

Nominate: M.Sc. Alfonso Fuentes Soria, Republic of Guatemala.

UNESCO

SUMMARIZED APPROACH ON UNESCO'S GOALS.

To express in few pages, what I believe the priorities of the Organization will be during the next four years, is a tremendous task.

Therefore I shall try to focus on general guidelines.

- **Culture for a Sustainable Development.** Encourage at every educational level and in the general population, supported by ICT, mass media and other means, the practice of principles and values for an educated, peaceful, and healthy life; as well as developing better habits for good living that respect the environment, for the rational use and management of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and responsible consumption in order to influence on the achievement of a sustainable welfare for the human being in harmony with his/her natural and social environment.
- **Universality principle.** UNESCO was organized by the original 14 member states and nowadays its almost current universal membership confirms its global impact. The task of the future DG will be to encourage the adhesion or return of a few missing states, initially by their possible involvement on specific programs. It would be a superficial matter to consider this a priority imposed exclusively by financial concerns; it becomes a must based upon the UNESCO's essence and global purposes.
- **Coordination with other UN agencies.** Many UNESCO tasks play a transversal axis in the UN system and they provide a broader scope of ensuring a sustainable development driving a poor community into a better-quality life for children and adults by educational and health sustainable projects achieved by the same community. Inter-agency collaboration is a structural obligation in areas such as Health, Environment, and Climatic change. Moreover, special attention must be paid to the growing problem of ensuring education to the increasing number of young multicultural refugees.
- **Regional cooperation.** The promotion of actions at regional level is necessary, in particular, for small countries. This multidisciplinary approach would include the building of capacities, competencies, and support to strengthening the regional scientific infrastructure. South-South cooperation and a special attention to Africa will be pillars for this issue, and much more attention has to be paid to the needs of a large number of small island states. The latter shall require strengthening the regional character of cluster offices.

- **Information policy.** Free access to information and promotion of connectivity are historical flags of the Organization. The more global connectivity fostered by UNESCO projects, the easier educational, human principles and values as well as inter-religious and interracial respect concerns may be spread in future generations.
- **Austerity and transparency.** These global and institutional policies require the Organization to ensure austerity and transparency in the development of its performance.
- **Culture is the production, circulation and use of symbolic goods** which supply social groups along with social cohesion, political legitimacy and a sense of cultural identity. These are the social functions of cultural production. Culture divides into lettered (or high) culture, popular culture and industrial culture. UNESCO should address the three forms of culture under an emphasis, especially in this globalization era in which the three of them coexist and mingle according to the laws of the market. UNESCO should promote high culture because it is the most elaborated expression of human spirituality. It should encourage popular cultures because they are the ones that form alternative forms of acquired knowledge in order to circulate among subaltern populations. And it should also devote some efforts to analyze industrial culture seeking to influence its production, circulation and consumption according to what the Organization considers convenient for the physical and psychological health of humanity, for, as we know, industrial culture and its products are the most widely and a-critically consumed by masses all over the world.
- **Cultural heritage** is historically a priority of UNESCO. Certainly, it will continue to be a leading program. However, there is a specific issue, which requires immediate action; the restoration of DAESH destroyed monuments, for which a broadly supported world program must be launched.
- **Culture of Peace.** UNESCO has a long tradition to pursue this goal. Its role defending values like Tolerance, Good governance, Human rights is well known. A special attention should be given to a number of problems worldwide, freedom of press is essential, and the vulnerability of journalists is a problem in a large number of countries. However, there are other threats against this culture of Peace in which UNESCO's voice is essential, first of all, proliferation of chemical weapons use. Moreover, UNESCO must be especially active in those regions where tensions are stronger.
- **Science, Technology and Development.** The role of Science and Technology for development requires no justification. However, inequalities among countries and regions are tremendous and these are reflected on the right to access by large sectors of the population, in particular, girls, and, where the problem of minorities may be applicable. Besides, it is a necessary development for practical applications, such as industrial innovations via scientific-technological entrepreneurship liasons among higher-education institutions, private sector, and the State.

- **These priorities are in line with the UNESCO's history and ultimate goals.** We are aware that in order to design a program which develops this cultural patrimony, it will be necessary to ensure a strong and permanent funding. This can be provided by sources, which irrestrictively fulfill the basic values of a seventy-year organization. Therefore one must explore the possibility of support by regional organizations, e.g. the European Union or the Union of African States, and regional development banks. The example of JACOB in Bioethics must be generalized. Obviously also voluntary contributions from member states should be welcome, for specific programs which may be consistent with the history and backgrounds of the Organization.
- **Basic education.** It is a fundamental priority, which is entangled with other priorities. Despite the progress of last decades, there are still broad regions where instruments like inquiry-based education are absent and basic education suffers a gender bias.
- **Being education, science and culture the backbone of UNESCO,** it is necessary to seriously consider a broad program of support for their development as a triad that acts as a single fact in people's minds and behaviors.
- **Intercultural education must be a priority,** especially in countries in which racial and cultural mixtures are the rule and not the exception, like those in Latin America and the Middle East with large vernacular populations. Intercultural (and not multicultural) education should serve the purpose of national unity within ethnic diversity, pursuing a balanced relationship among cultural differences through a democratic set of intercultural policies that promote the peaceful coexistence of diverse individuals and groups in multicultural societies.
- **Following this logic, scientific diversity** is also a high priority to be developed, promoting alternative (often subaltern) forms of knowledge in countries that have acute class and ethnic differentiations, and whose poor populations are deprived from formal Western education nor are they aware of their ancestral forms of knowledge, often restricted to rural subaltern elites of power and/or deformed by groups interested in turning them into "magical" expressions ready to enter the market of the "New Age" sensibility.
- **This holistic vision of the education-science-culture triad** addresses the fact that its three components complement each other in the real world, and that people actually live and practice in their everyday lives as a whole. UNESCO should do the same when critically analyzing and promoting them, aimed to contribute to the democratization of human relations and well-being throughout the world.

- **Global unexpected events which may occur anywhere, anytime** must be approached, based on UNESCO's nature and mission, as well as connected with another world agencies, inter alias, UN WHO,FAO and others; the appropriate UNESCO department or regional office analyzes the case, reports the General Direction which calls for a multidisciplinary top level officer meeting in order to work and carry out any internal, regional, and local plan.