

1. Location of the Conference

The 48th session of the International Conference on Education (ICE), on the theme: “Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future”, will be held on 25-28 November 2008 at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), 17 rue de Varembé, 1211 Geneva (tel.: +41 22 791 91 11; fax: +41 22 791 90 64).

2. Communications

The composition of the delegations to the ICE should be communicated to the IBE by 30 September 2008.

All communications concerning the Conference should be addressed to:

The Director	Telephone: +41.22 917.78.25
International Bureau of Education	Fax: +41.22 917.78.01
P.O. Box 199	E-mail: conference@ibe.unesco.org
1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland	

3. Registration

Security measures will be put in place according to the UN security standards. In particular, all participants must be provided with a badge with an identification photograph. This will require a considerable amount of organization. In order to avoid any delays in the work of the Conference that might occur if a large number of participants need to register at the desk counters on the 25th of November, it is essential that the composition of your delegation be communicated to the IBE by 30 September 2008, as indicated in the letter of invitation.

An individual registration form accompanied by an identification photo (in JPEG format) for each participant must be provided electronically to the IBE. The electronic registration form is available on the ICE website, at the following link: www.ibe.unesco.org/ice08.html. Registration forms should be sent by email to ibe.director@ibe.unesco.org. Registration and badge preparation will also be handled at the CICG on Sunday, 23 November from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm; on Monday, 24 November from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm and on Tuesday, 25 November from 7:30 am onwards.

4. Programming of the work of the Conference

The objectives, theme and organization of the Conference are explained in the document “General Presentation of the 48th Session of the ICE” (ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/4) attached to the official letter of invitation issued by the Director-General of UNESCO.

The work of the Conference will follow the agenda, the provisional version of which is contained in *Annex I*.

The official opening of the Conference will take place punctually on Tuesday, 25 November, at 9:30 am.

After the official opening ceremony, there will be the introductory debate entitled “From Inclusive Education to Inclusive Society” and then the session “Research Findings and Policy Challenges for Inclusive Education”.

The subsequent work (workshops; synthesis and the final debate in plenary) will take place in accordance with the Proposed Structure reproduced in *Annex II*, which also shows the working hours of the Conference.

At the closing ceremony, the Rapporteur will present an oral report summarizing all the work of the Conference (major debates and summaries). During the Conference, other results (e.g. workshop reports) will also be presented orally by the rapporteurs in the course of the two summary plenary meetings. After the Conference, these documents will be translated and will form part of the Final Report.

At the closing ceremony, the delegates will be called upon to adopt a short document of “Conclusions and Recommendations”, deriving directly from the work of the Conference. The document will be made available in six languages before the closing ceremony.

5. Working Methods

In order to capitalize on the participation of delegates, their exchanges and an open discussion, the **first and second workshops** will take place consecutively in **four different rooms**; the **third and fourth workshops** will run in two parts simultaneously and in parallel in **two different rooms** (see the proposed structure of the 48th session of the ICE in *Annex II*).

Each debate and workshop will be organized in the form of a discussion panel. Three main speakers, representing various actors in the field of education (two ministers and one expert/representative of civil society) from various world regions, will make presentations. The debate will then be opened to ministers, heads of delegation and other delegates. The panel will be led by an experienced moderator and a rapporteur will be assigned to each workshop.

As a result of the very comprehensive regional preparatory consultations, we very much hope that the ministers will have a sense that this 48th ICE session be truly their Conference. This very innovative element of the 48th session should give ministers greater opportunities to exchange views and discuss issues. They will be able to do this during the two introductory and final debates, during the twelve thematic workshops, and again at the two plenary summary meetings, where ministers will have priority in taking the floor.

Participants are invited to choose the themes of special interest to them and to prepare short statements directly related to the topics addressed. They will also be able to react to their colleagues' contributions. If they wish, they may give written contributions to the Secretariat for circulation during the Conference.

6. Conference documents

The provisional list of documents for the Conference is provided in *Annex III*.

7. Working languages of the Conference

The Conference will have six working languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish for the plenary meetings and major debates.

The workshops will take place in English and French as the UNESCO working languages; in Arabic, thanks to the “Fund of the Project of Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz for the support of the Arabic language at UNESCO”, and in Spanish through the financial contribution of the Spanish Minister of Education, Social Policy and Sport. Should extra budgetary funds become available, interpretation in additional languages will be added.

8. Comenius Medal

The Comenius Medal, created jointly in 1992 by the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic and UNESCO, and intended to reward initiatives and outstanding achievements in the field of educational research and innovation or exemplary engagement in a life of service in the field of education, will be awarded in the early afternoon on Wednesday 26 November, by the Director-General of UNESCO to laureates chosen among individual educators and researchers, groups of educators and institutions, and other personalities engaged in education.

9. Exhibitions

An exhibition entitled “Practicing Inclusion” will bring specific added value to the Conference, by showcasing in a very attractive manner concrete experiences/effective practices of inclusive education, involving UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector. This exhibit will be organized in addition to the exhibition of publications from UNESCO HQs and Education Institutes, and the J.A. Comenius exhibition, in coordination with the J.A. Comenius Museum of Prague.

10. Other events

Side events will take place during the Conference, to add strategic thematic discussions. Furthermore, a broad-cast roundtable of Ministers of Education and youth representatives will take place, aiming at transmitting the key messages of the ICE to a wider audience, by discussing existing policy gaps in inclusive education and identifying tangible solutions to be committed to by the participants. Presentations of educational video programmes will also be made available.

The detailed programme of these events will be issued at the beginning of the Conference and will be indicated in the Delegates Guide.

ANNEX I

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 48th SESSION OF THE ICE

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda (ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/1)
3. Election of the Chairman
4. Election of the Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur of the Conference and constitution of the Drafting Group of the “Conclusions and Recommendations”
5. Proposed Organization of the Work of the Conference (ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/2)
6. Review of the Conference’s theme: “Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future” (ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/3)
7. Presentation of the Outcomes of the Work of the Conference by the Rapporteur
8. Adoption of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 48th session of the ICE
9. Closing of the Conference

ANNEX II

Proposed structure of the 48th session of the International Conference on Education		
“Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future”		
Session	25 - 28 November 08	Time schedule
Opening Ceremony	Tuesday 25	9:30 – 11:00
<u>Introductory Debate:</u> “From Inclusive Education to Inclusive Society”	Tuesday 25	11:00 – 12:30
Research Findings and Policy Challenges for Inclusive Education	Tuesday 25	12:30 – 13:30
Workshop 1: “Inclusive Education: Approaches, Scope and Content” (parallel sessions A + B + C + D)	Tuesday 25	15:00 – 18:00
Workshop 2: “Inclusive Education: Public Policies” (parallel sessions A + B + C + D)	Wednesday 26	9:30 – 12:30
J.A. Comenius Medal Award Ceremony	Wednesday 26	14:15 – 15:30
Synthesis and discussion of the outcomes of Workshops 1 and 2	Wednesday 26	15:45 – 18:00
Workshops 3: “Inclusive Education: Systems, Links and Transitions” (parallel sessions A + B) and Workshop 4: “Inclusive Education: Learners and Teachers” (parallel sessions A + B)	Thursday 27	10:00 – 13:00
One hour devoted to the discussion of the outcomes of Workshops 3 and 4	Thursday 27	15:00 – 16:00
<u>Final Debate:</u> “Inclusive Education: From Vision to Practice”		16:00 – 18:00
Closure of the 48 th Session: Presentation of the results of the Conference by the Rapporteur and approval of the final document.	Friday 28	10:00 – 13:00

ANNEX III**PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 48th SESSION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION****Working documents**

ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/1	Provisional Agenda
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/2	Proposed Organization of the Work of the Conference
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/3	Reference Document: “Inclusive Education: The Way of the Future”
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/4	General Presentation of the 48th session of the ICE
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 48/5	Conclusions and Recommendations of the 48th session of the ICE

Information documents

A series of information documents, a delegates’ guide, a provisional list of participants, a list of national reports presented at the Conference, a questionnaire on the outcomes of the Conference, etc., will be prepared immediately before or during the Conference and distributed to participants.