



### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

We the people of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. It is through this dialogue that the world can achieve global visions of sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which are at the heart of UNESCO'S mission and activities.

UNESCO'S mission is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. Among our principal goals belong attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning, mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development, addressing emerging social and ethical challenges, fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace, building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication.

As for suggestions concerning the themes about cultural integration proposed in your draft, our standpoint is as follows:

#### English as lingua franca

We believe languages, with their complex implications for identity, communication, social integration, education and development, are of strategic importance for people and the planet. They play a vital role in development, in ensuring cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, but also in attaining quality education for all and strengthening cooperation, in building inclusive knowledge societies and preserving cultural heritage, and in mobilizing political will for applying the benefits of science and technology to sustainable development. You suggest using English language as the lingua franca for the communication on international level. Taking into consideration the fact that English language is already unofficially considered as an international language used worldwide, we prefer focusing on promoting and preserving those individual languages that are endangered. We believe that promoting multilingualism and linguistic diversity, including the safeguarding of endangered languages is a crucial task in maintaining cultural diversity worldwide. Half of the 6,700 languages spoken today are in danger of disappearing before the century ends, a process that can be slowed only if urgent action is taken by governments and speaker communities. UNESCO'S Endangered Languages Programme mobilizes international cooperation to focus attention on this grave situation and to promote innovative solutions from communities, experts and authorities.

However, one of our goals also include providing the necessary resources and take the necessary measures to alleviate language barriers, so we have developed several processes in science and literature that include translating and disseminating scientific materials and international literature work to communities to overcome language barriers. UNESCO, one of whose strategic and fundamental aims is the promotion of cultural diversity, can and must be active in this field, wanting to serve primarily as a catalyst for international co-operation, as an organization offering normative guidance and as a laboratory of ideas. Taking into account your proposal of creating the commission formed to set an international comprehensive terminology, we are willing to participate by offering our know-how, scientific and cultural reserachers and institutions.



# The Model Conference

## Cross-Cultural Issues in the Global Context

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



# Modelová konferencia

## Interkultúrna problematika v globálnom kontexte

Fakulta medzinárodných vzťahov, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave

### Sustainable multiculturalism

In a world where no country is entirely homogenous, demands for recognition of different ethnicities, religions, languages and values are increasingly arising. There is an urgency of developing a sense of respect for the Other that will provide a basis for mutual understanding, friendship and learning. Cultural diversity and heritage are vectors of identity and tools for reconciliation.

Based on UNESCO's Constitution and the various resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and General Conference, the promotion of dialogue in the service of peace – in order to build “peace in the minds of men” – is one of the main themes of UNESCO's mission.

Globalization and the emergence of new contemporary challenges and threats to humankind make the need for dialogue among peoples ever more topical.

A principal objective of a dialogue is to bridge the gap in knowledge about other civilizations, cultures and societies, to lay the foundations for dialogue based on universally shared values and to undertake concrete activities, inspired and driven by dialogue, especially in the areas of education, cultural diversity and heritage, the sciences and communication and media.

Considering your fourth proposal about increasing intellectual engagement and building a foundation for an active international network of experts, we can only agree. We call upon the institutions of our civil society, the United Nations System, governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations, corporations, and the mass media should identify and promote repositories of information and knowledge in the public domain and make them accessible by all, thus shaping learning environments conducive to creativity and audience development. To this end, adequate funding should be provided for the preservation and digitization of public domain information. Member States and international organizations should encourage cooperative arrangements which respect both public and private interests in order to ensure universal access to information in the public domain without geographical, economic, social or cultural discrimination.

### Global religion

We are aware of the world's cultural and religious diversity. Each culture represents a universe in itself and yet it is not closed. Cultures give religions their language, and religions offer ultimate meaning to each culture. Unless we recognize pluralism and respect diversity, no peace is possible. We strive for the harmony which is at the very core of peace. For some cultures, religion is a way of life, permeating every human activity. For others it represents the highest aspirations of human existence. In still others, religions are institutions that claim to carry a message of salvation. Religions have contributed to the peace of the world, but they have also led to division, hatred, and war. Religious people have too often betrayed the high ideals they themselves have preached. We feel obliged to call for sincere acts of repentance and mutual forgiveness, both personally and collectively, to one another, to humanity in general, and to Earth and all living beings.

We agree that religions must not identify themselves with political, economic, or social powers, so as to remain free to work for justice and peace. We will not forget that confessional political regimes may do serious harm to religious values as well as to society, but we don't believe a total secularization is possible to achieve all over the world. We will promote dialogue and harmony between and within religions, but your idea of religious individualization presented as believing without belonging, isn't practicable in all member states of our organisation that practically identify their religion with their culture.



FORUM FOR  
THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY





**The Model Conference**

**Cross-Cultural Issues in the Global Context**

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



**Modelová konferencia**

**Interkultúrna problematika v globálnom kontexte**

Fakulta medzinárodných vzťahov, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave

Our only participation possible concerning this issue could be UNESCO's Interreligious Dialogue programme, an essential component of Intercultural Dialogue that aims to promote dialogue among different religions, spiritual and humanistic traditions in a world where conflicts are increasingly associated with religious belonging.

Interreligious dialogue is not an attempt to unite all religious associations, it is an attempt to discuss some common questions and their possible solutions.



FORUM FOR  
THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

