spaces. It specifically emphasised the need to promote a new urban agenda to overcome lacks of

planning and an adequate legal framework to address the effects of incessant urban expansion, intensive energy use, climate change and economies with decreasing opportunities for decent work which propagate various forms of inequality and exclusion.

Official Mission to the 77+ China Group Summit. La Paz, Santa Cruz and Tiwanaku, Plurinational State of Bolivia

The Quito and Cluster Office’s Director and Representative accompanied Irina Bokova,

UNESCO Director-General, on her official visit to the Plurinational State of Bolivia which included her participation in the 77+ China Group Summit from 14 to 17 June 2014.

Her ample official agenda covered meetings with central government entities, civil society organisations and communities germane to UNESCO's mandate and purview, such as the Ministry of Education and the Presidency of the National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism, the Organisation of Rural Native Indigenous Women and several communities belonging to the Qhapaq Ñan Andean Road System. These meetings discussed future cooperation actions, emphasising science, culture and education to promote dialogue on public policies that guarantee inclusion of the most vulnerable and equal development opportunities.

This official visit began with the 50th anniversary of the 77+ China Group Summit in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, attended by Evo Morales, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Secretary-General, and Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, to promote Member States' sustainable development and foster a global agenda to eradicate poverty.

At the summit, UNESCO invited the countries of the 77+ China Group to continue the dialogue to develop the Post-2015 Agenda and highlighted the importance of governments'

involvement. This process, for the first time, includes culture, recognising its impact on sustainable development and advancement of an inclusive society centred on human beings.

The UNESCO delegation visited Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture, inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2000, the Callamarca community who live along the Qhapaq Ñan Andean Road System, and Lake Titicaca, that bears remarkable underwater archaeological heritage.

It also underscored the importance of promoting multilingualism to reaffirm identity and the sense of belonging to indigenous and Afro-descendant communities and to take strong action to overcome illiteracy.

Finally, Irina Bokova and her retinue were received by Alvaro Garcia Linera, Vice-President of the Nation. The UNESCO Director-General expressed her appreciation to the Bolivian State and President Evo Morales for their notable efforts to preserve and safeguard the country's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. She also reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to continue supporting Bolivia's significant work to protect cultural diversity, promote multilingualism and conserve the country's heritage and cultural wealth.

Capacity-building under the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Colombia and Ecuador

In order to promote knowledge on the Convention in these two Member States, activities included the participation of the Culture Sector on 13 March 2014 in the "Second International Conference on Marketing and Sustainability of Cultural Projects" in Quito, Ecuador. This event provided information on UNESCO's funding opportunities and contests to strengthen countries' cultural development. International consultants discoursed on "Orange Tourism", the potential and opportunities of cultural and creative tourism in Ecuador, emphasising cultural heritage, artistic production, cultural and creative industries and gastronomic tourism bearing great potential for productive landscapes and the agriculture sector.

The "Culture and Development" conference in Medellin and Cali, Colombia, held from 30 to 31 May 2014, covered the 2005 Convention and the role of culture in development and the Post-2015 Agenda. Culture managers and promoters participated in exercises on preparing projects for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity and including cultural and creative industries in national agendas.

Second round of the Post-2015 Consultation on Culture and Development. Ecuador

The United Nations System, through UNESCO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), pursued plural and open consultations to formulate the Post-2015 Agenda.

“Culture and Development” has been included in the Agenda due to its linkage to sustainable development. Ecuador was selected for this consultation involving over 40 national and local institutions and universities. Various experts on cultural themes were interviewed. Workshops were also held with focus groups in different regions of Ecuador including the Provinces of Azuay, Esmeraldas, Manabi, Pichincha and Sucumbios. Furthermore, nearly 2000 people completed open-ended and closed-ended questionnaires.

The Post-2015 National Consultation found that culture should be incorporated in economic, environmental and social dimensions as a pillar of inclusive and sustainable development. Culture is an enabling factor to foster progress in respect for differences, in the fight against all forms of exclusion and discrimination, in peaceful coexistence and in human-centred development models.

Environmental and Cultural Film Festival 2014. Ecuador

The Culture Sector, the Natural Sciences Sector, the Alliance Française and the 180 Degrees Foundation organised a Film Festival and Forum to celebrate and commemorate UNESCO's international days.

The first session in 2014 celebrated a very important day for Ecuador: the Day of the Ecuadorian Amazon region and Galapagos Islands, on 12 February. A short film on the “*Shuar Arutam People*” was shown. The festival continued with films and forums related to the following anniversaries: 21 March: World Poetry Day; 30 April: International Jazz Day; 21 May: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development; 22 May: International Day for Biological Diversity; 17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought; 26 July: International Day for Defence of the Mangrove Ecosystem; 9 August: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples; 16 September: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer; 4-10 October: World Space Week; 10 November: World Science Day for Peace and Development; 21 November: World Philosophy Day; 12 December: World Conservation Day.

The festival enhanced knowledge about UNESCO's different programmes and lines of work, using entertainment to promote reflection.

UNESCO Award of Excellence for Handicrafts 2014. Andean Region

UNESCO Quito organised the last Award of Excellence for Handicrafts – Andean Region in 2014. Artisans, communities, cooperatives and designers gathered to establish standards of excellence, promote innovation and offer new opportunities to ensure sustainable development of artisan ventures.

The Award was organised in cooperation with the Inter-American Centre for Crafts and Popular Arts (CIDAP), located in Cuenca, Ecuador, and the National Commissions for Cooperation with UNESCO of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

On 3 November 2014, the Quito and Cluster Office recognised 22 UNESCO Award winners: artisans from Bolivia (1), Colombia (3), Ecuador (6), Peru (7) and Venezuela (5).

Project on “Enhancing fundamental freedoms by promoting diversity of cultural expressions”. Colombia

To lay the groundwork to implement the “Enhancing fundamental freedoms by promoting diversity of cultural expressions” project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Secretariat of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO culture

specialists and 43 experts on the Convention met from 17 to 19 May 2015 in Casablanca, Morocco, to implement this project.

The project funds capacity-building to implement the 2005 Convention and its two main lines of action: a) policy monitoring and data collection, and b) periodical reporting on the implementation of the Convention.

The project will be implemented in 12 developing countries across the world: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

These countries were selected on the basis of the following criteria: being State Party to the Convention; delivering their periodic reports for 2014-2017; a need to reinforce the cultural framework and relations between government and civil society; and complementarity with UNESCO-sponsored projects already in action, among others.

In Colombia, the project has as objective the drafting of the Periodic Report through workshops and data collection with civil society participation, national institutions and other institutions in the sector of cultural and creative industries.

Final presentation of the UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS). Colombia and Ecuador

Early in 2015, the final reports of CDIS findings for Colombia and Ecuador were presented. These indicators are a normative and promotional instrument to evaluate, through data and statistics, the multidimensional function of culture in development processes.

The 22 indicators cover seven key dimensions that demonstrate, through data, how culture and development influence and enrich each other, and evaluate the existing environment to sustain and improve cultural activities and processes to benefit development. The CDIS are a pragmatic and effective instrument to create and analyse indicators with regulatory objectives in low and medium income countries. They reinforce the arguments in favour of including culture in development strategies and programmes by providing an empirical demonstration of how culture contributes to sustainable development, economic growth and social progress.

The new data and figures generated in 11 countries were used to create the Culture for Development DNA and national analytical summaries. The data and knowledge generated enable concrete policy formulation, thus enabling environments can favour culture's effective contributions to consolidating development, based on integration, human rights and sustainability.

Thematic meeting "Intermediate Cities: Urban Growth and Renewal", preparatory event for HABITAT III. Cuenca, Ecuador

The Quito and Cluster Office, together with other United Nations System (UNS) agencies, participated in the thematic meeting on "Intermediate Cities: Urban Growth and Renewal" that took place from 9 to 11 November 2015.

This meeting was one of seven official high-level meetings to be held worldwide to discuss priorities for the new agenda and urban policies. The results of the different meetings will be considered as official recommendations for HABITAT III and the elaboration of the New Urban Agenda.

"Third Meeting of the Ministries of Culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)". Havana, Cuba

On invitation by the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean in Havana, the Culture Sector of the Quito and Cluster Office, together with UNESCO Culture Specialists, participated in the "Third Meeting of the Ministries of Culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)", attended by Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, and Alfredo Perez de Armiñan, Assistant Director-General for Culture.

This third meeting, held from 17 to 18 September 2015, gathered Ministers, Vice-ministers and representatives from the Ministries of Culture of the 33 CELAC Member States, to discuss culture as a driver for promoting and consolidating sustainable development, to narrow the social inequality gap and eradicate poverty, pursuant to recommendations in the Special Declaration on Culture approved by the Second CELAC Summit.

The representatives of the CELAC Member States' Ministries of Culture signed a Final Declaration highlighting the following central themes: the importance of cultural, individual and collective rights; protection of cultural and heritage properties under the 1970 Convention and implementation of the Operational Guidelines; using ICTs to promote knowledge; Internet as a public, global and open asset; monitoring the International Decade for People of African Descent; celebrating the Letter from Jamaica and implementing the Project of the Caribbean Regional School of the Arts, among others. The Member States celebrated UNESCO's 70th anniversary and declared their firm support of actions to include culture in the Post-2015 Agenda.

The UNESCO Culture Specialists attended a workshop to review and discuss the working plan to orient implementation of CELAC's 2015-2020 Cultural Action Plan.

This third meeting also approved CELAC's 2015-2020 Cultural Action Plan, a document

consolidating the regional agenda on cultural matters and that defines a guideline to complete plans agreed upon by representatives to this integration mechanism. The programme establishes the following specific working areas: 1. - Social development and culture, 2. - Cultural industries, creative economy and innovation, 3. - Defence and conservation of the cultural heritage, 4. - Diversity of cultural expressions, arts and creativity. The programme implementation will be supervised by the Ministers of Culture of the Quartet, currently Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Ecuador, which will have to prepare annual reports on the implementation and create proposals to enrich and update the programme, in consultation with the Member States.

The Fourth Meeting of CELAC Ministers of Culture will be held in Bolivia in 2016 as agreed upon in the Second Meeting of CELAC Ministers of Culture, in August 2014 in Caracas, Venezuela.

Tercera Reunión de Ministras y Ministros de Cultura de la CELAC

La Habana 18 y 19 de septiembre de 2015



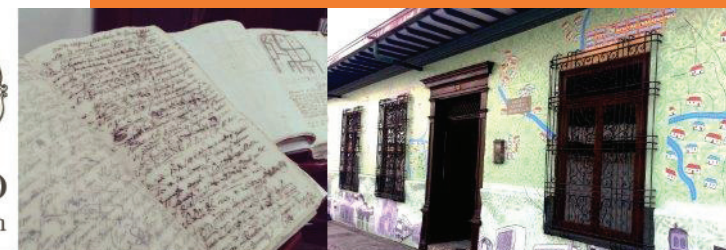
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SECTOR

The Communication and Information Sector of the Quito and Cluster Office, in accordance with the Organisation's mandates and programme objectives, has followed the substantive criteria set up in Main Line of Action 1 and Main Line Action 2, during the 2014-2015 biennial period. The criteria established in Main Line of Action 1 points at promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions, whereas Main Line of Action 2 points at enabling universal access and preservation of information and knowledge.

On this basis, the Sector's activities have focused on promoting freedom of expression and of the media to building a culture of peace and gender equality in the media. In like manner, the activities of the sector have established as its focal point the promotion of Open Educational Resources, the consolidation of knowledge societies and the incorporation of communication and information technologies

(ICTs) in the various fields of social development. It is also important to mention the recovery of heritage and documentary memory under the Memory of the World Programme, with emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Additionally, the Sector continued technical support and implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) in the Member States of this Cluster Office, to facilitate access for media, especially community media, civil society, research centres and universities with extra-budgetary funds to implement projects that strengthen free and pluralistic media.



Patrimonio Documental de la Humanidad

©Historical Archive of Medellín

Main Line of Action 1:

Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions.

Expected result:

The environment for freedom of expression, press freedom, journalistic safety and self-regulation is strengthened, for both online and offline media platforms, and especially in post-conflict countries and countries in transition, through favourable policies and practices.

World Press Freedom Day 2014. Bogota, Colombia

The Celebration of the World Press Freedom Day in Colombia took place on 6 May 2014 and was organised by the Antonio Nariño Project and the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF). The event gathered this Office, Government institutions, civil society organisations, research and university centres, and media, to address issues regarding freedom of expression, journalism practice, the impacts of Internet on social media, and impunity in acts of violence against journalists and media. The issues addressed put an emphasis on discussing the new Transparency and Access to Information Law.

Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Director and Representative of this Office, highlighted that access to information and knowledge, and defence of freedom of the press and expression are vital to build citizenship and therefore to consolidate a peaceful culture that recognises and respects diversity and tolerance, as an expression of coexistence in pluralistic and democratic peace.

Guilherme Canela, UNESCO Counsellor for Communication and Information (CI) for MERCOSUR, Chile and Andean countries, underlined the complexity of enforcing the new Transparency and Access to Public Information Law, specifically regarding documentary organisation of information. He also pointed out that access to public information goes against the “culture of secrecy” and that this implies the need for a campaign to publicise the law apply, so citizens know their rights in this area.

“Conference on Freedom of Expression: security of digital media and responsibly connected citizens”. Quito, Ecuador

This conference held on 3 May 2015 was part of the activities planned under the Inter-Institutional Technical Cooperation signed by the Quito and Cluster Office and the International Centre for Higher Studies in Communication for Latin America (CIESPAL). The event aimed at promoting reflection about



HERRAMIENTAS PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DIGITAL DE PERIODISTAS

“Anti-spy manual: Tools for the digital protection of journalists”. © FLIP.

the security of digital information and the leading role of organisations and individuals in responsibly managing network connections.

Jonathan Bock, adviser of protection and monitoring for FLIP, was the keynote speaker invited by this Office. His talk on the "Anti-Spy Manual" discussed tools for digital protection of journalists, stressing the need to encode information for their security, the availability of Internet programmes that provide this security, and the importance of implementing security tips to avoid easy interception of shared contents on Internet.

Bock also showed a video of the Hancel application which works as a panic button, accessible through a cell phone that journalists can use in case of a threat to activate the network of registered contacts to request immediate help.

The agenda covered topics of responsibly connected citizenship, emphasising the active users who take responsibility for information they consume on Internet and analyse the information they receive.

This event gave this Office an opportunity to cover and to disseminate one of the two critical topics presented to commemorate World Press Freedom Day: security for journalists, including those working in critical zones, and protection of journalists' sources from digital disclosure.

"International Dialogue Forum for Peace and Freedom of the Press in Colombia". Bogota, Colombia

On 6 May 2015, the "International Dialogue Forum for Peace and Freedom of the Press in Colombia" organised by FLIP supported the second point of the Havana dialogues regarding political participation. This event considered different elements of press freedom formalised in prior agreements, such as assigning official advertising transparently, allocating new community radio stations, democratising use of the electromagnetic spectrum and recognising the importance of community and public media to disseminate different points of view.

Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Director and Representative of this Office, attended the opening ceremony, reaffirming UNESCO's willingness to provide technical assistance to public institutions, local governments, civil society organisations and everyone with a stake in sustainable peace-building in Colombia. She also called for a transparent, rigorously thorough press and for the State to grant and guarantee free, independent and balanced access to quality information.

Other specialists on peace-building processes within conflict scenarios such as Willie Esterhuyse from South Africa, promoter of the Apartheid conversations, Juan José Dalton,

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Mayo 6	Mayo 7	Mayo 8
Fondo de Cultura Económica 8 - 6pm Salón Regelio Salmons Calle 11 # 5 - 60	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana 8 - 12m Auditorio Alejandro Novoa 2 - 4pm Edificio Girardo 3-411 Audiovisual	Fondo de Cultura Económica 8 - 6pm Salón Regelio Salmons Calle 11 # 5 - 60

ENTRADA LIBRE 8:00am a 6:00pm

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"International Dialogue Forum for Peace and Freedom of the Press in Colombia". ©FLIP

founder, speaker, and journalist of *Venceremos Radio* during the El Salvador war attended the event as well. It is also important to mention the participation of Laureano Checa, Director of the School of Journalism at the University of Chile, a key researcher on freedom of expression during the transition to democracy in Chile.

“International Conference: Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists”. San Jose, Costa Rica

The UNESCO Cluster Office in Central America, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights organised an international conference from 9 to 10 October 2015 to discuss impunity for crimes against journalists and communicators around the world. This international conference, in alliance with 19 global organisations specialised in freedom of expression and human rights issues, was held to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on 2 November.

Topics addressed in this conference included: the role of Judicial Power in protecting and promoting freedom of the press and in combating impunity, dimensions of violence against journalists and the issue of impunity, jurisprudence by international human rights

protection agencies, successful cases of combating impunity, and the experience of civil society organisations in the struggle against impunity.

This Office’s Communication and Information Sector took part in this significant issue to consolidate free and pluralistic media and to strengthen the right to information and discuss the persistence of impunity for crimes against journalists as a key factor driving the cycle of violence against the freedom of expression, and more broadly, against human rights.

Expected result:

Pluralistic media institutions are facilitated, including by adoption of gender-sensitive policies and through support for strengthened community media policy and practice, while citizens, and particularly youth, are empowered through enhanced media and information literacy (MIL) competencies.

World Radio Day. Quito, Ecuador

On 13 February 2014, UNESCO celebrated World Radio Day. The official pronouncement of this day formally approved this celebration in 2013 basing its honorary date on the creation of United Nations Radio in 1946.

This Office celebrated the day by producing testimonials from women of the Andean region who are engaged in broadcasting to

disseminate their opinions on women’s role in journalism and community radio. Another testimonial by journalist José Ignacio Lopez Vigil presented his perspective on the role of community radio in Latin America, based on his over 40 years of experience in the region.

UNESCO stated that this day offers a particular opportunity to draw attention to the development of radio as a promising means to disseminate the work of international cooperation and support for countries’ development, and invited people from around the world to join in the celebration. UNESCO has also prepared a series of documents, materials, info-graphics, audio and video to commemorate World Radio Day.

Radio remains the medium with the greatest impact worldwide, so UNESCO is committed to continue supporting development of free, pluralistic and independent media and, above all, gender equality in mass media.

“Manual of recommendations for self-regulation and gender treatment for media in Ecuador”. Quito, Ecuador

For the International Women’s Day, on 6 March 2014, the Pichincha Federation of Journalists (CCP) presented the “Manual of recommendations for self-regulation and gender treatment in Ecuador’s media”.

This manual has the purpose to strengthen free exercise of the journalist's profession, guaranteeing quality information and, above all, urging the media to establish ongoing interaction with its audience to foster constructive criticism.

The manual's recommendations also include input from over one hundred Ecuadorian reporters, who participated in a series of workshops on self-regulation and gender issues.

The manual also promotes the gender approach in journalistic language and structuring news to offer equal and non-stereotyped coverage of women.

UN Women – Ecuador and UNESCO for Gender Equality in the media. Quito, Ecuador

UN Women – Ecuador, pursuant to its agenda on gender equality, under the framework of the Beijing +20 Action Platform, invited this Office to participate in two important events to publicise information on this subject and to raise awareness regarding the status of women in the media.

On 4 August 2015, Saadia Sánchez Vegas, Director and Representative of this Office, took part in Ecuador's television programme called "Political Pulse", to discuss the topic of "Media

and Women: the reality of the situation". The second activity was a press conference with social communicators on the topic "Who creates the news? The role of the media in transforming gender stereotypes".

The Director's message focused on explaining the image of women currently presented by the media, reflecting on stereotypes that pigeonhole women and presents a negative image of them. She also offered data and statistics known worldwide on the situation of women in the media behind closed doors.

The media were urged to read UNESCO's publication on "Gender-sensitive indicators for media: framework of indicators to gauge gender sensitivity in media operations and content" to publicise the usefulness and encourage the application of the indicators set and to obtain statistical data on the presence and treatment of women in media. The Office promoted and offered its technical advice to media interested in how to use this major tool for self-regulation to manage contents and stereotypes about women.

"Commemoration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO: women and media. Gender Indicators for Media". Quito, Ecuador

UNESCO held an event in Quito on 15 July 2015 to celebrate its 70th anniversary.

UNESCO organised the event with support of Ecuador's National Council of Gender Equality and the International Centre for Higher Studies in Communication for Latin America (CIESPAL).

This event encouraged debate and reflection on the status of women in the media as part of news and as employees. The gender indicators for media outlined the effective way to apply this evaluation tool. On the other hand, the UNESCO publication aims to gather information on gender equality in the media.

This event for social communicators, Member State representatives, civil society, academics, collectives and activist movements, and women and men in general invited them to consciously and actively join forces to include more women in the media.

Rosa Maria Alfaro, communicator and researcher on communication and gender issues, gave the keynote speech. She analysed the female image in the media and then invited women to assume responsibility for gender equality. Alfaro also explained that the "Gender Indicators for Media" are not normative guidelines. Rather, any organisation can use them partially or contextually to contribute to gender equity and women's empowerment through media in all ways, regardless of the technology applied.

Signing of the Framework Agreement of Inter-Institutional Cooperation with CIESPAL. Quito, Ecuador

The International Centre for Higher Studies in Communication for Latin America (CIESPAL) and this Office signed a Framework Agreement for Inter-Institutional Cooperation on 14 July 2015. The event aimed at strengthening collaboration between the two organizations for training, research and production in the fields of communication, information, freedom of expression, human rights, gender, culture and others topics with regard to an inclusive and sustainable development.

Expected result:

Independence and sustainability of national media institutions bolstered, through innovative, policy-relevant, knowledge-enhancing (IPDC) projects and through capacity-building for journalists and journalism schools.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION (IPDC)

The International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) promotes freedom of expression and media pluralism through its continued support of

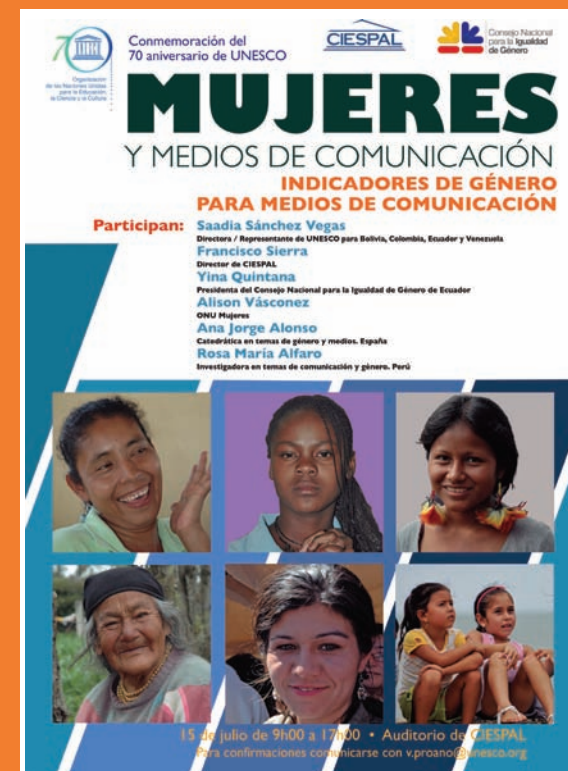
media development projects in over 140 countries. It is the only United Nations multilateral forum mobilising the international community to debate and create common initiatives for media development and promotes consolidation of pluralistic and independent media in developing countries. It places specific emphasis on creating a climate of consensus and a safe environment to strengthen journalism practices, characterised by ample participation and diversity of information perspectives.

The 57th and 58th meetings of the IPDC Bureau approved projects for the Andean sub-region to strengthen miners' radios in Bolivia and promote freedom of expression and journalists' safety in digital media in Colombia. It also approved support for quality journalism in Ecuador, capacity-building for journalists to access public information on social and educational investment topics in Peru and strengthening data management, digital information and security tools for investigative journalists in Venezuela.

These projects have applied tools promoted by UNESCO, including the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and the document on "Story-Based Inquiry: A manual for investigative journalists", recently translated to Spanish, and the *UNESCO Community Radio Handbook* for local radio stations.



Rosa Maria Alfaro during her presentation at the workshop. UNESCO gender indicators for media. ©UNESCO



IPDC has achieved particular results in the Andean sub-region with the project on “Strengthening and training the Indigenous Communicators Network of Peru” under which the Language and Intercultural Information Services (SERVINDI) of Peru trained 169 indigenous broadcasters on ICTs, intercultural communication, radio production, indigenous peoples’ right to communication, climate change and indigenous people, the indigenous identity and ethnic self-identification. This broad, high-impact effort also developed 19 radio communication products, available for public scrutiny on the intercultural communications platform: www.comunicacionintercultural.org.

Another remarkable project was “Strengthening professional capacities of journalists and alternative media in Cochabamba, Bolivia, to promote freedom of expression and information”, implemented by the Documentation and Information Centre of Bolivia (CEDIB) which held a training workshop specialising in investigative and data journalism for alternative media broadcasters, Social Communication students and leaders of social organisations. CEDIB also implemented a project to digitise 2,380 articles on freedom of expression, press workers, journalism, associated legal regulations and media from the 1999-2004 period, uploaded digitally to the CEDIB Database.



Community reporters during a training session on radio equipment and programme production. IPDC 2014-2015 Project. Puerto Berrio, Colombia. ©UNESCO

The University of the Hemispheres (UDLH) in Ecuador implemented the project on “Strengthening independent, high-quality journalism in Ecuador through investigative journalism and ethical standards”. The project included three training workshops for journalists, media directors and Social Communications students, reaching 103 people with training on quality of journalistic information, media credibility in Ecuador, categorisation of Internet consumption in Ecuador and journalism 2.0 quality – a longitudinal study.

The following IPDC projects are currently underway: “Data Management and Digital Information Security Tools to Reinforce Investigative Journalism in Venezuela” implemented by the Press and Society Institute of Venezuela (IPYS), “Strengthening of Bolivian Satellite Miners’ Radio Network in the cities of Oruro, Potosi and La Paz” led by the Catholic University of “San Pablo”, and “Strengthening journalistic capacity to access public information” led by the Press and Society Institute of Peru (IPYS).

“Development of Media in Colombia in accordance with the application of UNESCO’s Media Development indicators” carried out by the Xavierian University in Colombia, and “Promoting freedom of expression in line with local media and online security of journalists” a project carried out by the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) of Colombia concluded in May 2015.

“Diploma Programme of the Bolivarian University of Venezuela (UBV) to Strengthen Training for Community Communicators”. Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The first cohort of community communicators graduated from the “Diploma Programme to Strengthen Training for Community Communicators” receiving their diplomas on 14 February 2014. Communicators passed the course on tools and techniques necessary to improve journalist and communication practices under the project by the Bolivarian University of Venezuela (UBV) and approved by UNESCO’s 56th Meeting of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) Bureau.

Former Secretary-General of the National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (CNCU), Porfirio Pestana, handed over to graduates their diplomas and chaired the ceremony. The National Coordinator

for Graduate Level Training Programme (PFG) on Social Communication by UBV, Luisana Colomine, and the head the CNCU’s Communication and Information sector, Gabriela Vasquez, also participated in the event.

Main Line of Action 2:

Enabling universal access and preservation of information and knowledge.

Expected result:

The Open Solutions for Knowledge Societies programme (open educational resources, open access, free and open source software, open training platform, open data, Open Cloud) and ICT accessibility, including for the disabled, and for all languages, promoted in Member States.

“Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean”. San Jose, Costa Rica

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) and the Regional Centre of Studies for Development of the Information Society under the auspices of UNESCO (CETIC.br) invited this Office to participate in the “Second Workshop on survey methodologies for Information and

Communication Technology (ICT)”. The event was part of the “Preparatory meeting for the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean”, carried out from 4 to 7 November 2014.

This Preparatory Meeting gathered key actors from the region in the fields of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Information Society to discuss the 2018 digital agenda presented at the Fifth Ministerial Conference eLAC 2018 (Mexico City, 5-8 August 2015). The event emphasised digital policies and Internet governance in Latin America and the Caribbean, and generated a proactive discussion on the vision and mechanisms to follow-up on the Post-2015 Agenda based on the results of the recently concluded eLAC 2015 and its prospects.

This Preparatory Meeting hosted the “Second Workshop on survey methodologies for Information and Communication Technology (ICT)” and the “Eighth Meeting of the Regional Dialogue on Broadband”.

The “Second Workshop on survey methodologies for Information and Communication Technology (ICT)” shared knowledge on state of the art and experiences based on best practices in generating ICT statistics as fundamental resources to evaluate and create public policy. At this workshop, Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Director and Representative of this Office, spoke about

the “Importance of follow-up and assessment of ICT public policies: epistemological and methodological considerations”.

The “International Seminar: Challenges for Constructing Public Policy in Education and ICTs for Latin America 2015” was organised by the UNESCO and the Government of Colombia to consolidate a roadmap in Latin America to build a regional policy to effectively use ICTs in Education.

“Second National Workshop on University Archives”. Quito, Ecuador

The General Secretariat of Ecuador’s Council for Higher Education (CES) is currently implementing the Management Programme for Higher Education Memory (PROMESE) to strengthen organisation, administration and management of archives, improving and updating physical and technological infrastructure, developing research and valuing the historical memory of higher education and strengthening human talent.

Several experts on these topics participated on 3 June 2015 in the “Second National Workshop on University Archives” at which Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Director and Representative of this Office, supported this capacity-building activity with her keynote speech on “Information Management and its link to Knowledge Management: premises and considerations”.

Continuous Education Programme in Archival Science and Information Management. Quito, Ecuador

On 7 July 2015, the first module of the Ongoing Education Programme in Archival Science and Information Management started. The Institute of Higher National Studies (IAEN) and the Council for Higher Education (CES) organised the programme with technical assistance from this Office to train and update the skills of the heads of university archives in archival methodology to manage and process documents.

Arcangel Sanchez and Martha Rondon, archival science experts and professors at the School of Librarianship and Archival Science, Department of Humanities of the Central University of Venezuela, designed and implemented the first module.

Saadia Sánchez Vegas, Director and Representative of this Office, gave a keynote speech on “Information Management: a core sub-process for Knowledge Management” as part of the celebration of UNESCO’s 70th anniversary.

During this event, Analia Minteguiaga, Rector of the IAEN, Marcelo Calderon, Executive Director of the CES, and Carlos Cordero, Vice-President of the Higher Education System Assembly, signed an agreement creating the Network for University Archives of Ecuador

(RAU-EC) to encourage the unification and standardisation of technical archive and information management through advisory assistance, training and professional upgrading projects.

Signing of the Technical Cooperation Agreement Framework with the Council for Higher Education of Ecuador (CES). Quito, Ecuador

On 9 July 2015, the Quito and Cluster Office signed a Technical Cooperation Framework Agreement with CES pursuant to the core goal of mainstreaming information and knowledge management in the Higher Education System and in other Ecuadorian institutions through technical cooperation and activities.

Technical Validation of the document “Renewing the Knowledge Societies’ Vision for Peace and Sustainable Development”

On request of the UNESCO Office in Brasilia, this Office supported style revision and technical validation of the document “Renewing the Knowledge Societies’ Vision for Peace and Sustainable Development” by Robin Mansell and Gaëtan Tremblay. The Regional Centre of Studies to Develop the Information Society, under the auspices of UNESCO, translated the document to Spanish.

Technical validation of the contents and recommendations were done in coordination with the UNESCO Office in Brasilia.

The document addresses a renewed vision of UNESCO Post-2015 on the topic of knowledge societies centring on people and their capacities to create knowledge to construct sustainable societies in a culture of peace with equal economic growth and social justice for sustainable development. This vision features ICTs as enablers of these processes rather than a last resort for public policies to develop information societies.

“International Seminar: Policies, Structures and Citizenship: Considering Communication in the Techno-media Era”. Quito, Ecuador

This international seminar held on 3 October 2015, organised by CIESPAL and the UNESCO Office in Brasilia with support from this Office, included discussions on “Today’s Knowledge Societies”.

The event included a talk by Gaëtan Tremblay from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Canada, who affirmed that all forms of knowledge must contribute to building peaceful societies with sustainable development. Luiz Claudio Martino from the University of Brasilia, Brazil, said that all knowledge is found in the symbolic dimension,

through human experience built on practices and memory. Francisco Sierra of CIESPAL, Ecuador, discussed the construction of communication theory from the South based on ancestral knowledge and reformulation of the epistemic foundations of communication.

Finally, the renowned scholar Jesus Martin Barbero gave a keynote speech in which he addressed the positive and negative aspects of globalisation, impacts of new technology and how media can help construct imbalanced contents, among other topics.

“International Seminar: Challenges for Creating Public Policy in Education and ICT for Latin America”. Bogota, Colombia

On 5 and 6 November 2015, the “International Seminar: Challenges for Creating Public Policy in Education and ICTs for Latin America” was carried out with the support of Colombia’s Ministry of National Education.

This seminar will gather national and international experts on Open Education Resources, pursuant to the objective to analyse the progress in use of technologies in education.

Based on the keynote speeches and thematic working groups, participants will discuss challenges of training the educational



Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Director of the UNESCO Quito and Cluster Office to Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, and René Ramirez Gallegos, Ecuador’s Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology and Innovation, during signing of the Framework Agreement with the Council for Higher Education (CES) which is appointed by SENECYT, Ecuador.
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community to use ICTs, educational contents, open digital resources, evaluation processes and indicators in the ICT sector effectively in education and creating public policy in the fields of ICTs.

The Minister of National Education of Colombia, Adriana Parody, will sign the seminar's document of Conclusions and Recommendations together with this Office.

"Eighth Ibero-American Seminar on Scientific Journalism". Ibarra, Ecuador

The Foundation for Integration and Development in Latin America (FIDAL), CIESPAL, YACHAY – Knowledge City, the PROMETEO programme of SENESCYT and the Northern Technical University (UTN) of Ibarra organised the "Eighth Ibero-American Seminar on Scientific Journalism", held from 13 to 15 November 2015.

This seminar will generate dialogue and reflection on climate change and the role of different sectors in this issue to create synergies among local stakeholders and the global environmental agenda. It will also identify collaboration opportunities among local authorities, social media and the scientific community to disseminate information about climate change and the environment to define a local citizen agenda to mitigate climate change.



Jesus Martin Barbero during his talk in Quito, Ecuador. Courtesy ©CIESPAL

Expected result:

Universal access to information enhanced and documentary heritage preserved in all its forms through a strengthened Memory of the World Programme, and Member States supported in implementing the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) outcomes.

MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME

Awarding Certificates of Incorporation of Colombian documents in the "Register of the Memory of the World for Latin America and the Caribbean". Bogota and Medellin, Colombia

Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Director and Representative of this Office, handed over the certificate for the document "Tiberio Lives Today: Testimonies of the Life of a Martyr. Tiberio Fernandez Mafla" in

the “Register of the Memory of the World for Latin America and the Caribbean”, on 11 February 2015. She also awarded on 11 March 2015 the certificate for the “Colonial Council of the City of Medellin: Colonial Section, Council of Historic Archives of Medellin” to the Historic Archive of Medellin.

The document “Tiberio Lives Today: Testimonies of the Life of a Martyr. Tiberio Fernandez Mafla” is a record constructed by hand by the inhabitants of Trujillo Municipality which reveals and publicises the suffering of the relatives and victims of the ominous massacres that took place between 1986 and 1994, in which over 300 people died, among them Father Tiberio. The inhabitants of Trujillo took Father Tiberio as a symbol to create a testimony from the collective experience and their deep-rooted refusal to forget.

The Colonial Council of the Historical Archive of the City of Medellin consolidated the documentary collection in digital format in a high-security database. The written and graphic documents are a faithful testimony to the policy decisions of the City Council, administrative decisions by the Mayor’s Office and INVAL and disciplinary decisions by the Municipal ombudsman’s office. In addition, Clarin radio newspaper conserved their voice records from the 20th century which donated its sound recordings to the City.



Saadia Sanchez Vegas, Director of the UNESCO Quito and Cluster Office to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, during her visit to the Historical Archive of Medellin. ©UNESCO

“2015 Annual Meeting of the experts of Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme”. Quito, Ecuador

This annual meeting, held from 20 to 23 October 2015, gathered the expert group of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme to discuss Post-2015 priorities for the documentary heritage of Latin

America and the Caribbean, with an eye to the upcoming UNESCO General Conference.

The Regional Committee of experts will also recognise selected new documents for inclusion in the Memory of the World Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean.

CHRONOLOGY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE UNESCO QUITO AND CLUSTER OFFICE TO BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA, 2014-2015 BIENNIUM

2014

FEBRUARY 6, 2014, CUENCA, ECUADOR
Official launch of the UNESCO Award of Excellence for Handicrafts 2014 in the Andean region in coordination with the Inter-American Centre for Crafts and Popular Arts (CIDAP).

MARCH 6, 2014, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
Participation in the International Forum on Dialogue for Peace and Freedom of the Press, event organised by the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) and the United Nations Fund for Democracy in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day.

MARCH 13, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Organisation of the Second International Conference on Marketing and Sustainability of Cultural Projects, in cooperation with the Museums of the City Foundation (SIMMYCC) and the Eternal Quito Foundation.

MARCH 24 to 31, 2014, HEIDELBERG, GERMANY
Participation in course-workshop on Geoparks organised by the GOAL Network (Geo-Network of Latinamerican-German Alumni) and in the Colloquium on Geosciences in Latin America (LAK23).

APRIL 5 to 11, 2014, MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA
Participation in the 7th World Urban Forum (WUF) of UN-Habitat: "Urban Equality in Sustainable Development – Cities for Life", organised by the Municipality of MEDELLIN and UN-Habitat.

APRIL 7 to 8, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the Thirty-second Meeting of the National Coordinators of the Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE) in coordination with the Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC/UNESCO Santiago).

APRIL 8, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to

Constitute the Biotic Society Commission with the Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador in coordination with UNESCO Montevideo.

APRIL 9, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Official launching of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis in coordination with the Steering Committee for the Management Plan.

APRIL 30, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Environmental and Cultural Film Festival organised for the International Jazz Day, in coordination with the Alliance Française and 180 Degrees Foundation.

MAY 5, 2014, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
First official visit of the Director of the UNESCO Office in Quito – Cluster Office to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela to the Colombian Foreign Ministry and Meeting with the Colombian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO.

MAY 5, 2014, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
Participation in the First International Forum "Always a Teacher" aimed to celebrate Quality and Transformation of Educational Practices, organised by the Ministry of National Education of Colombia.

MAY 6, 2014, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
Participation in the event to celebrate the World Press Freedom Day, organised by the Antonio Nariño Project and Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF).

MAY 13 to 14 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Organisation of workshops on Spiritual Reserves of Humanity, led together with indigenous leaders of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, Colombia, as a new landmark of a large process underway.

MAY 19 to 26, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Organisation of the Thirty-second Latin American Course on Metallogeny UNESCO-SEG-SGA in coordination with the Mining Engineers' Association of Ecuador and the School of Geology, Mines, Petroleum and Environmental Engineering, Central University of Ecuador (FIGEMPA-UCE).

MAY 20, 2014, CURVA, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
Presentation of the project to "Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Kallawayá Communities" in coordination with the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

MAY 28 to 30, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the Sixth Congress of Regional Cuisines of Andean Countries in coordination with the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador.

MAY 29 to 30, 2014, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY
Participation in the specialists' meeting of the Sciences Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean at the Regional Office of Sciences of the Organisation, UNESCO Montevideo.

MAY 29 to 30, 2014, MEDELLIN AND CALI, COLOMBIA
Workshops to Strengthen Capacities about the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in coordination with the Secretariat of Culture and Tourism of the Municipality of Medellín, the Project of Cultural Industries of Cali and the Municipality of Cali.

MAY 30, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the Fourth Bolivian Dance Festival in Ecuador 2014, organised by the Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

JUNE 4, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
The Post-2015 consultation on Culture and Development begins in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

JUNE, 14 to 17 2014, LA PAZ, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
Event to escorting the Official Visit of the Director-General of UNESCO, Dr Irina Bokova, to the Plurinational State of Bolivia and participation in the G77+ China Summit. Meeting with the Colombian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO and Permanent Delegation.

JUNE 16 to 17 2014, LIMA, PERU
Participation in the CIME FORUM 2014 "Ethical Dilemmas in Latin America" organised by the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (UPC) and the Centre for International Media Ethics (CIME).

JUNE 18 to 20, 2014, CARACAS, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
Participation in the First Conference on Regional and Sub-regional Integration Mechanisms to prepare the Strategic Agenda for Regional Cooperation in Social Matters of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

JUNE 23, 2014, CARACAS, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
First Official Visit by the UNESCO Office in Quito – Cluster Office to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Meeting with the Venezuelan National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO.

JUNE 26, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Event prepared to sign the United Nations Development

Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2015-2018) between the United Nations System in Ecuador and the Government of Ecuador.

JUNE 25 to 26, 2014, RIOBAMBA, ECUADOR
Participation in the Tenth International Seminar on Natural, Cultural and Sustainable Development at the Polytechnic School of Chimborazo (ESPOCH).

JULY 17 to 19, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation and support of the Second Continental Congress of Heritage Cuisine, organised in coordination with the Chefs Association of Ecuador.

JULY 21, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
International Training Workshop for Journalists on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, organised in coordination with the Metropolitan Institute of Heritage (IMP) of the Quito Metropolitan District.

JULY 23, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Presentation of the book "Landslides: Effects, Assessment and Risk Management – Lessons Learned in Latin America and the Caribbean", in coordination with the Natural Sciences Sector in the San Jose Office, Costa Rica; Quito, Ecuador; Havana, Cuba, and the Ibero-American Programme of Science and Technology for Development (CYTED).

JULY 23 to 26, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Organisation of the International Seminar on Risk Management "Slope Stabilisation Methodologies and Landslide Prevention", in coordination with the Department of Geology, Mines, Petroleum and Environmental Engineering, Central University of Ecuador (FIGEMPA-UCE).

JULY 24 to 25, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Organisation of the First National Forum on the

“Role of the Universities in Strengthening Ecuador’s Decentralised National System of Risk Management” in coordination with the National Secretariat of Risk Management.

JULY 25, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Organisation of the Environmental and Cultural Film Festival for the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, carried out in coordination with the Alliance Française and the 180 Degrees Foundation.

JULY 29 to 31, 2014 QUITO, ECUADOR
Seminar on Rock Mechanics, Geology and Geo-technology applied to Civil Engineering. (UCE)

AUGUST 12, 2014, PORTOVIEJO, ECUADOR
First focus group for the second round of Post-2015 National Consultations on Culture and Development, carried out in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

AUGUST 19, 2014, LAGO AGRIO, ECUADOR
Second focus group for the second round of Post-2015 National Consultations on Culture and Development, carried out in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

AUGUST 22, 2014, ESMERALDAS, ECUADOR
Third focus group for the second round of Post-2015 National Consultations on Culture and Development, carried out in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

AUGUST 22, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Presentation of the Sub-regional Contest “More Education, Less Risk”, together with the Ministry of Education.

AUGUST 29, 2014, CUENCA, ECUADOR
Fourth focus group for the second round of Post 2015

National Consultations on Culture and Development, carried out in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

AUGUST 29, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the Public Forum: challenges to popular education in the present-day context, and diversity in forms of citizen participation.

SEPTEMBER 1 to 4, 2014, CUENCA, ECUADOR
Ceremony for the UNESCO Award of Excellence for Handicrafts – Andean region 2014, organised in coordination with the Inter-American Centre for Crafts and Popular Arts (CIDAP).

SEPTEMBER 8 to 11, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Workshop to update the Tentative List for Ecuador, organised by the INPC.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Signing of Inter-Institutional Agreements for Conservation of the Saint Francis Monastery Complex carried out with the Quito Metropolitan District Municipality and the Equinoctial Technical University.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the meeting about the Tungurahua Volcano Geopark project together with the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Ecuador (MEER).

SEPTEMBER 22 to 25, 2014, LA PAZ, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
Participation in the “Second Plurinational Anthropology Congress” in La Paz, carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism.

SEPTEMBER 24 to 26, 2014, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
Participation in the “Second International Congress on Peacebuilding in the 21st century”, organised by La Salle University and the “Letter of

Peace addressed to the UN” Foundation.

SEPTEMBER 25 to 27, 2014, COCHABAMBA, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
Participation in the “Seventeenth Latin American Seminar on Education: Freedom in education for peoples’ development”, organised by the Federation of Private Educational Associations of Latin America and the Caribbean (FAEPLA) at the headquarters of the Private University of Administrative and Technological Sciences (UCATEC).

OCTOBER 2 to 4, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the Tenth Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, organised by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), together with UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme.

OCTOBER 3, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Technical Cooperation Workshop on Consultation Processes and Proposal Preparation for the Global Geoparks Network, in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism, the Central University and the Geophysical Institute of the Polytechnic School of Ecuador.

OCTOBER 9, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Presentation of progress report on the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis during the fifth mission of the international experts in coordination with the Plan’s steering committee.

OCTOBER 16 to 17 2014, CALI, COLOMBIA
“Second Andean Conference on the Culture of Peace: the role of Education for All”, organised together with the Pontifical Xavierian University of Cali, the Latin American

Faculty for Social Sciences (FLACSO) and the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador.

OCTOBER 27, 2014, GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR
Participation in the Sixteenth Annual Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds – RedLAC, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador.

OCTOBER 30 to 31, 2014, LIMA, PERU
Participation in the Regional Ministerial Meeting “Education for All in Latin America and the Caribbean: Stocktaking and Challenges Post-2015”, organised by the Regional Education Office of UNESCO for Latin America and the Caribbean (ORELAC/UNESCO Santiago) and the Ministry of Education of Peru.

OCTOBER 31 to 3 NOVEMBER 2014, CUENCA, ECUADOR
Awarding the winning craftspersons with the UNESCO Award of Excellence for Handicrafts – Andean Region 2014 in the Twelfth edition of the Handicrafts Festival of America held in Cuenca, Ecuador, in coordination with the Inter-American Centre for Crafts and Popular Arts (CIDAP).

NOVEMBER 4 to 7, 2014, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA
Participation in the Preparatory Meeting for the “Fifth Ministerial Conference on Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean”, convened by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) and the Regional Centre of Studies for Development of the Information Society under the auspices of UNESCO (CETIC.br).

NOVEMBER 10 to 12, 2014, LIMA, PERU
Participation in the Third International Conference on the fight against illicit trafficking

in cultural property, organised in collaboration with UNESCO Lima Office and the Ministry of Culture of Peru.

NOVEMBER 11, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Official presentation of the Trust fund for the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis.

NOVEMBER 17 to 22, 2014, MANTA, ECUADOR
Participation in the “First International Congress: Nature, Culture and Development”, organised by the Eloy Alfaro Secular University of Manabi (JLEAM).

NOVEMBER 18, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the discussion organised by the Private Technical University of Loja (UTPL) on the occasion of presenting its UNESCO Chair in Culture and Education for Peace.

NOVEMBER 19, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Presentation of the results of the second round of the Post-2015 National Consultation on Culture and Development carried out in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

NOVEMBER 19, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the General Assembly of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

NOVEMBER 21, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Presentation of the publication: “Fiscal Magnifying Glass: The Ten-Year Education Plan and the focus on human rights through the public budget”, organised by Faro Group.

NOVEMBER 25, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the “Fifth Tourism Congress”, organised by the University of Tourism Specialties.

NOVEMBER, 27, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Presentation of the first conclusions of the Analytical

Study and conservation intervention on the large-format easel paintings of the “Life of Saint Francis of Asis”, in coordination with the Steering Committee of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis and the Embassy of Mexico in Ecuador.

DECEMBER 4, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Presentation of the results of the Third Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (TERCE) coordinated by the Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education (LLECE) of the Regional Education Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC/UNESCO Santiago) and organised with the National Institute of Educational Evaluation (INEVAL) and the Ministry of Education of Ecuador.

DECEMBER 10 to 12, 2014, CASTRO, ISLA DE CHILOE, CHILE
Launch of the project “Biosphere Reserves as a Tool for Coastal and Island Management in the South-East Pacific Region (BRESEP)”, organised by the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the National Forest Corporation (CONAF).

DECEMBER 16, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Environmental and Cultural Film Festival to commemorate the World Conservation Day carried out in coordination with the Alliance Française and the 180 Degrees Foundation.

DECEMBER 21 to 23, 2014, LOJA, ECUADOR
Support provided to seminars on Spiritual Reserves of the Humanity.

DECEMBER 29, 2014, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the Sixth Handicraft Fair “Textures, Colours & Tastes”, organised by Quito Turismo.

2015

JANUARY 9, 2015, LOJA, ECUADOR

Promotion of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the Biosphere Reserves in Loja, Ecuador, together with Nature and Culture International (NCI), National Secretariat of Planning and Development (SENPLADES), Ministry of Environment and representatives of Ecuador – Peru Binational Plan (Ecuador Chapter).

JANUARY 15, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Restoration workshops on religious textiles and ornaments in the Saint Francis Monastery, under the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis, in coordination with the Equinoctial Technical University.

JANUARY 21, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Awarding of the Certificate of inscription of the “Bosque Seco” in the Global Network of Biosphere Reserves under the MAB Programme to the Ministry of environment, Ministry of External Affairs and Federation of Municipal Governments of the Bosque Seco.

JANUARY 27, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, organised by the Jewish Community of Ecuador and the University of the Americas (UDLA).

JANUARY 28, 2015, BAÑOS, ECUADOR

Technical cooperation for the Tungurahua Volcano Geopark Project, in coordination with the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy (MEER), Electrical Corporation of Ecuador –Public Enterprise (CELEC-EP) and Municipality of Baños.

JANUARY 29, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation together with the National Council for Gender Equality (CNIG) in the event: “Scope of Action: Education and Training for Women – Progress and Challenges” in the framework of the Beijing +20 Action Platform, organised by UN Women – Ecuador.

JANUARY 30, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Sixth call for applications to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, inviting institutions from the Andean Sub-region

FEBRUARY 9 to 13, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Visit to Ecuador of Mamo Miguel and Nankwa Chaparro of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia and representatives of the Science, Art and Culture Foundation (FUNDACULTURA) to strengthen the process of Spiritual Reserves of Humanity.

FEBRUARY 10, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Guided visit of the Representatives of National and International Institutions to the Restoration Workshop on Religious Textiles and Ornaments in the Saint Francis Monastery in coordination with the Equinoctial Technical University (UTE).

FEBRUARY 10, 2015, BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Awarding of the Certificate of inscription of the “Documentary Collection of Sutatenza Radio and the Popular Cultural Action (ACPO)” Register of the Memory of the World for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Luis Angel Arango Library (BLAA).

FEBRUARY 11, 2015, BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Awarding of the Certificate for the inscription of “Tiberio Lives Today: Testimonies of the Life of a Martyr: Tiberio Fernandez Mafla”, on the Register of the Memory of the World for Latin America and the Caribbean, National Centre for Historic Memory.

FEBRUARY 19, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Signing the Framework Agreement for Inter-Institutional Technical Cooperation among the National Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (SENESCYT), UNESCO Quito, Institute of Higher National Studies (IAEN) and the Centre of Continuous Education-Public Enterprise (CEC-EP).

MARCH 6, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the General Assembly of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

MARCH 11, 2015, MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA

Awarding of the Certificate of inscription for “Archives of the Colonial Council of the City of Medellin (1675-1819)” on the Register of the Memory of the World for Latin America and the Caribbean to the Municipality of MEDELLIN, Historic Archives of that city (ARH).

MARCH 12, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Presentation on International Cooperation and Afro-descendants to start the International Decade for People of African Descent, organised by the National Assembly and the Embassy of Haiti in Ecuador.

MARCH 19, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Promotion of the participation of teachers and public servants of the Ministry of Education

of Ecuador in the event: “International Seminars of Educational Leadership”, organised by the Institute of Teaching and Learning (IDEA) of the San Francisco University of Quito (USFO).

MARCH 22 to APRIL 22, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Organisation of the Painting Contest “Water, Earth and Life” in celebration of the World Water Day and the International Mother Earth Day, together with the Ecuadorian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO.

MARCH 23 to 24, 2015, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Participation in the Programme Specialists meeting of the Sciences Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Regional Office for Sciences, UNESCO Montevideo.

MARCH 25, 2015, PUERTO AYORA, GALAPAGOS, ECUADOR

Participation in the Board meeting for the Galapagos Invasive Species Control Fund (FEIG) and the First Workshop to Review and Discuss the New Management Model of this Fund in coordination with the Ministry of Environment.

MARCH 26 to 27, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the High Level meeting to define indicators and mechanisms to mainstream the gender approach for UNASUR, organised by UN Women – Ecuador and the General Secretariat of UNASUR.

MARCH 27, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Signing the Plan of Operations to implement the project “Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ecuador” with the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (INPC) of Ecuador.

MARCH 31, 2015, SUCUMBIOS, ECUADOR
Socialisation of the programme

for Local Capacity-building Programme for Peace and Development along the Northern Border with a Human Security Approach, carried out in coordination with the United Nations System in Ecuador.

APRIL 8 to 9, 2015, CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Presentation in the Working Group at the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB) to fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural properties, in cooperation with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

APRIL 9 to 10, 2015, CARACAS, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Participation in the International Workshop on educational quality evaluation systems, organised by the Ministry of People’s Power for Education.

APRIL 18, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the Seventh National Contest and Second International Contest of Educational Excellence by the FIDAL Foundation and its award ceremony.

APRIL 22, 2015 QUITO, ECUADOR

Presentation of the book “The Ups and Downs of Educational Quality in Ecuador, 1980-2010”, a study on policies, plans, programmes and government projects of “quality schools” (1980-2010), authored by Analia Minteguiga, sponsored by this Office and the Andean Cluster, and the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB in Ecuador).

APRIL 23, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Presentation in a workshop for the project “Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards in South America”, in coordination with the

Quito Metropolitan Public Enterprise for Water Supply and Sanitation (EPMAPS) and the Secretariat of Risk Management.

APRIL 28, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Religious ornaments and textiles exhibition “From Embroidery to Significance” under the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis.

MAY 3, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Conference on Freedom of Expression: security of digital media and responsibly connected citizens, in the framework of International Press Freedom Day celebration, in coordination with the International Centre for Higher Studies in Journalism for Latin America (CIESPAL).

MAY 6, 2015, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Participation in the International Forum: Dialogues for Peace and Freedom of Press in Colombia for International Press Freedom Day celebration, organised by Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF).

MAY 12, 2015, BRASILIA, BRAZIL

Participation in the “International Seminar – Good Practices of the Open Schools Programme”, organised by UNESCO Brazil.

MAY 17 to 19, 2015, CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

UNESCO Culture Specialists and international experts’ meeting carried out to implement a capacity-building programme on the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

MAY 23, 2015, ECOLOGICAL RESERVE OF CAYAMBE-COCA, ECUADOR

Participation in the celebration of International Biodiversity

Day with the Ministry of Environment.

MAY 27, 2015, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Meeting carried out with the Bio-cultural Heritage Network of CONACYT – Mexico and other actors to advance work on Spiritual Reserves of Humanity.

MAY 28 to 29, 2015, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Participation in the Seminar on Geoparks in Latin America, organised by the Global Geoparks Network and national actors.

MAY 28 to 30, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the Sixth Conference for Regional Cuisine in Andean Countries.

JUNE 3 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the Second National Workshop on University Archives, carried out in coordination with the Council for Higher Education (CES) of Ecuador.

JUNE 3, 2015, LA PAZ, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

Official visit by the Director of the Quito and Cluster Office to La Paz to inform the authorities of Ministries of Cultures and Tourism, and the local Kallawayas authorities and Cantonal Mallkus of Tiwanaku about the follow-up and support for the UNESCO's extra-budgetary projects to conserve and safeguard their cultural heritage.

JUNE 4, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the Fifth Bolivian Dance Festival in Ecuador 2015, organised by the Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

JUNE 8, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the Second UNESCO Training of the National Biotic Committee of Ecuador to the Ministry

of Public Health of Ecuador, organised by UNESCO Office in Montevideo.

JUNE 9 to 11, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Course for the Management of Religious Heritage and Tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean with the coordination of Quito Turismo and University of Barcelona in the framework of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis.

JUNE 10 to 12, 2015, GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Participation in the Meeting on State of the Art of Information about Conservation, Management and Recovery of the Black Shell/Piangua in intervention areas of the Regional Shell Project with Hivos Ecuador.

JUNE 11, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Presentation of the commemorative postage stamps of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Monastery Complex of Saint Francis, in cooperation with Correos del Ecuador (CDE-EP) and the Franciscan Order.

JUNE 16, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Simulation of the Inter-Governmental Committee of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at the University of the Hemispheres.

JUNE 19, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the workshop on biosphere reserves in Ecuador held by the National Directorate of Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment.

JUNE 22 to 23, 2015, GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR,

Workshop participation to review the Regional Plan for Mangrove Conservation in the South-east Pacific with the CPPS and Conservation International Ecuador.

JUNE 24 to 29, 2015, PORTOVIEJO, ECUADOR
Capacity-building workshop for communities and officials of Manabi province, Ecuador, on Inventory Preparation to safeguard their Intangible Cultural Heritage.

JUNE 25 to 26, 2015, LIMA, PERU

Participation in the Meeting of National Commissions of South America, organised by the Peruvian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO in coordination with UNESCO's Leadership of External Affairs.

JULY 1 to 3, 2015, LIMA, PERU

Second meeting of the project "Biosphere Reserves as a Tool for Coastal and Island Management in the South-East Pacific Region (BRESEP)", organised by the IAB Programme and the National Service of Protected Natural Areas by the State (SERNANP).

JULY 7, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Presentation of the keynote speech to celebrate 70 years of UNESCO and inaugurate the First Module of the Continuous Education Programme in Archival Science and Information Management, organised by the Institute of Higher National Studies (IAEN) and the Council for Higher Education of Ecuador (CES).

JULY 8, 2015, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Signing of an agreement to implement the "Educational Technical Assistance Project for the Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota", with the Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota (SED) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Colombia.

JULY 9, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Signing of the Framework Agreement for Technical Cooperation with the Council for Higher Education of Ecuador (CES).

JULY 13, 2015, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
Participation in the opening session of the Programme "Peace Chair and Pedagogy", organised by the Pontifical Xavierian University of Colombia.

JULY 14 to 17, 2015, AREQUIPA AND CAÑON DEL COLCA, PERU

Support provided to the Symposium on Geoparks, organised by national institutions.

JULY 14 to 18, 2015, TENA, ECUADOR

Workshop on Colonso Chalupas Biological Reserve, organised by the Regional Amazonian University (IKIAM).

JULY 14, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Signing of the Framework Agreement for Inter-Institutional Cooperation with the International Centre for Higher Studies in Journalism for Latin America (CIESPAL).

JULY 15, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Organisation of academic seminars: "Women and Media: Gender Indicators for Media" to celebrate 70 years of UNESCO with the National Council for Gender Equality, in coordination with the International Centre for Higher Studies in Journalism for Latin America (CIESPAL).

JULY 20 to 24, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Co-organisation and participation in the International Seminar on Improved Recovery of Hydrocarbons with the Department of in Geology, Mines, Petroleum and Environmental Engineering, Central University of Ecuador (FIGEMPA-UCE).

JULY 22, 2015, PELILEO, ECUADOR

Participation in meetings about the Tungurahua Volcano Geopark Project, organised by the Municipality of Pelileo,

with the participation of the Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador, Jorge Glas.

JULY 28 to 29, 2015, LA PAZ, EL ALTO, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

Capacity-building workshops on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Ethical Issues for public officials, journalists and Kallawayas communities.

AUGUST 4, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Participation in the television programme "Political Pulse" with the topic "Media and Women: the reality of the situation" and in the press conference with media under the title "Who creates news? The role of the media in transforming gender stereotypes", organised by UN Women – Ecuador.

AUGUST 5 to 7, 2015, LOJA, ECUADOR

Co-organisation and participation in the Seventh Meeting of Biosphere Reserve Networks of Ecuador with the Ministry of Environment and actors of the Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve.

AUGUST 10 to 14, 2015, LA PAZ AND TIWANAKU, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

First mission of the project "Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid".

AUGUST 14, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Signing of the Framework Cooperation Agreement with Compensation International Progress S.A. of Colombia.

AUGUST 24, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Awarding of diplomas for training in first aid to the officials of the Quito and Cluster Office, coordinated by the United Nations Security Office and conducted by the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

AUGUST 24 to 29, 2015, CHIMBORAZO AND LOJA, ECUADOR

Execution of capacity-building workshops for the communities and officials of heritage and culture field in inventory preparation for safeguarding their Intangible Cultural Heritage.

AUGUST 31 to 04 SEPTEMBER 2015, SANTIAGO, CHILE

Participation in capacity-building workshop on Education for Global Citizenship, organised by the UNESCO Santiago Regional Office.

SEPTEMBER 1 to 3, 2015, SANTIAGO DE CHILE, CHILE

Participation on the Regional Workshop for Capacity Building on Education for Global Citizenship in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SEPTEMBER 2 to 7, 2015, CHIMBORAZO AND LOJA, ECUADOR

Capacity-building workshops for communities and officials in fields of heritage and culture on inventory preparation to safeguard their Intangible Cultural Heritage.

SEPTEMBER 9 to 11, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

International Meeting "The Historic Urban Landscape as a tool for sustainable urban development", in cooperation with the Quito Metropolitan District Municipality and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR

Photographic Exhibition of the "Work of 14 Italian heritage photographers" in the Saint Francis Monastery, in cooperation with the Embassy of Italy and the Metropolitan Institute of Heritage (IMP), Quito Metropolitan District Municipality.

SEPTEMBER 14 to 19, 2015, CURVA, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
First Workshop on Knowledge

Transmission of the Kallwaya Culture and Inventory Preparation with Community Participation, in coordination with the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism of Bolivia and the Catholic University of San Pablo de Bolivia, Radio and Television Training Service for Development (SECRAD).

SEPTEMBER 16 to 18, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the First Forum of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and China, organised by the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ecuador (SENESCYT) with the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of China, sponsored by UNESCO.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015, LA HABANA, CUBA
Participation in the Third Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), organised in coordination with the UNESCO's Regional Office for Culture in Havana.

SEPTEMBER 23 to 29, 2015, GUAYAQUIL AND PUERTO AYORA, GALAPAGOS, ECUADOR
Participation in the Symposium on the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, co-organised by UNESCO, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Ecuador's Judicial School.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the Forum "A look of Beijing from the Centre of the Earth: progress and challenges", organised by UN Women – Ecuador.

SEPTEMBER 28 to 29, 2015, VILLA RICA, PERU
Co-organisation and participation in the Fourth Meeting of the Biosphere Reserves of Peru with the

National Service of Protected Natural Areas by the State (SERNANP) and actors of the Oxapampa Ashaninka Yanasha Biosphere Reserve.

OCTOBER 2, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the event "Citizen Meeting with Afro-descendant People for the "International Decade for People of African Descent: recognition, justice and development".

OCTOBER 3, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Debate cycles "Today's Knowledge Societies", organised by the International Centre for Higher Studies in Journalism for Latin America (CIESPAL) and the UNESCO Office in Brazil.

OCTOBER 5 to 7, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Work seminars with the Otomí leader, Dr Mindahi Bastida, in the context of Spiritual Reserves of Humanity.

OCTOBER 9 to 11, 2015, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA
Participation in the International Conference on occasion of the "Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists", organised by the UNESCO's Cluster Office for Central America in coordination with the Inter-American System of Human Rights.

OCTOBER 10 to 12, 2015, TIQUIPAYA, COCHABAMBA, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
Participation in the World Conference on Climate Change and Defence of Life, convened by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

OCTOBER 14 to 16, 2015, CUENCA, ECUADOR
Participation in the "First International Congress on Education, Quality and Good Living", in coordination with the National University of Education and Ministry of Education of Ecuador,

sponsored by UNESCO Quito and UNESCO Santiago.

OCTOBER 15 to 16, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
South-South Cooperation, event to promote exchange of experiences between the Ministry of Education of Ecuador and the Bogota District Education Secretariat, in the extra-budgetary project for "Technical Educational Assistance for the Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota and UNDP Colombia".

OCTOBER 17 to 22, 2015, LA PAZ, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
Second Workshop on Knowledge Transmission of the Kallwaya Culture and Inventory Preparation with Community Participation in coordination with the Ministry of Culture of Bolivia and the Catholic University of San Pablo de Bolivia, Radio and Television Training Service for Development (SECRAD).

OCTOBER 19, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Presentation of the Publication "Creating Equality in Higher Education" in coordination with the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (SENESCYT) of Ecuador.

OCTOBER 20 to 23, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Regional Experts Meeting on Memory of the World and selection of new documents that will be included in the Regional Register of Memory of the World in coordination with the Regional Memory of the World Committee and the International Centre for Higher Studies in Journalism for Latin America (CIESPAL).

OCTOBER 21 to 23, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
"Fifth Latin American Symposium on Physics and Chemistry in Archaeology, Art and Conservation" (LASMAC 2015), at the Equinoctial Technological University (UTE) campus, for exchange

of experiences and sharing knowledge about practices in disciplines such as physics, chemistry and archaeology to conserve cultural heritage.

OCTOBER 21 to 23, 2015, BARCELONA, SPAIN
Organisation and participation in the Sixteenth Meeting of the IberoMAB Network.

OCTOBER 22 to 23, 2015, CARACAS, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
Participation in the "Second Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Social Development of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)".

OCTOBER 25 to 28, 2015, IBARRA AND QUITO, ECUADOR
Coordination meeting and coordinator's visit from the Grutas del Palacio Global Geopark, Uruguay, with the Imbabura and Tungurahua Volcano Geopark projects in Ecuador.

OCTOBER 26 to 30, 2015, SANTIAGO, CHILE
Participation in the Eleventh Meeting of National Committees and the International Hydrological Programme for Latin America and Caribbean Focal Points.

OCTOBER 27, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Co-organisation and participation in the First National Conference on Geoparks in Ecuador, with FIGEMPA-UCE.

NOVEMBER 4 to 7, 2015, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
Seventh World Science Forum.

NOVEMBER 5, 2015, CUENCA, ECUADOR
Co-organisation of celebration of the Macizo del Cajas Biosphere Reserve, with the Municipal Public Enterprise of Telecommunications, Potable Water, Sewage and Sanitation of Cuenca (ETAPA-EP) and other actors of the Management Committee of Macizo del Cajas.

NOVEMBER 5 to 6, 2015, BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA
International Seminar on Challenges for Creating Public Policy in Education and ICTs for Latin America 2015, organised with the Ministry of National Education of Colombia.

NOVEMBER 9 to 11, 2015, CUENCA, ECUADOR
Participation in the Habitat III thematic meeting on "Intermediate Cities: Urban Growth and Renewal", carried out in coordination with the Municipality of Cuenca and the World Heritage Centre.

NOVEMBER 11 to 14, 2015, SAN ANDRES ISLAND, COLOMBIA
Participation in the Second Forum on Sustainable Tourism on Small Islands, organised by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism (FONTUR) and the Sustainable Development Corporation for the San Andres Archipelago, Providence and Santa Catalina (Coralina).

NOVEMBER 12 to 13, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
Participation in the "Second Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development", in coordination with the International Organization for Migration, Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), the World Bank and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

NOVEMBER 13 to 15, 2015, IBARRA, ECUADOR
Co-organisation of the Eighth Ibero-American Seminar on Scientific Journalism with the FIDAL Foundation, CIESPAL, YACHAY – Knowledge City, the PROMETEO programme of SENESCYT and the Northern Technical University (UTN) of Ibarra.

NOVEMBER 23 to 27, 2015, GALÁPAGOS, ECUADOR
Participation in the Third Project Meeting "Biosphere Reserves as a Tool for Coastal and Island Management in the South-East Pacific Region

(BRESEP)", organised by the MAB Programme and the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador.

NOVEMBER, 25 to 27, 2015, LA PAZ, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
Closure ceremony of the project for the "Safeguarding of the Intangible Culture Heritage of the Kallwaya Culture", funded by the Japanese Funds in Trust for Intangible Culture Heritage.

DECEMBER 2 to 4, 2015, SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA
Co-organisation and participation in the Meeting of the National Network of Biosphere Reserves of Colombia with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia.

DECEMBER 14, 2015, QUITO, ECUADOR
UNESCO gave the certification of incorporation to the Memory of the World Programme at "Mediateca CIESPAL-MEDIALAB Quito" guarded by CIESPAL

DECEMBER 16, 2015, BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA
UNESCO gave the certification of incorporation to the Memory of the World Programme at "Operación Ciriri, Archivo Fondo Documental Familia Lalinde".

DECEMBER 17, 2015, BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA
Public presentation to mass media of the results generated by the Project "Educative Technical Assistance to the Education Secretariat of Bogota and PNUD-Colombia"

Signing of the collaboration framework agreement between the Quito and Cluster Office and the Pontifical Xavierian University.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACHALC*: Atlas of the Water Cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean
AECID*: Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
ACPO*: Popular Cultural Action
ALADI*: Latin American Integration Association
ARH*: Historic Archives of Medellin
BLAA*: Luis Angel Arango Library
BRESEP: Biosphere Reserves as a Tool for Coastal and Island Management in the South-East Pacific Region
CAF*: Andean Development Corporation
CDE-EP*: Postal System of Ecuador – Public Enterprise
CDF: Charles Darwin Foundation
CDIS: UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators
CEAAL*: Council of Popular Education of Latin America and the Caribbean
CEC-EP*: Centre for Continuous Education -Public Enterprise
CELAC*: Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CELEC-EP*: Electrical Corporation of Ecuador – Public Enterprise
CES*: Council for Higher Education of Ecuador
CI: Communication and Information
CIAAAT: Tiwanaku Centre for Archaeological, Anthropological and Administration Research
CICAN: Colleges and Institutes Canada
CIDAP*: Inter-American Centre for Crafts and Popular Arts
CIESPAL*: International Centre for Higher Studies in Communication for Latin America

CIME: Centre for International Media Ethics
CNCU*: National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO
CNIG*: National Council for Gender Equality
COMJIB*: Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries
CONACYT*: National Council for Science and Technology
CONAF*: National Forest Corporation
CORALINA*: Corporation for Sustainable Development of San Andres Archipelago, Providencia and Santa Catalina
CPPS*: Permanent Commission of the Southern Pacific
CYTED*: Ibero-American Programme of Science and Technology for Development
DIPECHO: Disaster Preparedness Programme
EFA: Education for All
EGB*: General Basic Education
ENHANS: Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards in South America
EPMAPS*: Quito Metropolitan Public Enterprise for Water Supply and Sanitation
ESD: Education for Sustainable Development
ESPOCH*: Polytechnic School of Chimborazo
ETAPA-EP*: Municipal Public Enterprise of Telecommunications, Potable Water, Sewage and Sanitation of Cuenca
FAEPLA*: Federation of Private Educational Associations of Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEIG*: Galapagos Invasive Species Control Fund

FIGEMPA-UCE*: Department of Geology, Mining, Petroleum and Environmental Engineering, Central University of Ecuador
FIDAL*: Foundation for Integration and Development in Latin America
FLACSO*: Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences
FONTUR*: Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism of Colombia
FPF: Freedom of the Press Foundation
FUNDARCULTURA*: Science, Art and Culture Foundation of Colombia
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
GEF: Global Environment Facility
GGN: Global Geoparks Network
GOAL: Geo-Network of Latinamerican-German Alumni
GRULAC*: Latin America and Caribbean Group
HQ: Headquarter
IACHR: Inter-American Court of Human Rights
IAEN*: Institute of Higher National Studies
IberoMAB: Network of MAB National Committees and Biosphere Reserves of Ibero-America and the Caribbean
ICC-MAB: International Coordinating Council for the Man and the Biosphere Programme
ICOMOS: International Council on Monuments and Sites
ICT: Information and Communication Technologies
IDEA*: Institute of Teaching and Learning San Francisco University Ecuador
IDEDH*: Ibero-American Institute for Education in Human Rights

IFAP: Information for All Programme
IGCP: International Geoscience Programme
IGGP: International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme
IHP: International Hydrological Programme
IHP-LAC: International Hydrological Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean
IMP*: Metropolitan Institute of Heritage
INEVAL*: National Institute of Educational Evaluation
INVAL*: Metropolitan Value Assessment Institute of Medellin
INPC*: National Institute of Cultural Heritage
IOC: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPDC: International Programme for the Development of Communication
IPYS*: Press and Society Institute
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
KNOMAD: Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
LINKS: Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
LLECE*: Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education
MAB*: Man and the Biosphere Programme
MEER*: Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Ecuador
MERCOSUR*: Southern Common Market
MDG: Millennium Development Goals
MIES*: Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion
MIL: Media and Information Literacy
MOST: Management of Social Transformations

NCI: Nature and Culture International
OREALC*: Regional Bureau of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean
PDE*: Ten-Year Education Plan
PFG: Programme for Graduate Training
PROMESE*: Management Programme for Higher Education Memory
SECRAD*: Radio and Television Training Service for Development
SED*: Secretariat of Education of the District of Bogota
SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
SENECYT*: Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
SENPLADES*: National Secretariat of Planning and Development
SERNANP*: National Service of Protected Natural Areas by the State
SERVINDI*: Intercultural Information Services
SIDS: Small Island Developing States
SIMMYCC*: Museums of the City Foundation, Quito
STI: Science, Technology and Innovation
TERCE*: Third Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study
TVET: Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UBV*: Bolivarian University of Venezuela
UCATEC*: Private University of Administrative and Technological Sciences
UDLA*: University of the Americas, Ecuador
UDLH*: University of the Hemispheres, Ecuador
ULEAM*: Eloy Alfaro Secular University of Manabi, Ecuador

UNDAF: United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNAE*: National Education University, Ecuador
UNASUR*: Union of South American Nations
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNS: United Nations System
UPE: Universal Primary Education
UPC*: Peruvian University of Applied Sciences
UQAM: University of Quebec in Montreal (Université du Québec à Montréal)
USFQ*: San Francisco University of Quito, Ecuador
UTE*: Equinoctial Technological University, Ecuador
UTN*: Northern Technical University, Ecuador
UTPL*: Private Technical University of Loja, Ecuador
VVOB: Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance
WFP: World Food Programme
WSIS: World Summit on the Information Society
WUF: World Urban Forum



Quito Office
Representation for Bolivia,
Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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