



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Concerning the establishment of a partnership between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Secretariat and its subsidiary bodies (hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO") and the European Union, jointly referred to hereinafter as "the two Sides"

The two Sides acknowledge the longstanding cooperation between the European Union and UNESCO, in particular in light of the Commission's Communications to the European Council and Parliament "Building an Effective partnership with the United Nations in the fields of Development and Humanitarian Affairs" and "The European Union and the United Nations: the choice of multilateralism";

The longstanding cooperation also builds on the previous exchanges of letters dated 2 and 15 September 1964, 12 December 1972 and 14 February 1973 between UNESCO (René Maheu) and Commission (Jean Rey and François-Xavier Ortoli); and the Provisions applicable to Cooperation between the European Commission and UNESCO (1995); as well as the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) between the European Community and the United Nations signed on 29 April 2003, to which UNESCO acceded on 23 February 2004;

The two Sides recognise the respective responsibilities of the two Sides in their areas of competence;

The two Sides hereby confirm a partnership (hereinafter referred to as "the partnership") with the aim of enhancing and increasing their dialogue on policy issues, cooperation and exchange of data and information in their efforts to achieve their common goals and objectives in the areas identified in detail under section C of this Memorandum.

A. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

- (1) Through this partnership, the two Sides express their wish to develop and structure their dialogue on policy issues, cooperation and exchange of data and information in areas of common interest.
- (2) The partnership will aim at an increased coherence and efficiency, as well as at an enhanced quality and impact, of the activities of the two Sides in the areas covered by the partnership.
- (3) The two Sides share fundamental values such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and in particular freedom of expression.
- (4) The two Sides share the objectives of development through the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development targets, including the Education for All (EFA) goals.
- (5) The two Sides share the objective of promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, as well as that of making culture a vector for human, social and economic development.
- (6) The two Sides share the objective of raising awareness about the importance of education as an essential pillar for human, social and economic development, and they cooperate to that effect,

including by co-ordinating efforts in the field of quality, relevance and content of education in partner countries.

- (7) The two Sides acknowledge the importance of media, in particular audio-visual media, as levers for education and social betterment, as well as their contribution to cultural, economic and political development.
- (8) The two Sides share the objective of promoting science, technology and innovation, as well as recognize their role in addressing global challenges and driving economic and social progress, and share the objective of promoting them for the sake of inclusive and sustainable development.
- (9) The two Sides promote fundamental values in the areas of research and innovation and cooperate in bioethics and ethics of science and new technologies.
- (10) The two Sides promote the integrated management of oceans.
- (11) The present partnership complements and further develops the ongoing overall cooperation between the European Union and UNESCO.
- (12) The partnership will be based on the respect and mutual understanding of the respective strengths, organizational structures, mandates and institutional capacities of the two organisations.
- (13) The objectives of this partnership will be achieved through:
 - fostering collaboration on approaches, including evidence based approaches, to policy development and recommendations;
 - improving dialogue and knowledge sharing;
 - promoting best practices;
 - creating synergies where appropriate.
- (14) A particular effort will be made to enhance cooperation between the European Union Delegations and UNESCO Field Offices and Category 1 Institutes at the country level, also involving as appropriate other UNESCO Centres.
- (15) This Memorandum of Understanding does not create rights or obligations under international law nor commit either partner financially.

B. PRIORITIES

- (16) In the area of development the partnership will apply to those countries classified as "developing" according to the OECD-DAC list of recipients.
- (17) UNESCO and the European Union will work together closely at the global, regional and country levels in the areas of cooperation identified in section C of this Memorandum.
- (18) UNESCO's global priorities will be mainstreamed, within the areas identified for cooperation in section C of this Memorandum.

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- (19) Civil society involvement will be encouraged within the areas identified for cooperation in section C of this Memorandum.

C. AREAS FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

- (20) The two Sides will increase dialogue on policy issues, cooperation and exchange of data and information in their efforts to achieve their common objectives, notably in the following areas:
 - education and culture, including their potential as vectors for development;
 - media, in particular audio-visual media, and their regulatory framework;
 - science, technology and innovation, including their potential for capacity building
 - integrated maritime policy;
 - human rights, in particular freedom of expression;
 - bioethics and ethics of science and new technologies.

D. ARRANGEMENTS

- (21) The following arrangements in the paragraphs below will apply for the partnership:
- (22) Dialogue on policy issues will be pursued through working meetings focused on thematic areas.
- (23) Review meetings will be held as appropriate.
- (24) The focal points for the partnership will be the Directorate General responsible for development cooperation and the European External Action Service (Global and Multilateral Affairs Directorate) on the one hand, and the Bureau for Strategic Planning of UNESCO on the other. The focal points will ensure coordination with and involvement of other services, as necessary.
- (25) The two Sides may invite each other to meetings and working groups relevant to this partnership on the basis of reciprocity subject to the due observance of existing rules and regulations of the respective organisations.
- (26) The two Sides will inform and consult each other, as appropriate, on issues of mutual interest in the areas identified in detail under section C of this Memorandum.
- (27) The two Sides will take all necessary communication measures to maximise the visibility of this partnership and, more specifically, of their shared objectives and principles, with the aim of increasing awareness and understanding within the general public and specialised audiences.

E. REVIEW

- (28) This Memorandum may be reviewed, in writing, by mutual arrangement of the two Sides at any time.

Done in 2 originals in the English language, in Paris, on 8 October 2012.

FOR UNESCO

FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION



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Director-General



Andris PIEBALGS
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Catherine ASHTON
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