



48TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION Inclusive Education: The way of the Future

SIDE-EVENT 5 REPORT

Date	Wednesday, 26 th November 2008
Side-Event Title	SIDE-EVENT 5 Quality Education, Equity and Sustainable Development: A holistic vision through UNESCO's four World Education Conferences 2008-2009
Organisers	UNESCO Education Sector
Speakers	<p>The session was moderated by Ana Luiza Machado, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Education Programme Management (UNESCO).</p> <p>Three panellists: Mamadou Ndoye, former Executive Secretary of ADEA (Association for the Development of Education in Africa), Sylvia Irene Schmelkes de Valle, Director of the Research Institute for the Development of Education of the Ibero-american University of Mexico City - both 2008 Laureates of the Comenius Medal - and Sheldon Shaeffer, Director of the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, presented very inspiring perspectives on quality, equity and sustainable development. All presentations explored how the four UNESCO conferences could contribute to the achievement of these important objectives.</p>
Documentation	<p>The Side-Event was supported by the following documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality Education, Equity and Sustainable Development: A holistic vision through UNESCO's four World Education Conferences 2008-2009, UNESCO 2008• Brochure on the four conferences, UNESCO 2008• Flyers on the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, on CONFINTEA VI and on the 2009 World Conference on Higher Education

Objectives

The objectives of this event were to raise awareness and inform about the complementarity of, and synergies between, the themes addressed by UNESCO's four education conferences of which ICE is the first; to raise questions, issues or perspectives which could inform and enrich the discussions of the upcoming three conferences; and to contribute to the creation of a critical mass of people who understand better the holistic approach to education challenges which the four conferences tackle from different angles, and who could be advocates of this comprehensive education agenda.

Outcomes

Humanity is facing a serious crisis and education plays a crucial role in shaping and spreading a *new humanism*. Quality, equity and education for sustainable development are inextricably linked: there will be no educational quality without equity, no educational equity without quality and no sustainable and just development without equitable quality education for all. Educational systems must be analysed, improved, reoriented as a whole, not with fragmented policies and approaches addressing certain areas, sub-sectors, levels or groups, sometimes at their detriment of others. UNESCO's conference cycle must contribute to building a holistic vision by emphasizing these principles; by reaffirming everyone's right to education and the values of active responsibility and solidarity which education should transmit; by highlighting the need for intersectoral approaches to education, for equity policies and measurable equity goals in education, for community participation and for respecting diversity; by making space for the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of innovative practices between countries and regions, including South-South; by underlining the role of higher education and research in transforming and improving all levels and segments of education.

In short, UNESCO must ensure that the impact of all four conferences will be more than the total sum of the outcome of each one.

Links and implications for the 48th Session of the ICE

This Side-Event has direct implications for the follow-up of ICE in linking it to the upcoming World Conferences on Education for Sustainable Development, on Adult Education and on Higher Education. On UNESCO's side, the preparatory committees for the other conferences will analyse the ICE Conclusions and Recommendations and integrate them in their work, the conference planning and documents. It is hoped that the Side-Event will inspire Member States and other partners to do likewise and to link ICE outcomes and follow-up not just to their own preparatory process for future conferences but also to policy and practice regarding all different segments of their educational system in view of more holistic approaches.