

Hundred and fifty-ninth Session

159 EX/37
PARIS, 4 May 2000
Original: English

Item 8.3 of the provisional agenda

**STRATEGY PAPER BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
ON THE PLACE OF UNESCO
IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTIONS
ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE**

SUMMARY

This document is submitted to the Executive Board in compliance with 157 EX/Decision 10.3, by which the Executive Board requested the Director-General to provide it at its 159th session a strategy paper on the place of UNESCO in the United Nations system-wide actions on the culture of peace, based on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the Executive Board debate at its 157th session on the evaluation report on the transdisciplinary project “Towards a culture of peace” (157 EX/39) and the results of the ACC discussions.

This strategy paper is based on the contents of 157 EX/Decision 10.3, as well as on various resolutions relating to the culture of peace adopted by the General Conference at its 30th session (see Annex). It also takes into account the recommendations thereon of the fifth session of the Advisory Committee on Education for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy, Tolerance and International Understanding which met at Headquarters from 20 to 22 March 2000, and the progress already made in the implementation of document 30 C/5 Approved (prov.).

Decision required: paragraph 28.

INTRODUCTION

1. **Part I** of this strategy paper deals with UNESCO's three main objectives in the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolutions (A/RES/52/15, A/RES/53/25, A/RES/53/243) concerning the culture of peace. The three objectives are:

- (a) **consolidation of the global campaign for partnerships for the International Year of a Culture of Peace (2000) and in the perspective of the launching of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010);**
- (b) **launching of mobilizing projects for a culture of peace in the different regions;**
- (c) **strengthening of education and training for a culture of peace and of communications for peace.**

2. For each of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, information is provided on UNESCO's role as defined in the resolutions, the main objectives to be achieved by the Organization in their implementation during the 2000-2001 biennium, particularly in the light of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 41 to 49 of document 157 EX/39 and of the various resolutions related to the culture of peace adopted by UNESCO's General Conference at its 30th session (see Annex).

3. **Part II** of this document deals with ongoing cooperation with the United Nations system.

4. Three departments of the UNESCO Secretariat - *the Department for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Tolerance* in the Social and Human Sciences Sector, the *Department of Education for a Culture of Peace* in the Education Sector, the *Department of Intercultural Dialogue and Cultural Pluralism* in the Culture Sector **have been given full responsibility for the implementation of actions foreseen under the transdisciplinary project "Towards a culture of peace"**. Those three Departments and the *Programme for Freedom of Expression and Democracy* in the Communication, Information and Informatics Sector have a leading role in the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (United Nations General Assembly resolution 53/243).

5. The *Coordination Unit in BPE* has been entrusted, on the one hand, with the monitoring of activities related to the celebration in 2000 of the International Year for a Culture of Peace and the preparation of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), a function which will be phased out in 2001 and, on the other hand, with the monitoring of activities related to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. The Coordination Unit, as such, does not implement any activity.

6. The Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace were annexed to document 157 EX/INF.3. Reports to the Executive Board on activities implemented under the transdisciplinary project "Towards a culture of peace" have been drawn up on several occasions in 1996-1997 (152 EX/50 and 155 EX/49), in document 157 EX/4 for the first six months of the 1998-1999 biennium and in document 159 EX/4 Part I (paras. 154-182) for the last six months of that same biennium.

I. UNESCO's ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE CULTURE OF PEACE

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION A/RES/52/15 - PROCLAMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

7. UNESCO's role as defined in the resolution: UNESCO is acting as focal point within the United Nations system for the International Year for a Culture of Peace on the basis of ECOSOC resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997.

8. On the basis of activities related to the launching of the International Year in over 100 countries since September 1999, the main objective to be attained by the Organization is the following:

Objective: Consolidation of the global campaign for partnerships for the International Year for a Culture of Peace (2000) and in the perspective of the launching of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

Action taken

9. National partnerships established with National Commissions for UNESCO: as of 15 March 2000, **142 National Commissions** were actively involved in the implementation of national activities for the promotion of a culture of peace in the framework of these partnerships. In various countries, National Committees have been created for the celebration of the International Year which have established their own programmes of activities, through joint initiatives with national parliaments and partnerships with national and local NGOs, schools, universities, municipalities, the media and the private sectors. These activities and initiatives focus mainly on: the reinforcement of educational activities for peace, non-violence and tolerance in schools (in cooperation with schools belonging to the ASPnet, UNESCO Chairs, UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, and UNICEF), training courses for peace promoters at the local level based on traditional practices, enhancing the role of women and youth in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and intercultural dialogue at the community level, promotion of the International Year and of the International Decade through the media. **Indeed, the scope of the actions undertaken by the National Commissions for the International Year should be underlined, given that they have been successful in mobilizing many key actors of civil society in favour of a United Nations system-wide initiative. For that same reason, the results of those actions, implemented at the national and local level, will be duly taken into account as a core element of UNESCO's contribution to the report to be submitted by the United Nations Secretary-General to the General Assembly in 2001 on the International Year.** (Given the considerable volume of the documentation and information tools already provided by the National Commissions, detailed information can be furnished by the Secretariat on the activities of specific National Commissions.)

10. Partnerships established with NGOs, in particular those having official relations with UNESCO: 120 NGOs, many of which deal with education issues, have signed partnership agreements for the celebration of the International Year. Their programmes of activities focus mainly on: teacher training in education on a culture of peace, promotion of non-violence, tolerance and intercultural dialogue in schools, and the contribution of sports and the arts to

peace and non-violence. Special mention must be made of the contribution of *Education International* to the mobilization of teachers.

11. Targets for 2000:

Through support given to National Commissions, ***contribute to the full implementation of their programmes of activities for the International Year, in particular in the developing countries.*** Financial support has already been provided in 2000 to 15 National Commissions, either directly or through field offices. The numerous Participation Programme requests already received, giving high priority to culture of peace-related activities, are being closely examined by the different Departments and other Units concerned in order to ensure that they have a multiplier effect at the local and national levels, in particular when they concern education and training activities.

In the perspective of the launching of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, ***identify those medium-term activities already being carried out at the national and local level, which could serve as a basis for an early implementation of the Programme of Action of the Decade.***

Internet websites relating to the culture of peace will continue to provide updated information on projects, activities and publications relating to the celebration of the International Year. As part of the initiative to establish a global system of communication and information exchange on activities undertaken to promote a culture of peace by National Commissions, NGOs and the media, ***the training of Internet culture of peace moderators will be developed.*** Since January 2000, 11 Internet moderator training sessions have been held with local partners - in particular universities - in Jordan for the Arab region, in Australia for the Asia-Pacific region, in France, Russian Federation and Spain for Europe, and Argentina, Brazil and Chile for Latin America and the Caribbean.

100 million signatures of the Manifesto 2000 for a culture of peace, which has already been translated into over 50 languages in different regions. (As of 1 March 2000, more than 1 million citizens had already signed the Manifesto, directly or through the Internet, in three countries: Algeria (1.2 million), Brazil (1.5 million) and South Korea (1 million).)

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION A/RES/53/25 PROCLAIMING THE PERIOD 2001-2010 AS THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

12. UNESCO's role as defined in the resolution: relevant United Nations bodies, in particular UNESCO and UNICEF, are called upon to support the Decade.

Action taken

13. UNESCO has made a contribution to the elaboration of both the report and the draft programme of action that the United Nations Secretary-General is called upon by resolution A/RES/53/25 to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The draft programme of action will deal essentially with the promotion of the Decade at the local, national, regional and international levels (see 159 EX/INF.4). It should be recalled that

resolution A/RES/53/243 states that the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace should serve as the basis for the Decade.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION A/RES/53/243 ON CULTURE OF PEACE CONTAINING THE DECLARATION ON A CULTURE OF PEACE AND THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON A CULTURE OF PEACE

14. *UNESCO's role as defined in the resolution:* both in the Declaration and in the Programme of Action, UNESCO is called upon to play an important role in their implementation. Particular stress is put on UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of actions fostering a culture of peace through education (para. B.9 of the Programme of Action).

Objective: Launching of mobilizing projects for a culture of peace in the different regions

Action taken

15. On the basis of consultations with interested Member States, six mobilizing projects are at different stages of implementation in the following countries: Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mali, Palestine, Russian Federation. These mobilizing projects aim at involving all the main actors concerned at the national level by the promotion of a culture of peace in the implementation of medium-term activities, based on the guidelines provided by the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

- **Cambodia:** on the basis of the Declaration adopted on 11 December 1999 by the National Conference on a Culture of Peace in Cambodia, three subprojects were identified concerning respectively the preparation of a national plan of education for a culture of peace, the enhancement of traditional conflict resolution practices, and the promotion of democratic principles. These subprojects are in their first phase of implementation, in close cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh, other United Nations agencies, local NGOs and conflict resolution centres.
- **Dominican Republic:** on the basis of consultations with the National Commission, the project will be launched in July 2000, on the occasion of the regional meeting organized by UNESCO on human rights education in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Santo Domingo. The main objectives of the project are to reinforce human rights education and human rights training for specific groups, to develop local community projects in the prevention of violence and to foster democratic participation. The project will be implemented by the National Commission in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Santo Domingo, the UNESCO Chair for human rights and UNDP.
- **Guatemala:** a national culture of peace project is already being implemented in the country by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Guatemala City, financed by extrabudgetary funds from Italy. The three objectives of the project are the following: contribute to the strengthening of the national reconciliation process and consolidation of peace; promote supervised professional practice for university students with a view to allowing them to have a better knowledge of the different sociocultural realities of Guatemala; support to the integral development of Guatemalan youth as an essential element of the construction of peace and of sustainable human development (UNESCO-Italy Project 534/ITA/90).

- **Mali:** on the basis of consultations with the government authorities of Mali in 1999-2000, the main subprojects to be implemented are the national plan of education for a culture for peace, financed by UNDP, the validation of the study - already carried out with UNDP financing - on the values underpinning a culture of peace in Mali, and the training in human rights of members of the armed and security forces. Two other activities, already initiated in the previous biennium - the establishment of a network of African historians for a culture of peace and the transformation of Timbuktu into a weapons-free city - will be continued in the framework of the project. The project will be implemented through the UNESCO Office in Bamako, in cooperation with the National Commission, UNDP and UNESCO Chairs.
- **Palestine:** on the basis of a proposal made by the Ministry of Education of the Palestinian Authority, a culture of peace project for youth will be launched on 6 June 2000. The main aim of this project is to train youth in conflict and violence prevention at the local level. During the implementation of this project, cooperation will be ensured with the Young Leaders Network which involves young Palestinians, Israelis, Egyptians and Jordanians and initiatives taken by various NGOs in the framework of the twinning of European cities with Palestinian cities and refugee camps, with a view to offering Palestinian youth the possibility of participating in vocational training and development projects.
- **Russian Federation:** on the basis of proposals made by the National Commission and the government authorities, the plan of action of the project was finalized in early April 2000. UNESCO is already giving its support to: the Federal Programme for Tolerance and the Prevention of Extremism, the network of community centres for a culture of peace in Obninsk, Kazan, Samara and Borissglebsk, the launching of culture of peace in the northern Caucasus, the publication of teaching aids on culture of peace and tolerance for elementary and secondary schools, and culture of peace activities for the members of the security and armed forces, including human rights training and reinforcement of dialogue with civil society and NGOs. UNESCO Chairs will be involved in the implementation of some of these activities.

16. Targets for 2000-2001:

Continue giving support to the six culture of peace mobilizing projects in Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mali, Palestine and Russian Federation and ensure exchange of information and best practices between those projects.

During the second semester of 2001, *evaluate selected components of the different mobilizing projects, in particular those concerning education and training for a culture of peace.*

On the basis of a request of the government authorities of Burundi, *launching of a five-year culture of peace project in that country*, to be financed by extrabudgetary sources, with a view to giving a national scope to activities already implemented by the House of Peace and the Press House in Bujumbura with the support of UNESCO.

17. Many of the activities being implemented today by the different Departments and Programmes relating directly to the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace concern individual Member States. While this is by itself a positive evolution, a better coordination of those activities at the regional and subregional levels must be ensured, in particular to allow for a better exchange of best practices identified in the course of their implementation. In

2000-2001, priority will be given to ensure the exchange of best practices in the following regions and subregions:

In *Africa*, for the launching and development of national programmes of education for a culture of peace - in particular in Mali, Niger and Chad - the enhancement of traditional conflict prevention mechanisms at the local and community level (Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya and Togo) and women's contribution to a culture of peace.

In the *Balkans*, for the revision of history textbooks, in cooperation with the UNESCO International Textbook Research Network based in the Georg Eckert Institute and the promotion of tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

In *Central America*, for the training in human rights for specific groups and the mobilization of youth for a culture of peace in higher education institutions.

In *South-East Asia*, for the enhancement of traditional conflict prevention mechanisms at the local level - in particular in Cambodia, Philippines and Viet Nam - and of women's contribution to the culture of peace, on the basis of the recommendations of the Regional Conference on Asian Women for Peace and Development in the New Millennium, to be held in December 2000 in Viet Nam.

Objective: Strengthening of education and training for a culture of peace and of communications for peace

18. As highlighted during the debates of the 30th session of the General Conference on Unit 2 - *Educating for a culture of peace* of the transdisciplinary project *Towards a culture of peace*, the needs in education and training for a culture for peace are becoming more and more acute in the Member States. In order to ensure effective international cooperation in this field, the **Organization should considerably strengthen its policy-dialogue function** in this field, in particular on issues such as teacher training, which is becoming a critical factor in all countries, the development of citizenship education, the teaching of the practice of peace and non-violence, the revision of textbooks, and the training of specific groups.

19. The recommendations on these issues of the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee on Education for Peace, Human Rights, Democracy, Tolerance and International Understanding (Paris, 20-22 March 2000), and the evaluation of UNESCO educational materials relating to peace, human rights, democracy, tolerance and international understanding to be undertaken by external evaluators in 2000-2001 (see circular letter CL/3543, Annex I, p. 5) will duly be taken into account in the preparation of the preliminary proposals of the Director-General for the Programme and Budget for the 2002-2003 biennium. The replies to the questionnaires recently addressed to Member States concerning action taken, on the one hand, to promote education for peace, human rights, democracy, international understanding and tolerance and, on the other hand, on the mid-term evaluation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education will also be essential elements for identifying the ways and means to strengthen UNESCO's action. The recommendations of the Conference on Higher Education for Peace (Tromsø, Norway, 4-6 May 2000) and of the sixth World Conference on Education for Peace (Paris, 8-13 July 2000), both to be held under UNESCO's auspices, will also be duly taken into account in this framework.

20. The contribution of schools belonging to the ASPnet and of UNESCO Chairs to national activities concerning a culture of peace have already been highlighted in previous reports

concerning the transdisciplinary project “Towards a culture of peace”, and the first issue of the *Bulletin for UNESCO Chairs on human rights, democracy, tolerance and international understanding* published in autumn 1999. As already mentioned, they are also closely associated in the implementation of activities carried out by the National Commissions for the celebration of the International Year and in the culture of peace mobilizing projects under way. Nevertheless, at this stage, a more systematic approach is needed at the regional and subregional level to enhance their contribution to the exchange of information and dissemination of best practices. This will be one of the priorities for the remaining 18 months of the 2000-2001 biennium.

21. Another field in which UNESCO’s action should be clearly strengthened is communication for peace, in particular in the framework of the *Programme for Freedom of Expression and Democracy*, the strategies of which largely correspond to the actions envisaged in paragraph B.15 (Actions to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and linkage) of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. Activities already carried out by UNESCO in different countries, often in post-conflict situations and with the support of various donors, show that the support to independent media, the training of journalists, the creation of press houses and the elaboration of adequate national legislations for the public service and the electronic media, etc., can be essential factors in the establishment of a culture of peace.

22. Targets for 2000-2001:

Establish a United Nations system-wide results-based programming approach for education and training in a culture of peace, with a view to the full implementation of the actions foreseen in this field in the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and of the objectives of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. In this framework, UNESCO will be called upon to define its strategic and operational objectives as well as the results to be attained in the framework of its next Medium-Term Strategy concerning the promotion of education and training for a culture of peace, in particular at national, subregional and regional level (see also para. 23 of this document).

Enhance the role of schools belonging to the ASPnet and of UNESCO Chairs in the exchange of best practices at the regional and subregional level, in particular concerning teacher training in the different components of the culture of peace.

On the basis of ongoing activities relating to freedom of expression, democracy and peace, strengthen UNESCO’s action in these fields, in particular in post-conflict situations.

II. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

23. During the second regular session of 1999 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which took place in October 1999, the United Nations Secretary-General introduced the item on the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, stating, *inter alia*, that the United Nations system as a whole was called upon to take ownership of this potentially extremely important instrument. The Director-General of UNESCO, invited to elaborate on the follow-up by the organizations of the United Nations system, proposed to consolidate a results-based programming approach defining collectively, for each objective and sub-objective in the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, the

main expected results of the United Nations system action, within a long-term time frame. In order to examine the feasibility of this approach, a proposal was made, endorsed by ACC members, to convene an ad hoc meeting of the senior officials responsible for programme planning in their respective organizations. **UNESCO will host the meeting at Headquarters in June 2000 and its recommendations will be submitted to the ACC meeting scheduled for October 2000.**

24. United Nations Information Centres and United Nations coordinators in various countries are playing an important role both in disseminating promotional materials produced by UNESCO or by themselves related to the International Year (leaflets on the objectives of the Year, Manifesto 2000, materials on education for a culture of peace, calendars, etc.). The Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) is regularly informed by UNESCO on all information activities related to the celebration of the International Year.

25. As already mentioned, UNESCO and UNDP are already closely cooperating in the implementation of various culture of peace mobilizing projects and other national programmes for a culture of peace. UNDP offices in various countries where UNESCO does not have a field office have also taken the lead in organizing activities related to the celebration of the International Year. UNICEF is also an active partner in the promotion of an education for a culture of peace, in particular in Africa. This cooperation with UNICEF should be strengthened in the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

26. In the framework of the ongoing cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the promotion of human rights education, in particular in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), action is being taken to ensure a proper follow-up to the recommendations of the four regional human rights education meetings held during the previous biennium. UNESCO is also closely working with the High Commissioner in the preparation of the World Conference against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in 2001 in South Africa (see 159 EX/4 Part I, para. 155).

27. In the field of research, cooperation with the United Nations University, the University for Peace in Costa Rica and UNIDIR is being strengthened, in particular concerning new developments in the rapidly evolving human security agenda. A UNESCO Internet Forum SECURIPAX, involving all concerned programme sectors and UNESCO Chairs, will be launched in June 2000 in order to contribute to the establishment of a common platform for further research on specific issues relating to human security.

28. In the light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 159 EX/37,
2. Requests the Director-General to report at its 161st session on: the results of the International Year for a Culture of Peace, progress made by UNESCO in the implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, UNESCO's strategy for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World and cooperation with the United Nations system thereon.

ANNEX

Resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its 30th session relating to different components of the transdisciplinary project “Towards a culture of peace”

Resolution 30 C/42 on the transdisciplinary project “Towards a culture of peace”, based on the recommendations of the Executive Board relating to the project as contained in document 30 C/6, as well as on the debates on the three Units of the project in the different programme commissions of the General Conference and in plenary session. *Duly taking into account 30 C/Resolution 42, the Secretariat proceeded in particular to modify in paragraph 05102 of document 30 C/5 Approved (prov.) the contents of main line of action 2 of Unit 1 of the transdisciplinary project which now refers, as requested in resolution 42, to the contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. It should be stressed that the strategies of various other main lines of action of the transdisciplinary project, in particular those of Unit 2 of the transdisciplinary project - Educating for a culture of peace - and of other programmes and subprogrammes of document 30 C/5 which do not form part of the transdisciplinary project as such, correspond largely to the different actions identified in the Declaration and in the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.*

The General Conference also adopted various other resolutions which are directly linked to different main lines of action of the three Units of the transdisciplinary project, the contents of which have been duly reflected in document 30 C/5 approved (prov.):

- Resolution 12: Implementation of a language policy for the world based on multilingualism (30 C/5, para. 05204)
- Resolution 15: Sixth consultation of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education (30 C/5, para. 05102)
- Resolution 16: Overall strategy for human rights education (30 C/5 paras. 05102, 05201, 05202)
- Resolution 17: Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (30 C/5, para. 05201)
- Resolution 18: Physical education and sport for a culture of peace (30 C/5, para. 05202)
- Resolution 31: Preparation by UNESCO of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (30 C/5, para. 05301)
- Resolution 34: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery: a Crime against Humanity (30 C/5, para. 05301)
- Resolution 33: Promotion of arts education and creativity at school as part of the construction of a culture of peace (30 C/5, para. 03201)

- Resolution 57: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Causes of Conflicts and the Promotion of Durable Peace and International Development in Africa (30 C/5, paras. 09301-09305)
- Resolution 60: Development of closer links with UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations - accompanied by the Declaration of Yekaterinburg (30 C/5, para. 13111).