

Final report

**International Conference
on Education
46th session**

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UNESCO

**International Bureau
of Education**

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Election of the Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur of the Conference
4. Adoption of the agenda (ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/1)
5. Organization of the work of the Conference (ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/2)
6. Consideration of the theme of the Conference “Education for all for learning to live together”: contents and learning strategies – problems and solutions (ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/3 and ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/4) (Plenary sessions, debates, workshops).
7. Presentation of the outcomes of the work of the Conference by the Rapporteur
8. Closure of the Conference

PART I

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Opening ceremony

1. The 46th session of the International Conference on Education (ICE), convened by the Director-General of UNESCO in accordance with 30 C/Resolution 3 adopted by the General Conference at its 30th session, was held at the International Conference Centre, Geneva, from 5 to 8 September 2001 on the theme “Education for All for learning to live together: contents and learning strategies – problems and solutions”.
2. More than 600 participants, including 80 ministers of education and 10 deputy ministers, from 127 Member States of UNESCO, took part in the debates, alongside the representatives of nine intergovernmental organizations, 13 non-governmental organizations and three foundations. The list of participants is given in Annex XIX.
3. Following a short video presentation on the education situation in all regions of the world entitled “Living together and building together”, the session was opened officially by H.E. Mr Andrés Delich, Minister of Education and Head of Delegation of Argentina, the country which had assumed the presidency of the 45th session. Mr Delich’s opening remarks are reproduced in Annex I.
4. The President gave the floor to Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO. The Director-General’s address appears in Annex II.
5. The President then called upon Ms Martine Brunschwig Graf, State Counsellor, Head of the Department of Public Education of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and Head of the Swiss Delegation, to address the Conference. Ms Brunschwig Graf’s address is reproduced in Annex III.
6. The President then invited Mr Pieter de Meijer, President of the Council of the International Bureau of Education (IBE), to take the floor. He presented the Council’s recommendations concerning the composition of the Bureau of the Conference. The Conference accepted those recommendations.
7. Upon the proposal of Electoral Group Va (Africa), the Conference elected by acclamation H.E. Mr Abraham B. Borishade, Minister of Education of Nigeria, as President of the 46th session of the ICE. Mr Borishade’s opening address is contained in Annex IV.
8. The President of the IBE Council proposed that Rule 4.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the ICE be suspended for the session in order to raise the number of Vice-Presidents from eight to 10, which would enable an equal number of members from each electoral group to participate in the Bureau of the Conference. The proposal was accepted and the Conference then elected by acclamation the following Vice-Presidents:

H.E. Ms Mariana Aylwin Oyarzun (Chile)
H.E. Mr Radu Damian (Romania)
H.E. Mr Henry Kosgey (Kenya)
Mr Pieter de Meijer (Netherlands)
H.E. Mr Moncer Rouissi (Tunisia)
H.E. Mr Im Sethy (Cambodia)
H.E. Mr. Burchell Whiteman (Jamaica)
H.E. Mr Eduard Zeman (Czech Republic)

H.E. Pr Najib Zerouali Ouariti (Morocco)
H.E. Mr Xinsheng Zhang (China).

Mr Philippe Renard (Belgium) was then elected Rapporteur of the Conference by acclamation.

9. The Conference also agreed to the IBE Council's proposal that Mr Pieter de Meijer, President of the Council, should chair the drafting group and recommended to the Bureau of the ICE that the Council's working group set up to assist the IBE in making preparations for the 46th session of the ICE should constitute the drafting group in cooperation with the Rapporteur and the workshop rapporteurs. In addition to the President of the Council, the group included one representative from each electoral group, namely: Argentina, Canada, Nigeria, Qatar, Czech Republic and Thailand; Mr Régnier (France) served in a personal capacity as its Executive Secretary.

10. The President introduced the provisional agenda (ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/1), which was adopted. It appears at the beginning of this report. At the invitation of the President, Ms Cecilia Braslavsky, Director of the IBE, commented on document ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/2 "Proposed organization of the work of the Conference", which was adopted.

B. Organization of work – Methodology

11. In response to the wish expressed on many occasions by ministers at earlier sessions of the Conference to enter into a genuine, in-depth policy dialogue, the IBE Council had decided to change the structure and organization in relation to those of previous sessions. Consequently, the proceedings took place as follows:

a major introductory debate;

two discussion units, each consisting of three parallel workshops followed by a plenary summing-up meeting;

a major concluding debate;

a closing meeting.

12. As regards methodology, the two major debates and six workshops were held in the form of discussion panels, with the main speakers representing various education actors (ministers, senior civil servants, researchers, experts and representatives of intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations) and the various regions of the world. The list of speakers during the two major debates is provided in Annex XVI and that of speakers during the workshops in Annex XVII. The workshop reports are reproduced in Annex XV.

13. Among the innovations marking this session of the Conference was the substantial use of audiovisual and information and communication technology: an introductory video at the opening and closing meetings; videos on good practices produced under IBE's BRIDGE project (young professionals) to introduce each of the six workshops; the recording of a television programme (round table of ministers) with the assistance of the local television station "Léman bleu"; the presentation of some 100 good practices on the Conference's website; summaries of the proceedings accessible on the Internet the following day, and so on.

14. Other innovations were also introduced in the preparatory phase of the Conference (Netforum, messages of ministers of education, Internet site). For instance, more than 200 people registered on the Netforum and more than 100 messages were sent by the ministers before the Conference. They

may be accessed at the Conference's website and will be the subject of a publication. A special edition of *Prospects*, UNESCO's quarterly journal of comparative education, was devoted to the Conference's theme. A special edition of *Innovation* and a poster were also issued in April 2001 to publicize the Conference.

15. The organization of the Conference was made possible by many partnerships in the form of intellectual and/or financial contributions from ministries of education, National Commissions for UNESCO, research and training centres in a number of countries (Argentina, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Switzerland), the UNESCO Dakar Follow-up Unit, the Commonwealth of Learning, the training programme for bilingual intercultural education for the Andean countries (PROEIB-ANDES), the BERUM project (Peru), the University Institute for Development Studies (IUED, Geneva), the City of Science and Industry (Paris) and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (South Africa).

16. The organization, and more particularly the smooth running, of the Conference was also made possible through the active commitment and support of various UNESCO units (central services of the Education Sector, regional offices and other Secretariat services), which cooperated closely during the 46th session of the ICE. The list of members of the Secretariat appears in Annex XX.

C. Special meeting chaired by the Director-General of UNESCO

17. A special meeting, chaired by Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, was held in the morning of 8 September on the theme of "the involvement of civil society in promoting education for all (EFA)". Mr Matsuura's address at the opening of that meeting is appended in Annex VIII.

18. The special meeting was remarkable in terms of both its symbolic dimension and its substance. Convened by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, it brought 80 ministers and 10 deputy ministers of education and 400 governmental and non-governmental representatives together on the same platform to discuss on the basis of specific examples the manner in which their collaboration is put into practice. The ministers of education of Ghana and Mozambique, the Education Secretary of Nepal and the Deputy Minister of Education of Yemen were joined by representatives of civil society organizations of three of those countries. They gave an account of EFA partnership experiences and identified practical stages for strengthening contributions to EFA and for promoting better relations between governments and civil society. The Secretary-General of Education International made an analytical reply, which was followed by a lively debate.

19. The special meeting, which was devoted entirely to the involvement of civil society in EFA, reflects the growing importance attached to the role of non-governmental organizations and civil society in the EFA process and movement. The success of EFA depends on the mobilization of all partners and actors, empowered beforehand to play their role fully in a process that depends first and foremost on a sound democratic base.

20. In Dakar, governments had agreed on their "obligation to ensure that EFA goals and targets are reached and sustained" (paragraph 2 of the Dakar Framework for Action) and that that responsibility "will be most effectively met through broad-based partnerships within countries" (paragraph 2). The main participants at the World Education Forum undertook to "ensure the engagement and participation of civil society in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of strategies for educational development" (paragraph 8).

21. The special meeting considered in particular the issue of civil society involvement in the process of policy formulation, seen as going much further than the development of specific activities to promote EFA. The meeting also provided an opportunity to pose the key question of how countries can move from a clear recognition of the role of civil society in policy formulation to participation and renewed partnerships. The invited governmental and non-governmental representatives discussed examples, possibilities and preconditions with a view to effective civil society involvement in policy formulation, planning and action, which are linked to the achievement of the Dakar goals.

22. A summary of the panel's statements is provided in Annex IX. A fuller synoptic report will be published separately.

D. Closing ceremony

23. After viewing the video document shown at the opening of the 46th session of the ICE, the participants listened to two songs – on the themes of friendship, tolerance and openness to the world – given a fresh and musical interpretation by the Primary School Choir of Geneva.

24. A Summerhill School pupil (United Kingdom) then read out a message to the Conference on the theme of learning about citizenship. The text is given in Annex X.

25. The President then officially opened the Conference's last meeting, which was devoted to the submission of the general report, the adoption of the "Conclusions and proposals for action" deriving from the 46th session of the ICE, and the closing ceremony proper.

26. The President first called on Mr Philippe Renard (Belgium) to submit his oral report, which has been transcribed in Part II A of this report. The Conference adopted the general report by acclamation.

27. The President then requested Mr Pieter de Meijer, President of the IBE Council and Chairperson of the drafting group, to submit the draft "Conclusions and proposals for action" arising from the 46th session of the ICE. The President informed the Conference of the suggestion made by the Bureau of the 46th session of the ICE, which had held a joint meeting with the Bureau of the IBE Council, to make a few minor amendments to the draft text. The Conference adopted those amendments and, on the proposal of the President of the IBE Council, seconded by the Head of Delegation of Canada, decided not to make any further amendments. The "Conclusions and proposals for action" were adopted by acclamation. The document is contained in Part II B of this report. The delegations of Iraq¹ and India² were invited to submit their remarks in writing to the

¹ By correspondence dated 19 September 2001, the Permanent Delegation of Iraq requested the insertion, in the last sentence of paragraph 6, of the word "sanctions".

² By correspondence dated 12 September 2001, the Head of Delegation of India to the 46th session of the ICE submitted the following remarks: "While the draft conclusions have ably summarized the consensus achieved in the Conference, there are three points which were raised during the Workshops and the major debates which have not been reflected and should find a place in the Final Report. Firstly, that 'learning to live together' is only one aspect of a larger discipline namely 'education in human values'. UNESCO should actively work for evolving a common code of universal values which will be accepted around the globe. Secondly, UNESCO should boldly accept the responsibility of providing philosophical leadership to the world to attempt to harmonize the differences of the participants in the fields of religious faith, economic and political thinking, knowledge systems, living styles and so on. It should effectively promote the right of every human being to choose between different alternatives in an eclectic manner without fear or force: and thirdly, UNESCO should encourage, disseminate and propagate ICT devices such as the SIMPUTER, developed by India, which will enable basic education to be taken to remote locations and to disadvantaged sections of society through education and self-learning, as a part of broader policy of bridging the digital divide and harnessing ICT to the requirements of education in general and EFA in particular".

Director of the IBE, Secretary-General of the Conference, so that they could be included in the final report.

28. Ms Cecilia Braslavsky, Director of the IBE then addressed the Conference to express her thanks to all those who had contributed to the success of the session. The text of her address is appended in Annex XI.

29. The President invited Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, to deliver his closing address. The text is contained in Annex XII.

30. The President gave the floor to Ms M. Brunschwig Graf, State Counsellor, Head of the Department of Public Education of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and Head of the Swiss Delegation. Ms Brunschwig Graf's address appears in Annex XIII.

31. After two songs by the Primary School Choir of Geneva, the President made a short address before declaring the 46th session of the ICE closed. Mr Borishade's address appears in Annex XIV.

E. Award of the Comenius Medal

32. On the evening of Thursday 6 September, the Comenius Medal was awarded by Mr Eduard Zeman, Minister of Education of the Czech Republic, and Mr John Daniel, Assistant Director-General for Education, to five educators and three projects selected by the jury chaired by Mr Pieter de Meijer, President of the IBE Council, whose choices had been endorsed by the Director-General of UNESCO. The statements made by Mr Daniel, Mr de Meijer and Mr Zeman are reproduced in Annexes V, VI and VII. The Comenius Medal is intended to reward outstanding achievements in the fields of educational research and innovation, which have contributed significantly to the development and renewal of education. The 2001 winners are:

Mr Abdul Kader Ahmed (Bahrain)
Mr Thomas A. Bediako (Ghana)
Mr Yves Brunsvick (France, posthumously)
Mr Pablo Latapí Sarre (Mexico)
Mr Sook Jong Lee (Republic of Korea)
The Comunidade Solidária project (Brazil)
The Life Science project (Namibia)
The Atanas Bourov Vocational School (Bulgaria)

F. Side-meetings

33. The following fringe meetings took place in parallel to the work of the Conference:

- (a) Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 September: international research seminar on “La problématique du *vivre ensemble* dans les curricula” organized by the IBE, the University of Geneva (FPSE) and the Educational Research Department (SRED) of the Canton of Geneva;
- (b) Tuesday 4 September: Senior Executive Seminar for African Ministers of Education, organized by IICBA, BREDA and UNESCO's Education Sector;
- (c) Thursday 6 September: *Demain l'éducation ...*, a television debate programme recorded live and retransmitted on the *Leman bleu TV Geneve* channel;

- (d) Friday 7 September: informal consultation on the United Nations Girls' Education initiative, organized by UNESCO's Education Sector;
- (e) Friday 7 September: working meeting in the IBE's fields of competence with the Ministers of Education of the Gulf States.

34. The Conference also enabled the Director-General of UNESCO, the Assistant Director-General for Education and the Director of the IBE to hold many bilateral talks and informal discussions with ministers, delegates and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.

PART II

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE

A. General report of the forty-sixth session of the international conference on education (ICE)³

Submitted by Mr Philippe Renard (Belgium), Rapporteur

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Ministers,
Heads of Delegation,
Mr Director-General of UNESCO,
Mr President of the IBE Council,
Madam Director of the IBE,
Mr Assistant Director-General for Education,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I shall therefore submit to you the oral report of the 46th session. This report will be included in the final report to be sent to you later.

This is obviously a difficult exercise for, in summarizing 20 hours of often lively and invariably interesting debates in twenty minutes, and in view of the time constraints, I shall inevitably, unlike the children whom we have just heard, create frustrations. Please accept my apologies from the outset.

I think that I should begin this report by referring to the success of this conference. There is nothing self-congratulatory in their statement. I am here as a “notary”, and I have therefore genuinely tried – at every moment – to keep a neutral, outsider’s eye on this event, in which I am obviously extremely proud to have participated, particularly since, as you know, there are more than 600 registered participants, including 80 ministers and 10 deputy ministers of education, nine intergovernmental organizations and thirteen NGOs from UNESCO’s 127 Member States. I therefore think that, simply in terms of participation, it has been a real success.

The goal of the conference was to intensify and enrich the educational policy dialogue on problems and prospects of solutions with a view to improving the quality of education for learning to live together. I sincerely believe that the goal has largely been achieved. The method of work that was chosen by the International Bureau of Education and its Council together with the quality of your participation, made for very fertile discussions, which I have to say, are extremely difficult to summarize.

The fact that so many ministers and so many actors in education systems are here in Geneva shows, Madam Minister of Education of the Canton of Geneva, that – apart from your great and widely recognized qualities of hospitality – they attach enormous importance to their political responsibility for improving public education systems and to the need to keep those systems, their content and their curricula on track at a level that is not that of the market but rather that of those whose duty it is to prepare for the future and preserve the common good and equity.

³ The following text is only a transcription from a tape recording of the oral report submitted by Mr Renard during the closing ceremony of the ICE. To preserve its authenticity, it has not been revised stylistically and, in reading it, account must be taken of the particular conditions under which it was drafted, in particular the short span of time available.

The Director-General of UNESCO, in his introductory address, set out what I regard as pointers for our work, and they will be found later in this report. The first perspective that we were given was that of social cohesion, harmony and non-violence; the second was that of peace, mutual understanding and friendship. I think I can say that all our work and the climate of this session effectively reflected this twin standpoint.

In education systems, these pointers need to be followed up in practice through improvement of the quality of basic education for all and the effective acquisition of skills, particularly in languages and scientific culture, one key point being the acquisition of skills for living in society: communicating with others, undertaking joint activities; participating and building mutual trust.

In a few words, I will try to summarize the debates in plenary meetings that followed the six workshops on discussion units I and II, namely “Quality education for all: living together, democracy and social cohesion” and “Quality education for all: knowledge, technology and the future of the school”. You have already heard the reports of the various rapporteurs, which I shall not repeat – that would be quite pointless – I shall merely try to offer a general synopsis.

GENERAL SYNOPSIS

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL: living together, democracy and social cohesion

The context of the coming century is that of globalization. The great political, economic and social upheavals that have marked the last 50 years reflect this trend in our world, of which education is an integral part.

The institutionalization of education in the last century, and in some instances even today unfortunately, was aimed at strengthening national identities and even nationalism of all sorts.

The economic (including the information) empires that dominate the market and widen the gap between the countries of the North and South, which give rise to the brain drain and are sometimes instrumental, through global financial institutions, in lowering the quality of education, are not at all models that we should like to promote.

That is not the type of globalization that we want. The important thing is that human beings, in their individuality, should be educated to “live together”, to analyse, to reflect on their uniqueness and become capable of being enriched by diversity. At the same time, the prerequisites for ensuring the minimum results and minimum conditions in the field of education for all must be met with, for example, the assistance of the international organizations concerned with education.

Education, we are all convinced, is a right. That right must be exercised in the context of economic globalization in order to give it a human face. I very much like and readily quote the saying “The world is not a market but a village”. And I think that we are all proud to belong to that village.

Acting together to learn to live together, in a context of respect for cultures and languages, that is the role of education in the twenty-first century.

High expectations on the part of participants regarding the linkages between education and citizenship, democratic governance and sustainable development led to extremely open discussions and highlighted conceptual fields that remain to be explored in greater depth:

What is the definition of citizenship?

How can it be put into practice?

How can the challenge of open citizenship education be taken up both locally and regionally and, of course, internationally?

The answer to these questions will doubtless involve the acceptance of “variable geometry” as a method. I personally very much liked the concept of “glo-location” developed by Mr Benavot, of which you are all now aware. Situations on the ground obviously differ, but a theme that has emerged strongly from the outset has been the call for observance of the values of justice and solidarity among all countries. Even if the school – and by school I do not mean the physical place alone, I mean the institution of education – did not awake early to the reality of a multicultural world, it must ensure quality education for all and further living together through flexible and realistic curricula. There is no one solution at this level that will make dignity accessible to all, in a context of respect for cultural, social or ideological diversities and differences.

LANGUAGE(S) TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION

With particular regard to language teaching and learning strategies, it seems to me – and several speakers have also pointed this out – that the sentence that left its mark was in the introductory video, in which the Czech teacher said “the more languages you speak, the more human you are”.

The majority of countries in the world are pluri- or multilingual and if language is a communication medium, it is also deeply anchored in the culture of each and everyone.

It is increasingly obvious that the language of instruction at the beginning of one’s education, at such a crucial moment for future learning, should be the mother tongue. But there is no unanimity on the issue in all quarters, and it must therefore be studied in greater depth.

Language learning in the context of globalization is a means of facilitating mobility and communication.

Here too, it seems that there are no simple solutions, let alone universal models. On the other hand, everyone is in favour of the exchange of good practices and experience, in particular for teachers undergoing initial and in-service training.

It is clear to everyone that language learning is a key element for living together. However, questions remain as to the measures that need to be put in place, particularly for the least developed countries.

It also seems obvious that the political and economic environment must be such as to permit this education geared to the promotion of languages and living together, with emphasis on understanding and communication.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND SCIENCE TEACHING: basic knowledge, interdisciplinarity and ethical issues

With regard to scientific progress and science education, it seems to me that the discussions have centred on the fact that sciences cannot be taught for their own sake, that they embody universal values and that, in actual teaching situations, they must be contextualized and be oriented towards the real world and life in order to give an ethical dimension to learning and to develop the capacity of “learning how to learn” by oneself and with others. But here too, the lack of

infrastructures, resources and teachers obviously poses problems for many countries, and support by the international community is indispensable.

NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THE INFORMATION RICH AND THE INFORMATION POOR: new technologies and the future of education

On the question of bridging the information technology and information gap between rich countries and poor countries, there can be no doubt that such a gap exists. It would be dishonest not to acknowledge it. The gap exists not only between countries or regions (as understood within the United Nations system), but also within regions in terms of countries and of social groups themselves.

It is obvious that ICTs are potentially a source of innovation and creativity. It is clear that schools equipped with these resources can serve as centres, including community centres and interactive development centres for use in initial training, adult education, etc.

There is a desire for a planned approach at the world level; the development of partnerships, including the media – that is television, books, etc. – could make it possible to narrow the gap, and that is one of the elements in the development of a world citizenship.

Teachers, for their part, must not only have the possibility of acquiring “computer literacy”, but they must also be in a position to become creators of educational objects and methods, with the help of the new technologies: this is one of the challenges that will also have to be taken up.

I now turn to the theme of the second major debate and, with your leave, I shall read it out in full “Quality education for all for living together in the twenty-first century: intensifying the international policy dialogue on structures, contents, methods and means of education, and mobilizing the actors and partners”.

The title of the theme is long. So too were the debates for those persons who stayed until the end, and the last group of people present in the room was roughly the same as the number of speakers at the rostrum. The debates were nonetheless extremely interesting and I have listed a few points that were made.

First of all, the school often remains closed in on itself, a prisoner of its traditions, of its culture and perhaps of its institutionalization. It does not maintain sufficient contacts with society.

And if we push the argument through to its conclusion, we might ask ourselves: “My God, considering how long we have been holding conferences on curricula, learning and school organization and management, how come we are still in this situation?” It is high time – and several delegates said as much – for us to take action. I am thinking here also of the pupil who took the floor before me.

Parents generally feel that the present system pays little attention to them and wonder about the significance of what the school does. Does knowledge alone suffice? On which skills should emphasis be placed?

They are not the only ones who are asking questions. All of us – education specialists as well as political decision-makers – know that educational reforms take a long time and are costly to implement but also that education is undeniably an investment for both the individual and for society. The means must therefore be found to convince the authorities and society as a whole that education for the twenty-first century, education for living together is an investment at the societal level – by which I mean, of course, at the global, regional and national levels.

How can we speak of quality education when access to schools is impeded on account of armed conflict or political, not to say psychological, pressures? What meaning does the right to education retain in such circumstances? What quality are we speaking of?

In many countries, the essential resources are lacking: a dearth of teachers, a lack or semi-lack of textbooks, difficulty in gaining access to information technologies, not to mention methodologies for needs assessment, curriculum design, teaching or results evaluation.

Furthermore, we must ask the following question: if all these criteria can be measured by quantitative indicators, for example – and, in my opinion, this question is crucial – how can we evaluate the quality of human relations and the know-how and commitment required for living together?

Where living together is concerned, it seems clear that the vision of global harmony is a kind of quest for the “inaccessible star” – my apologies here for the reference to a Belgian singer. Conflicts exist, they are unavoidable. What we must do – and I am speaking here of cultural conflicts of course – is to teach young people to manage them, that is to say, to give them the means of preventing and managing these conflicts.

LINES OF APPROACH

There are many lines of approach, and I shall not mention all of them. Here are just a few of them.

The first point – which I think was made again and again throughout this conference – is that there is a strong desire to gain better knowledge of and share experiences and good practices in regard to both the quality of education and educational reform or practices.

There is also deep-seated awareness that the school must build partnerships at all levels of society (local, regional and global), including in the economic sphere, in order to develop human resources and social cohesion. Such partnerships must be understood as a process of appropriation, whereby each person makes the education system his or her own and local energies and resources are mobilized around the school itself of course but also around the various processes that take place in school in the area of planning and, for example, curricula, which are sometimes tricky to deal with. One comment in this connection: this type of partnership should also help, through greater transparency, to eradicate waste in a number of areas and, in some cases, corruption.

Cultures, of course, cannot be ranked hierarchically and only education designed to foster empathy will enable conflicts in this sphere to be managed effectively.

I shall conclude by referring to a number of statements concerning the future. We are talking about education in the twenty-first century, it is now 2001, and we therefore have 99 years of the twentieth century ahead of us. Most of us will not be here to see how it ends. Well, I hope that you will – I personally am not over-optimistic – but it is clear that predicting the future, except for those who make a business of it, is a difficult exercise. What knowledge, what skills will tomorrow’s youth need to integrate themselves and live in society? What skills will tomorrow’s teachers need to teach? Will those who are currently passing through our teacher-training colleges and universities be teaching in the next thirty years? No one can answer that question.

I want to refer here to a very great English educator who said that in 10 years’ time 30% of the knowledge that will be taught is as yet unknown today. I therefore believe that we must inevitably come back to skills, to “knowledge in action”, or a capacity to translate knowledge into action, to basic skills, to core skills as the English expression has it.

These core skills seem to have been identified throughout our debates. They are essentially:

1. Learning to learn (which is described in a programme as “lifelong learning” but is basically learning to learn);
2. making relevant and effective use of communication technologies;
3. science education, including mathematics, of course;
4. social skills, skills for living together, tolerance and empathy.

In conclusion, we may say, indisputably, that the quality of education, having regard to those criteria, is the same as quality of life and that consequently everyone should be guaranteed the possibility of access to such a quality of life. Two remarks before I end, – because I think I have exceeded the time allotted to me. There were many discussions and comments on the status of teachers. I am a teacher, a university teacher, that is to say, not very good from the pedagogical point of view! The higher one rises in the education system, the less one needs to be good from the teaching standpoint. Several delegates stressed that it was high time to review the status of teachers; it is necessary to improve teachers’ benefits in practical terms in all countries and review initial and in-service training; it is necessary to place higher value on their work and to support them. I am convinced that society as a whole has a role to play in that regard.

We have spoken a great deal about quality, and we have frequently pondered what that could be. I think that several approaches could clearly be adopted, but one approach would involve a combination of commitment and a dual mechanism that is theoretically or conceptually relatively simple but very difficult to put into practice. It is the dual evaluation approach involving both internal and external evaluation. That has not been discussed as such, and I simply wished to make this point of clarification in relation to the discussions that took place. I think that we must necessarily accept that while internal evaluation involves being subject to the scrutiny of others, external evaluation is even harder because the evaluators are persons who are not part of the school community.

I thank you for having listened to me. I hope – as I said at the beginning – that I have not created too many frustrations and that I have provided a more or less faithful account of all the discussions. At all events, I can tell you that I am extremely proud to have taken part in them.

Thank you very much.

B. Conclusions and proposals for action arising from the 46th session of the ICE

PREAMBLE

1. The International Bureau of Education, in its capacity as a UNESCO specialized centre for the contents, structures and methods of education, organized the 46th session of the International Conference on Education in Geneva from 5 to 8 September 2001.
2. More than 600 participants took part in the discussions, of whom 80 were ministers and 10 vice-ministers of education, coming from 127 Member States of UNESCO, together with nine representatives of intergovernmental organizations, 13 non-governmental organizations and three foundations.
3. The objective of intensifying and strengthening dialogue at the level of educational policies on the problems and prospects of solutions with a view to improving the quality of education for *learning to live together* has been largely achieved. These conclusions and the resulting proposals for action present the key features of the debates and preparatory work (Netforum, ministerial messages, national reports, good practices, etc.). The entire collection will be made known through the final report, the reports of the workshops, and the other documents to be published after the Conference.
4. These conclusions, adopted on 8 September 2001, have been drawn from the major debates, the plenary sessions and the six workshops that took place during the Conference. They are intended for governments, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, teachers and organizations of the teaching profession, the media and all partners in civil society whose efforts improve the quality of education, encourage dialogue and develop the capacity to live together.

CHALLENGES

5. Given the enormous complexity of the problems all societies have to face, particularly globalization, and unbearable inequalities between and within countries, *learning to live together*, a concept created by the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century, has become a necessity in all regions of the world.
6. One of the major challenges confronting education systems remains that of guaranteeing and respecting the right of education for all. However, the right of children to have free access to schools is far from being respected everywhere in the world and particularly in those countries experiencing situations of war, occupation, violence and intolerance.
7. The plea for education to overcome these challenges facing societies is not a new phenomenon. Yet, today, the expectations have become far more urgent, giving the impression that education can by itself overcome the problems that exist in countries and at the international level.
8. Both formal and non-formal education are essential tools for launching and promoting sustainable processes of constructing peace, democracy and human rights, but they cannot alone provide solutions to the complexity, the tensions and even the contradictions of the present world.
9. It is essential, however, as was stressed in the Jomtien Declaration and the Dakar Framework for Action, that efforts at the national and international levels to develop education be

complemented by global strategies to eliminate poverty and to promote participation in political, social and cultural life.

10. Achieving the objective of education for all goes beyond the effort of universal schooling. Within each country, the search for social cohesion, the struggle against inequality, the respect for cultural diversity and access to the knowledge society, which may be facilitated by information and communication technologies, will be achieved through policies that focus on improving the quality of education.
11. These policies must overcome the obstacles posed by inequalities of access and risks of exclusion in the fields of languages, science and technology.
 - As far as languages are concerned, it is possible to note that numerous countries are multilingual even though a single language appears as the official language of communication.
 - Concerning science and technology, particularly those of information and communication, the gulf is growing wider due to inequality in access to the most recent advances.

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

12. Throughout the world there is a strong political will on the part of numerous governments and teachers to adapt educational contents, structures and methods in order to respond to the above-mentioned challenges.
13. The experiences of educational policies and practices indicate that it is necessary to consider reforms more as processes than as products. These may arise as much from governmental decisions as from the initiatives of other stakeholders. The way in which they are implemented, involving the mobilization of all actors, is as important as the content.
14. Basic agreements within the international community already exist concerning lines of action for promoting the ability and willingness to live together. Those responsible for education policies at the national level have clearly expressed their will to pursue the implementation of these agreements.
15. The evaluation of the outcomes of the reform processes, and particularly “good practices”, enables us to highlight both some conditions unique to each cultural context as well as to pinpoint some common characteristics.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

16. The entire range of teaching and educational practices for living together should be better known, disseminated and exploited with a view to strengthening the endogenous capacities of each country.
17. Training for policy dialogue is essential in order to achieve the major objective of improving the quality of education for all.
18. Reform processes should be continued or undertaken in the following domains:
 - Contents:
 - Adapting curricula and updating contents in order to reflect:

- economic and social changes set in motion, in particular, by globalization, migration and cultural diversity;
 - the ethical dimension of scientific and technological progress;
 - the growing importance of communication, expression and the capacity to listen and dialogue, first of all in the mother tongue, then in the official language in the country as well as in one or more foreign languages;
 - the positive contribution that may result from integrating technologies into the learning process.
- Developing not only disciplinary but also interdisciplinary approaches and competencies;
 - Supporting and nurturing innovations;
 - Seeking, in the development of curricula, to ensure relevance at the local, national and international levels at the same time.
- Methods:
- Promoting active learning methods and teamwork;
 - Encouraging all-round and balanced development and preparing the individual for active citizenship open to the world.
- Teachers:
- Facilitating genuine involvement on the part of teachers in decision-making within the school, through training and other means;
 - Improving the education of teachers so that they can better develop among pupils behaviour and values of solidarity and tolerance, so as to prepare them to prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully and to respect cultural diversity;
 - Changing the relationship between teacher and pupil to respond to the evolution of society;
 - Improving the use of information and communication technologies in teacher training and in classroom practices.
- Daily life in educational institutions:
- Creating within the school a climate of tolerance and respect encouraging the development of a democratic culture;
 - Providing a way for the school to function that encourages participation of the pupils in decision-making;
 - Proposing a definition of projects and learning activities.

➤ Educational research:

- Stimulating research that clarifies the concept of learning to live together and the implications for policy and practices;
- Promoting research on the development of contents and teaching methods relating to learning to live together;
- Stimulating comparative studies in the subregional, regional and transregional contexts.

19. Partnerships:

- Since education is not the sole answer to *learning to live together*, its improvement requires the contribution not only of the school but also of all concerned actors. It therefore implies the introduction and the strengthening of genuine partnerships with the entire society: teachers, communities, families, the economic sector, the media, NGOs and the intellectual and spiritual authorities.
- Partnerships are also required to expand access to and effective use of new information and communication technologies.

20. *Learning to live together* requires policies for the development of lifelong learning beginning with early childhood education, and paying particular attention to the period of adolescence (12-18 years).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

21. The development of international cooperative activities to improve the quality of education for learning to live together for all should be based on six main principles:

- Strengthening the function of the IBE as an observatory of trends, as well as its role in the development of easily accessible data banks and information systems;
- Collecting the results of educational research on the development of contents, undertaking comparative studies at the subregional and regional levels, and their worldwide dissemination;
- Setting up cooperative networks at the international, regional and subregional levels facilitating the exchange of experience and promoting joint projects in order to strengthen endogenous capacities;
- Training educational decision-makers in policy dialogue so as to encourage the definition of common objectives, the search for consensus and the mobilization of partnerships;
- Experimenting with new modalities of technical assistance provided by bi- or multilateral cooperation agencies, in order to emphasize not only North-South but also South-South collaboration;
- Strengthening of partnerships between UNESCO and other relevant intergovernmental organizations.

THE ROLE OF UNESCO AND ITS SPECIALIZED INSTITUTES

22. The conclusions of the 46th session of the International Conference on Education are communicated to the General Conference of the Organization in order to be taken into account in the process of reflection and to reinforce, in the short, medium and long terms, the programme of action of UNESCO, the International Bureau of Education and the other specialized institutes with a view to improving the quality of education.

ANNEX I

Opening address by Mr Andrés G. Delich, Minister of Education of Argentina

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good day to you all. It is a very great honour for me to preside over the beginning of the opening meeting of the 46th session of the International Conference on Education. I should like to begin by expressing a few thoughts.

Introduction

In recent decades the world has undergone profound and increasingly rapid changes that have affected in irreversible fashion the lives of individuals and countries. As never before in history, the process of economic globalization, the development of communications and population mobility have interlinked the destiny of our societies. This new human condition confronts us with the challenge of reinventing ways whereby all the countries, cultures and inhabitants of the planet are able to live together.

The focus of this 46th session of the International Conference on Education could not be more appropriate and timely. This meeting of education officials from all over the world affords us the opportunity once more to learn with others and to exchange experiences in the context of international cooperation.

We have come together to discuss and agree on how schools and education systems can contribute to the improvement of human coexistence in the twenty-first century. We believe in the transforming power of education. This is why we are here. But it must be said that we are aware of the enormous difficulties and obstacles facing the development of an educational project for coexistence in a world divided by the growing distance between regions and countries.

Inequalities, interdependence and multiculturality

The gaps between rich and poor countries seem to have become unbridgeable gulfs. The average income of the richest countries was 11 times higher than that of the poorest countries in 1913, 35 times higher in 1950, 44 in 1973 and 72 in 1993. The richest 5% of humanity earns 85% of the world income, while the poorest 5% shares 1%. The total wealth of the poorest one thousand million human beings is equal to that of the one hundred richest.

The accelerated transnationalization of economic flows has increased wealth production. It has also caused wealth to be concentrated in a few regions of the world and to be enjoyed only by a small minority of humanity. We have entered the third millennium and millions of people are dying each year from hunger, diseases of social origin or armed conflict among or within countries.

The external debt has become a very difficult obstacle to overcome for many countries with a low or medium level of development. As you know, my country is facing a complex situation arising from the burden of the high interests on its debt and the difficulties experienced in selling its products to countries that strongly protect their markets while exerting pressure for more open trade on politically less powerful and economically less developed nations.

Human development is consensually defined as the process of broadening people's options. But if they do not have those basic opportunities, many other opportunities become unavailable. In countries and continents like mine, which are marked by profound inequalities in life opportunities,

education has not yet become a right for everyone. Every boy and girl born today in one of the poor population groups of Latin America, Africa, Asia or other continents has few chances of gaining access to adequate education and is very likely not to find work that would make it possible to live in dignity or dream of a better future.

Education is a basic tool in building a more just and humane future. But progress in achieving peaceful coexistence will be difficult if the growing inequalities in economic development continue unchanged.

How is it possible to live together peacefully in a world in which inequalities plunge entire nations into despair? In the absence of a more rational pattern of consumption and a fairer distribution of wealth it will be very difficult to educate for living together. If the extreme utopia of freedom that finds expression in the global economy is not counterbalanced by policies of justice, equity and fraternity, there will be no true coexistence. The fact is that the freedom of action of a minority has been growing at the cost of the right of the majority of humanity to a decent life.

The rapid expansion of communication networks is bringing events that were previously regarded as distant and remote to every corner of the world. These processes are pushing societies in two opposing directions, accentuating simultaneously the trend towards the international standardization of lifestyles and the quest for a community specificity that reinforces local and regional identities and sets itself apart from others, perceived as sources of threat or danger. The disappearance of old lifestyles causes anxiety and a deep sense of loss. Today there is no lack of examples of forms of nationalism that encourage extreme political separatism or incomprehensible genocides in the name of ethnic cleansing. We must work to overcome ethnic and religious fundamentalism, state fundamentalism and market fundamentalism. If we aim to live genuinely together, we must realise that the problems of humanity cannot be solved by closing physical and cultural borders – much less by seclusion or indifference to the poor or those excluded by the new world order.

It is certainly the case that signs of disquiet and impatience abound. Societies have sensed that a linear projection of current trends does not augur well for a happy or peaceful future.

The role of education

In view of the growing tendency for the social bond to be replaced by individualistic impulses, learning to live together is one of the main tasks of education today.

We must conceive and promote new forms of building the future of societies through education. The challenge facing this Conference is precisely to reflect on the contribution of education to human coexistence at the turn of the twenty-first century. The question that we must consider is whether the schools in each of our countries are helping to prepare the rising generations to live together in the twenty-first century. I should like to make three points in this connection.

1. Educational inclusion policies must be strengthened and transformed, particularly in the developing world

It is clear that there will be no significant advances in human coexistence worldwide if there is not a massive increase in social, economic and educational opportunities for the most disadvantaged population groups in the next few years. Ensuring that all children and young people have access to and remain in basic education should be the first priority of the less developed countries. If people's right to adequate educational opportunities is not guaranteed, it could be a

pointless exercise to think about educational strategies for living together in the twenty-first century.

This priority has been identified as a global imperative for more than three decades now. It found expression in the pledges made at the Jomtien Conference, among other fora. But while educational coverage continues to expand, the proposed goals are still very largely unmet: the dark areas on the map of basic education provision coincide with the geography of extreme poverty, economic underdevelopment and social inequity.

At the same time, in recent years, reforms have emphasized the idea that education systems must make progress in developing policies to improve quality. This goal, which is necessary to adapt education systems to today's challenges, has in many cases entailed a shift in the focus of attention on the inclusion of the poorest.

Our education systems are faced with a set of highly complex tensions. The priority of catering for those who have the fewest basic education opportunities comes into conflict with other economic, political and social requirements in most developing countries. Our countries need highly qualified staff; they also need to create a body of informed, active and responsible citizens. The demand for resources to finance the universal provision of basic education has to be set against the investment needed for specialized training linked to the world market and to systems of innovation, science and technology.

How can the tension between equity and competitiveness and between social inclusion and the strengthening of sectors with the highest growth potential be resolved? In the first decade of the twenty-first century, education systems will have to show flexibility in order to find trade-offs and strike balances between these two demands.

Countries with a medium and low level of economic development experience great difficulties in ensuring the universal provision of quality basic education while adopting the same parameters and the same strategies as the main developed countries. The costs are difficult to sustain and, despite the efforts made, the results are not at all encouraging. Efforts to promote educational inclusion must therefore be accompanied by alternatives to traditional schooling, making use of community resources and energies, open and flexible methods and a variety of technologies, methods and materials. A great deal of experience has been gained over the last few decades, but national policies have not acted with sufficient conviction upon the lessons learnt in this domain. It seems clear, however, that the less developed countries' policies to promote inclusion and increase opportunities in basic education should pay closer and more systematic attention to the school system's non-traditional institutional resources and technologies.

2. We must promote systematic human rights education and its reestablishment in each country and culture

Human rights provide a very important normative foundation for education for living together. They constitute the basic reference in the promotion of education in and for human coexistence at the turn of the twenty-first century.

The sphere of influence and normative force of human rights have increased considerably in the last few years. This reflects a change in the sensibility of societies compared with the confrontational styles that prevailed even a few decades ago. However, alongside the victory of these ideas, there is some scepticism or weariness regarding the chances of achieving their effective realization.

We must look at this process in its historical perspective. In the last part of the twentieth century, we have made great strides in building international agreements and consensus about what we consider valuable and what we consider unacceptable for humankind. The human rights tradition is based on the belief that over and above distinctive characteristics, people from different countries and cultures are capable of sharing basic values and of agreeing on a few common commitments.

The universality or specificity of human rights has been much discussed. No one holds the monopoly over the interpretation of cultures and values. We must understand that human rights are one of the traditions that we have devised in order to communicate with each other and debate on a core of ethical issues that affect all human beings. Alongside this tradition in the process of construction, different cultures and ways of seeing the world can coexist and dialogue.

Human rights education should be a priority at all levels of education. Education should promote new ways of understanding and cultivating human rights. While substantial progress has been made, this priority needs to be reflected in curricula and in the training of teachers and educational leaders in every country. One of the goals of this conference should be to conceive clear commitments in this regard.

3. We need to define the outlines of a global education based on knowledge of diversity, dialogue and cultural mixing

We human beings tend to overrate the qualities of the groups and cultures to which we belong, and to nurture prejudice against the others. Will it be possible to design a form of education enabling conflicts to be avoided or resolved in a peaceful manner, by promoting knowledge of others, their culture and spirituality.

The main problem is that the education systems within which education for living together must be provided have historically been based on the glorification of the national culture. They are nearly always based on principles that stem from beliefs that prevailed before the planetary era. In the school systems of many countries, there are still substantial problems regarding the ideas that are taught. Racial prejudice, neo-colonialist visions, one-sided conceptions of science and knowledge continue to be presented to the young generations, impeding awareness of the basic unity of the world around them.

In the last few decades educational policies based on the premise/postulate of a homogeneous national culture have been subjected to critical review, which has given rise to the expression of cultural diversity in schools. However, our schools today are still very limited instruments for promoting the new model of thought that is now required to enable humanity to coexist in peace.

Education in the twenty-first century has a twofold mission: to teach about diversity and the problems of the human species and to help to raise awareness of the similarities and interdependence that exist among all human beings. If the young are taught to adopt other people's point of view, misunderstandings that could lead to hatred and violence in adults can be avoided. But is it merely a question of inculcating feelings of tolerance? Will this be sufficient to overcome the brute force of indifference?

How much time is devoted in schools to learning about and interacting with the realities of other social groups, cultures or countries? Through schools we must cultivate the idea that the peaceful survival of humanity depends on the promotion of global sensibility and knowledge. To educate people to live together, it is necessary to bring about a reform of the way in which schools represent the world and the destiny of the peoples that inhabit the planet.

It is an immense but inescapable task. The development of the peaceful coexistence of humanity demands that we reconstruct the core of moral education. And this core cannot be based only on the cultivation of fine feelings: it must touch upon the structuring of scientific knowledge and the aesthetic, social and philosophical experience that schools promote.

Perhaps the greatest cause for concern is not what is taught but what is not taught. Throughout the world emphasis is being laid once more on the school's role in the development of moral values. But can one value, cooperate and coexist with someone one does not know? If the realities are not known, affections cannot be cultivated. There is no feeling of cooperation or fraternity that can grow when tended by the hand of ignorance.

In the last few decades the need to reflect on cultural diversity has become obvious in a world in which strong manifestations of the tendency to extol the local culture exists alongside one another and are sometimes accompanied by a dangerous rejection of those who think and act differently or possess different cultural values. Peaceful coexistence in tomorrow's world will only be possible if we can build shared values founded on the celebration of our differences.

The significance of this conference

The three ideas that I have put forward concerning the role of education for living together in the twenty-first century point to the need to reaffirm the principles and objectives recognized by the international community and at the same time to re-evaluate the strategies and instruments that we use for achieving them.

From the global standpoint, we do not lack the intellectual, technical or economic resources for addressing the problems. But only intellectual cooperation, renewed in spirit and endowed with greater resources, will be able to generate the instruments that we need. Sustained and resolute action by the international community, States, non-governmental organizations, groups and individuals all over the world are the means to secure the basic conditions for the full development of harmonious relationships on the part of each human being. Through cooperation we can transform the globalization of problems into a mobilization of educational energies worldwide.

Institutionalized education has a key role to play in building human coexistence. But we should not deceive ourselves. Bringing about the necessary conditions for living together in tomorrow's world does not depend only or mainly on education.

The human species is a large and diverse family. Differences of race and religion, nationality and ideology, gender and sexual preference, economic and social position must be rethought in terms of that fundamental unity. Will we be able to direct our educational efforts along this path?

We share the earth, we share development. That is the basis on which education will be able to make its contribution to living together in the twenty-first century. Today we are being given a new opportunity. Our task is to turn it to account.

Thank you.

ANNEX II**Opening address by Mr Koïchiro Matsuura,
Director-General of UNESCO**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Ministers of Education,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 46th Session of the International Conference on Education (ICE). I would like to immediately express my sincere thanks to you, Mr President, for your opening address, which provided a number of perceptive observations highly relevant to the thematic issues that this Conference will examine. I would also like to thank the Swiss Federal authorities and the authorities of the Republic and Canton of Geneva for the long-standing hospitality they have offered to this Conference and to the International Bureau of Education (IBE). Geneva is truly an international city and it is a pleasure to resume here the great tradition of the ICE after an interval of five years.

I am pleased to see so many ministers and vice-ministers here today. Their presence testifies to the uniqueness of this international forum and to their interest in its thematic concerns and the importance of Education for All. With the greatest respect to the other participants, I would like to emphasize that this is, without question, your conference. Indeed, it is the centrality of your presence, participation and contributions that gives the ICE its distinctive quality compared with other international conferences on education.

However, a vital ingredient of the ICE is the contribution by other participants from the domains of academia, research, international cooperation, and civil society, drawn here by their interest in the Conference's themes and the very nature of the event itself. Your active participation in the Conference is warmly welcomed. Thus, I am pleased to welcome the representatives and observers of non-Member States, United Nations agencies, inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all those who have helped in the preparations for this Conference by providing intellectual and/or financial contributions: the ministries of education, research centres and training institutions of several countries (Argentina, Canada, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland); the Commonwealth of Learning; the Training Programme for Bilingual Intercultural Education for the Andean Countries; the BERUM Project in Peru; the Graduate Institute for Development Studies in Geneva; the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie in Paris; the NGO Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in South Africa. Last but not least, I would like to both thank and congratulate the IBE Council for its hard work, dedication and creativity in designing and preparing this year's Conference; the Council's Chairperson, Mr Pieter De Meijer, Chairman of the National Commission for UNESCO of the Netherlands, deserves our particular thanks.

The ICE is an event with a rich and interesting tradition. Under the name of 'the International Conference on Public Education', it was first organized in 1934 by the International Bureau of Education at a time when militarism and fascism were on the march. From 1947 onwards, each Conference was organized jointly by the IBE and UNESCO. Since 1969, when the IBE became an integral part of UNESCO, this event has been known as the International Conference on Education.

As the only event addressed to all of the world's Ministers of Education, the ICE serves as a unique international forum for high-level dialogue on educational issues and their policy implications.

The International Conference on Education, like the IBE, is an integral part of UNESCO. Notwithstanding the lapse of time since the 45th Session, the ICE is one of the most important events in the Organization's calendar. It is my honour and responsibility to invite the participants. Meanwhile, it is the General Conference of UNESCO that approves the themes of the ICE in light of proposals submitted by the IBE Council, whose members are chosen by the General Conference. Through the national reports submitted to the ICE and the presentations, discussions and exchanges occurring during the Conference, an abundance of data becomes available to the IBE and to UNESCO more widely. I can assure you that UNESCO greatly values this occasion as a singular opportunity to listen to and interact with many of the world's key decision-makers in the field of education.

As with all the other activities organized by the IBE, the International Conference on Education is embedded within the framework of the UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (2002-2007). In fact, the timing of the ICE could not be better, coming as it does just weeks before the Strategy will be submitted to the General Conference for approval. The leitmotif running through the next Medium-Term Strategy is the following: "Contributing to peace and development in an era of globalization through education, the sciences, culture and communication". For UNESCO, the unifying theme shaping all of its programmes and activities is the challenge of humanizing globalization so that it works for everyone, not just for a privileged few. Central to the process of giving globalization a human face is education, especially in terms of globalizing the right to education so that good quality basic education is available to all.

It is also very timely that the ICE is being held now, when the Dakar follow-up process is gathering much momentum. The meeting of the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2000 was a decisive turning-point for UNESCO. As required by the Dakar Framework for Action, UNESCO has placed the outcomes and priorities of Dakar at the heart of its work. Building upon the reform and structuring that I initiated and completed, UNESCO has refocused its education programme within the Medium-Term Strategy and is fulfilling its mandated role of coordinating EFA partners and maintaining their collaborative momentum. Let there be no mistake: Education for All is UNESCO's highest priority for the period ahead and, thanks to the commitments freely made in Dakar, we are not alone in this endeavour. Without effective partnership, the EFA goals will not be reached. With effective partnership, we have a good chance of achieving something quite remarkable. The true test of partnership will be found at the country level, where the combined efforts of national and international actors must be primarily focused.

Consequently, UNESCO accords great importance to the theme of this year's ICE – "Education for All for learning to live together: contents and learning strategies – problems and solutions". It is most timely and appropriate that the ICE is to address this theme shortly before the 31st session of the General Conference. The outcomes and recommendations of the ICE will be immediately channelled into the deliberations of the General Conference in October and November. I believe that this will serve as a great incentive to make our discussions, debates and decisions in the next few days as relevant and well-conceived as possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme of "learning to live together" must be addressed from two main angles: first, from the perspective of social cohesion, harmony and non-violence within our societies, and second, from the perspective of international peace, mutual understanding and friendship between our societies. These dimensions, of course, are connected: a country at war with itself may also be a

threat to its neighbours, and external wars have a habit of generating many internal conflicts and tensions. Concern for the contribution of education to world peace, international understanding social cohesion and non-violence has always been at the heart of the ICE's deliberations. It is precisely for this reason that it has maintained its relevance for almost seventy years. Through the choice of theme for this session, the ICE shows once again how close is the link between the themes of its debates and the priorities of the whole international community.

At this Conference, we have a golden opportunity not only to reinforce the commitments made in Dakar to achieve quality basic education for all by 2015 but also to reflect further upon the meaning and purpose of Education for All. What does quality basic education for all mean? What aims and purposes explain and justify the enormous efforts required to achieve it?

In this regard, it is important to note that the Dakar Framework for Action clearly links the improvement of the quality of basic education to the effective acquisition of literacy, numeracy and essential life-skills. What is literacy today if it does not develop our ability to communicate so that, by opening local, national and global participation to everyone, our personal freedom is enlarged? What is numeracy today if it does not develop our ability to analyse and organize data concerning the many dimensions of our lives and enhance our capacity to participate in the knowledge society? Clearly, literacy and numeracy are not merely technical but are social in character, vitally linked to our capacity for personal freedom and social action.

And what do life-skills mean today if they do not embrace the desire as well as the ability to live together in peace? The term "essential life-skills" must include the abilities to mix with others, cooperate, communicate, undertake joint actions, participate, and build mutual trust as well as self-confidence.

These considerations convince me more than ever that EFA makes good sense for many kinds of reasons but the core of the rationale for EFA is ethical; it concerns the rights of each person to fulfil his or her potential and to live a full human life in society. Living in peace with one another is an integral part of this vision. And learning how to live at peace with others is an indispensable part of all education.

But we still have a long way to go. Since the last session of the ICE, the world has moved into a new century and, indeed, a new millennium but we remain beset by familiar problems. Thus, different groups and entire communities in all the regions of the world continue to suffer from the effects of war, internal conflicts, injustice, poverty, intolerance, racism, marginalization, and different forms of violence. The basic rights of millions remain unfulfilled, including those which go to the heart of personal and group identity such as language and culture. The world remains a place where the conditions for living at peace with one another are fragile and are particularly vulnerable to the resentments arising from injustices and structured social inequalities.

The main educational preoccupation of the past century was to guarantee wider access to educational opportunities but much remains to be done in many countries. The achievement of quantitative educational goals is still important where universal primary education and universal literacy are far from being realized. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, however, the quality of basic education must also be improved so that everyone is well prepared for participation in modern life. Each of us needs the tools, aptitudes and values essential for facing a world of rapid change, increasing complexity, widespread uncertainty, and inter-dependence. Above all, a basic education that fails to equip us to live together peaceably does not deserve to be called an education of genuine quality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been very impressed by reading a preliminary analysis of the content of the national reports prepared for this Conference. Clearly, much progress has occurred in raising awareness about the need to educate in favour of values, concepts and capacities that help young people to learn how to live peaceably together and, just as important, encourage them to want to live peaceably together.

The analysis contained in the Conference's main working document is very useful. It shows how human rights, the protection of cultural diversity, respect for local languages and mother tongues, the call for peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the application of scientific procedures and new technologies are being incorporated into the planning of curricula and other aspects of national policy-making.

We also note that Ministries of Education have identified a number of problem areas and related questions. How can learning about peaceful daily life be developed within formal school settings? How can the importance and urgency of this educational issue be matched with available resources? How can learning about peaceful daily life be incorporated into a framework of lifelong learning opportunities for all? Moreover, in many of the preparatory meetings organized by the IBE in various regions of the world, a common refrain has been that violence is a fact of life in many schools. We believe that these critical appraisals arise from an increasingly firm resolve to face these problems squarely: first, by recognizing them; second, by sharing them; and, third, by learning co-operatively to overcome them.

I also applaud the way in which good practices and viable innovations have been collected by the IBE, with the support of UNESCO's Education Sector, the country, cluster and regional offices of UNESCO, national commissions, and numerous non-governmental organizations, especially those NGOs representing teachers involved in education for learning to live together. These lessons from practice show that solutions to existing problems do exist, that such solutions are plentiful and diverse, and that greater knowledge of them can help us to provide fresh responses to the difficulties faced on a daily basis by teachers and pupils alike.

Many ideas and much information will circulate during this Conference. I hope that those responsible for national education will be able, as a result, to make better, more informed decisions. It is important that the duly constituted national authorities do indeed retain the will and capacity for decision-making in education. Some analysts have argued that, given the influence and effects of globalization, the nation-state is losing its validity. I do not agree. On the contrary, I am convinced that the state's guiding role and the legitimate and authoritative character of its policies are more important than ever. On the other hand, we must acknowledge that the definition of the state's role and the performance of its functions are under challenge from a variety of forces: for example, the internationalization of knowledge, the shifting balance between centralization and decentralization, and the sheer variety of national and local policy options available.

In addition, quite a number of countries are seeing new actors enter the national education picture. A few of these new actors are international in character, but most are national and local. Some of these actors may not be so 'new' but, due to processes of decentralization, improved communications or democratization, they may be finding their voices or strengthening their presence in the educational domain. UNESCO clearly encourages all states and public authorities to fulfil their core obligations towards education; at the same time, we recognize that the state cannot do everything and need not do some things only by itself. Thus, in regard to certain educational responsibilities, the state may find it useful to build strategic alliances with civil society institutions

and the private sector. Within an overall framework of state regulation, monitoring and quality assurance, considerable advantages and benefits may ensue.

In recognition of such trends, and in keeping with the clear message from Dakar about the need to involve civil society more actively in all aspects of the EFA process, a Special Session will be held on Saturday. This Special Session, which I will chair myself, will be devoted to “the involvement of civil society in promoting education for all”. UNESCO is convinced that productive state/civil society relations in the field of education are necessary not only for achieving the quantitative and qualitative goals agreed in Dakar but also for assisting the design and implementation of initiatives for learning to live together. Partnership and cooperation begin at home.

Obviously, the way to promote effective and appropriate education for living together is not the same in all cultures and in all contexts. However, in this globalized world, the intelligent and creative combination of relevant global strategies with a diverse range of local and national solutions offers the greatest promise.

I very much look forward to the outcomes and recommendations of this Conference. I am sure that you will find that the theme of ‘learning to live together’ intersects with many of your most pressing concerns, ranging from violence in the classroom to the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), from language teaching to citizenship education within the perspective of lifelong learning. The framing of these issues, problems and concerns within the context of Education for All shows that it is quite wrong to see EFA just in terms of quantitative developments, important though these are. The agenda of EFA must be seen to include the improvement of the quality of basic education. This is our shared challenge.

Thank you.

ANNEX III**Opening address by Ms Martine Brunschwig Graf,
State Counsellor, Head of the Swiss Delegation**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Mr Director-General of UNESCO,
Madam Director of the IBE,
Ladies and gentlemen representing teachers, parents, the world of science and civil society as a whole,
Dear friends and conference guests,

On behalf of the Swiss Confederation and the Republic and Canton of Geneva, I have the pleasure to extend warmest greetings to you. We are very proud to host in Geneva a conference that, for the 46th time, has placed education and the future of all the world's young people at the forefront of its concerns. Geneva, the seat of the International Bureau of Education, the centre of activity where Jean Piaget chose to carry out his most important work, is thus honoured and ready once again to fulfil its vocation as host and venue open to all those who are working to improve people's living conditions.

During the next four days we will have the opportunity to get to know each other better and strengthen our ties in the discussion workshops and plenary meetings and on the less formal occasions of the scheduled fringe events. Here and now I have the pleasure of inviting you to the reception to be held by the Swiss delegation this evening at the Hotel Intercontinental.

We can only thank the International Bureau of Education, which organized this conference, for having scheduled the meetings in such a way as to afford opportunities for exchanges of views and socializing so that we can strengthen our ties as education officials from all over the world. We will thus demonstrate that the expression "living together", the common thread running through our work, is not a mere slogan – far from it. We will be able to show that we intend to apply the values and principles that underlie this goal, in particular the respect and willingness to listen that are indispensable to all democratic debates.

International dialogue, exchanges of experience or, to use the terms suggested by UNESCO, "the dissemination and sharing of information and best practices" are the core of the IBE's mission and the goal of the 46th session of the International Conference on Education. In that regard, I wish to stress that we already have an excellent point of departure thanks to the Conference's preparatory work.

I should now like to pay tribute to the Director and staff of the IBE for the quality of the documents submitted to us, which provide valuable considerations for our debates. They encourage us to compare ideas and bring us face to face with our responsibilities.

For example, by showing us that social cohesion and cultural diversity are two of our societies' major challenges in a globalizing world, they remind us that schools play a central role in the training of the world's citizens.

I could hardly say anything else since, being responsible for educational policy in the Republic and Canton of Geneva, I see every day the challenges of communal life in educational institutions attended by students of over 80 nationalities in some instances and with different

mother tongues! And what about Switzerland, with its 26 autonomous cantons and school systems, and its 4 national languages? We shall certainly be keenly interested in the topics discussed during the next few days, particularly those concerning the role of languages in people's ability to live together in a climate of respect for each other!

You experience similar problems that are often compounded by very different financial, economic and social conditions. We all know that we must endeavour to combine the need for an identity with the obligation to respect diversity. We all feel that school is a crucial factor, even though we must be brave enough to say that it cannot do everything. Defining its future role and agreeing on innovative and indispensable educational procedures does not mean that we should be silent about the responsibility of all sectors of society.

Blaming schools for all the world's problems is as dangerous as disregarding them and depriving them of all scope for action. We must commit ourselves to quality education for all. We need to be able to rely on the competence and professional commitment of teachers, on educational tools that are suited to the learning processes and on adequate structures and financial resources. But schools cannot live without support from the members of society and the goodwill of all, parents, families and citizens, in applying and transmitting the principles that teachers undertake to develop in educational establishments.

Respect, receptiveness, a feeling for debate and democratic practice are values and principles that schools must apply and develop. But these values and principles must not remain the exclusive preserve of the school or stop at its doors.

We are here to reflect together and to share our successes and our problems. No country, no expert can claim to have miracle solutions in the field of education. We all face the same need to change and adapt education systems to the needs of those who will tomorrow be responsible for our planet's future. That makes us modest and enquiring. I also hope it will encourage us to be willing to listen, to dialogue and to share. That would no doubt be the best guarantee of this conference's success!

Thank you for your attention.

ANNEX IV**Opening address by Mr Abraham B. Borishade, Minister of Education of Nigeria
and President of the 46th session of the International Conference on Education**

Honourable Ministers,
Mr Director-General,
Your Excellencies,
Madam Director of IBE,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great humility that I rise to thank you all for the confidence you have reposed in me by your unanimous gesture of electing me to guide, with your cooperation, the deliberations of this 46th session of the International Conference on Education, which is taking place at this moment when we are all girding our loins to face the challenges of a new millennium.

Beyond my person, I consider your gesture as an honour to my country, and our President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, joins me in thanking you all. The honour is also, of course, being shared by our dear continent of Africa. In that context, I am most grateful to my colleagues from the African continent who kindly proposed my candidature for this position of honour and to all of you from all regions of the world for your generous acceptance of their proposal.

Please allow me at this point to pay due tribute to our outgoing President of the 45th session for her devotion and commitment in guiding our last session to a successful conclusion. Mr President, please accept our thanks for your exemplary performance and contribution to our corporate work.

It is my determination to uphold the established excellence of our Conferences and with your help and support I am sure our deliberations and their results will live up to the high expectation of us all.

Dear Colleagues,

At its 30th session two years ago, the General Conference, in a forward-looking resolution, recognized the renewed mandate of the International Bureau of Education and the importance of the contribution that it is called upon to make for the achievement of the Education for All Programme of UNESCO. That resolution also bid the IBE to promote policy dialogue between decision-makers, researchers, educators and other partners in the educational process by organizing the 46th session of the International Conference on Education which, taking account of the four pillars of the Delors Report – in particular “Learning to live together” – will focus on ways of ensuring that each learner masters the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for the individual’s and the society’s intellectual and moral development.

This is the mandate of our gathering and this is the challenge for our deliberations in the next few days; our deliberations which are placed under the label of “Educational content and learning strategies for living together in the twenty-first century; problems and solutions”.

Dear Colleagues and Mr Director-General,

Dialogue and exchanges of ideas have always been essential hallmarks of the functioning of the International Conference on Education. And in the true spirit of dialogue, wide-ranging consultations have taken place in preparation for this Conference, involving Member States and

their educational institutions, Ministers of Education, Members of the IBE College of Fellows and several other specialists in the field of education. This preparation has resulted in the rich and varied materials that we have before us, to help our discussions.

The hard reality today in education in many Member States is that in spite of the valiant efforts made in many countries, the achievement of our set goals in education, continue to elude us. It is true that there has been some progress and some achievements, most of them very laudable. But the stark reality is that we are far from achieving our aspiration of providing appropriate relevant and meaningful education for the individuals and for our societies.

So our duty here is, through exchange and dialogue, to fashion out plans for pooling our intellectual resources and sharing our practical experiences in a corporate effort to move our societies forward towards the excellence required for ensuring education for all, quality education for all, and education that is conducive to helping us meet the challenges of this dawning millennium – particularly the challenge of learning to live together.

Dear Colleagues,

You will soon be called upon to examine for approval the plans proposed by the Secretariat and our Bureau for the pursuit of our work at this session. It is a plan full of innovation and crafted out for maximum interaction among the participants and for ensuring the most in-depth examination of the many facets of the value and quality of Education for All. This, I am persuaded, will afford us the opportunities for intensified international dialogues and exchanges of experiences on the contents, the methods and the structures of teaching and education and at every level.

In reviewing the draft programme of work, I would humbly ask you to have firmly in mind the expected results of our deliberations and the proposals and recommendation that we hope will emerge from our work. We should ask ourselves to what extent are these plans suited to the full and thorough examination of the existing situation in education, are they properly geared towards enabling us to determine the “criteria for selection and organization of the contents and methods of our education” and finally, would the proposed format of work help us identify issues of shared concerns by all and the best practices as they exist today?

Dear Colleagues,

If at the end of our deliberation at this session we achieve these goals and we are able to present proposals and recommendations for strengthening national capacities for articulating and implementing innovative and effective educational policies and reforms; if our recommendations are truly geared towards sharply refocusing the Education for All movement and giving new life and meaning to the now established dialogue between our nations, through our Ministers of Education and other stakeholders in the field of education; if our proposals are clearly tailored for contributing to the strengthening of the “links between education, peace and the capacity to live together, then we would have made a meaningful contribution to the progress of the global effort in favour of education, that gathered force in Jomtien, some 11 years ago and which more recently has been reinvigorated in Dakar. And through our success here we would have moved further ahead in our preparation for confronting the educational challenges of the twenty-first century.

Dear Colleagues,

I have no doubt that together we will succeed in reaching our laudable goal.

I wish you “bon courage” and all success at this 46th session of the International Conference on Education on Education. And I thank you for your attention.

ANNEX V

**Address by Mr John Daniel, Assistant Director-General for Education,
during the award of the Comenius Medal**

Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address you, on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, at this Award Ceremony for the Comenius Medal. The Comenius Medal recognizes educators and researchers, as well as particular initiatives in education, for the excellence and outstanding quality of their work. When UNESCO and the Government of the Czech Republic created this award, we agreed to celebrate all those men and women who, like Comenius, help us build visions for a better future.

Mr President,

This ceremony takes place at the first international gathering of educational policy-makers since the World Education Forum was held in Dakar, Senegal last year. The Dakar Forum followed a series of important international events, going back at least to the Educational for All conference that was held in Jomtien, Thailand in 1990.

Through these events the international community has been trying to address with what some have called the greatest moral challenge of our time, namely the fact that hundreds of millions of our fellow human beings cannot exercise their right to receive an education.

Let me briefly remind you of the six goals that were agreed in Dakar.

First, to expand and improve comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. At present, of the 800 million children in the world who are under six years of age, fewer than one-third benefit from any form of early childhood care and education.

Second, to ensure that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to – and complete – free and compulsory primary education of good quality. Progress is being made. The net enrolment rate in primary school, which was under 65% in less developed regions in 1970, had risen to 85% by 2000. However this still leaves 113 million children, 60% of whom are girls, out of school.

It is estimated that there are another 100 million children who start school but are taken out and put to work in homes, factories or armies before they have learned to read, write and use number. Sixty per cent of these uneducated children are in countries in conflict or post-conflict situations – adding to the difficulties.

Third, to ensure that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programme.

Fourth, to achieve a 50% improvement in the levels of adult illiteracy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults. At present one in four of the adult population of our planet, some 800 million people, have their personal lives and the development of their communities blighted by illiteracy.

Fifth, to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieve gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to – and achievement in – basic education of good quality.

Sixth, and finally, to improve all aspects of the quality of education so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

At the World Forum in Dakar the international community charged UNESCO with coordinating the collective effort to progress towards these goals. That is the agenda for Education for All which will be my daily challenge at UNESCO as new Assistant Director-General for Education.

The challenge is so great that we cannot rise to it simply by extending our existing methods and practices. We need innovative approaches to the deployment of media, communications and technologies. We need innovations in the way we train and deploy and respect teachers. We need to develop new and more imaginative ways of cooperating and working together; we need the leadership and commitment of men and women like those we are rewarding today.

Through you, the laureates of the Comenius Medal, I hope that we can achieve greater mobilization and commitment of the academic community and the intellectual community at large, in the collective effort required to meet the challenge of Education for All.

Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My admiration of Comenius is based on a rather general knowledge of his work. I am looking forward to hearing Dr Sook Jong Lee, who is a Comenius specialist, speak on behalf of the laureates and help all of us to understand better the importance of this visionary educator. However, I do know that Comenius philosophy and educational thought were sometimes considered too grandiose or too general for the mental outlook of the seventeenth century.

Indeed, his “Via Lucis” – the way of light – is as visionary today as it was when he wrote it. Failing to meet the Education for All challenge would send us back to a “way of darkness”; and that would certainly be incompatible with the mental outlook of the twenty-first century.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before closing, I should like to thank Mr Pieter de Meijer who, in his capacity as President of the Council of the International Bureau of Education, chaired the Jury appointed to evaluate and select candidates for the Comenius Medal. The task and the responsibility involved were very difficult in view of the wealth, diversity and quality of the proposed candidates. However, when Mr de Meijer introduces the candidates to you in a few moments, you will be able to ascertain, as I have, that the Jury has made the right and relevant choices.

I am also very grateful to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic, which not only enabled UNESCO to establish the Medal – as a joint undertaking – but continues to work with us to increase the number of Comenius heirs.

Lastly, I wish to congratulate all the candidates on the exemplary nature of their devotion and competence, to let them know that we are relying on them in the ongoing battle against exclusion, ignorance and poverty entailed in the challenge of Education for All, and to express to them my admiration and pride in awarding them the Comenius Medal.

Thank you for your attention.

ANNEX VI

**Address by Mr P. de Meijer, President of the IBE Council,
during the award of the Comenius Medal**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Laureates,
Distinguished Delegates, Representatives and Observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

As President of the Council of the International Bureau of Education it is an honour and a threefold joy to address you tonight.

My first joy, which has nothing chauvinistic about it, is to be doing so as a citizen of the Netherlands, my country, which was home to Jan Amos Komensky, also known as Comenius, for the last fourteen years of his life until his death in November 1670. And it was in my home town, Amsterdam, that Comenius also published most of his works, which then spread throughout Europe and beyond.

My second joy is to be doing so at the 46th session of the International Conference on Education, during which ministers and heads of delegation, delegates, representatives and observers are considering together the best ways of achieving progress in Education for All, particularly the quality of education, with a view to “living better together”. Comenius would have felt perfectly at ease among us for, to quote Jean Piaget, “the education system proposed by Comenius is universal by its very nature; it is intended for all people irrespective of differences in social or economic status, religion, race or nationality”. And Piaget even added that “Comenius would have applauded modern campaigns against illiteracy, viewed as basic education and social reintegration campaigns”.

With regard to the 46th session of the ICE, Comenius would have found without any difficulty a key position on some of our panels.

In Workshop No. 1, for example, he would have made the point that moral education (or civics as it is now called) is functional above all and that it emphasizes his preference for real-life practice rather than verbal constraints or lessons. He would also have said no doubt, in Workshop 2 on the subject of violence, that “blows have no power to inspire love of scholastic endeavour, but they are most capable of arousing aversion and hatred”.

He would also have felt at ease in Workshop 4 on languages, as the author of the famous “*Janua linguarum reserata*” (The Gate of Tongues Unlocked), a textbook for teaching Latin which was translated into all the European languages and into Arabic. The book was composed of 100 chapters, which contained a thousand sentences compiled on a particular subject (the universe, animals, human beings, etc.). Opposite the Latin, the text was provided in the vernacular language so that it could be understood immediately. And Comenius did more than this: instead of getting lost in a large number of rules, the child was led, through language practice, in short simple sentences, to discover particular grammatical forms. Comenius also recommended that “instruction should begin in the mother tongue” and, for the purpose of language learning, encouraged people to travel to other countries.

He would also have appreciated Workshop 6 since, in his widely known book “Orbus pictus sensualis” (The Visible World in Pictures), he actually used the most modern technologies of the day to produce the first illustrated children’s book. Applying the idea that the child must have direct contact with what it is learning, Comenius linked each sentence of the text to a specific picture and the details in the pictures were numbered and cross-referenced to each of the corresponding words.

Lastly, Comenius would have been fascinated by all the themes of the ICE and by the new line of emphasis of the activities of the IBE as UNESCO’s specialized centre for educational content, structures, methods and resources. In his best known work “Didactica magna” (The Great Didactic), he was one of the first to emphasize content and to consider that education should be based on a precise method. He also pointed to the need to lighten curricula and to organize them in such a way as to avoid confusion among pupils, saying that “the art of teaching merely calls for good distribution of time and subjects”.

So, the portrait of Comenius that we have before us during this ceremony is not that of a man of the past but of a man “of all times”, an educational genius who has even been called at times “the Galileo of education”.

My third joy is derived from your presence here as laureates of the 2001 Comenius Medal, the first of the millennium. The Jury, which I had the honour to chair and whose choices have been endorsed by the Director-General of UNESCO, had a very difficult task before it. You have been selected from among more than 40 candidates from all over the world. The Jury would have liked to reward 15 or 20 candidates, but its statutes allow a maximum of only 10 awards. I shall in a moment introduce each of you briefly, but I can already say that you are all worthy spiritual heirs of Comenius and that, through your action in very different parts of the world and under very different conditions, you have done outstanding work in advancing the cause of quality education and in building a more human world. I congratulate you and thank you on behalf of all the participants in the 46th session of the ICE and all the teachers and children of the world.

ANNEX VII**Address by Mr Eduard Zeman, Minister of Education of the Czech Republic,
during the award of the Comenius Medal**

Mr Director-General,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am personally very glad and honoured to take part again in such an important event, in the ceremony of awarding the Jan Amos Comenius Medal, joint medal of the Director-General of UNESCO and the Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic, to five most deserving scholars and three pedagogical teams throughout the world, who substantially contributed to current development of pedagogical sciences in the whole world.

We live in a time of rapid and almost unpredictable social changes, which on a global scale necessarily influence the role and status of not only individuals and whole educational systems, but also your work as specialists in pedagogical sciences. Indeed, education is an immensely powerful instrument in the service of society, which could be utilized for the positive formation of the young generation. Nowadays, the mere development of learning skills and the cognitive capacity of individuals no longer suffices. Other qualities and values – spiritual, ethical and aesthetic – need to be acquired and a positive attitude to other people and to society as a whole should be developed. The educated nation, which has a constantly active approach to better and better education, has the only chance to survive on the side of the prosperous nations, in this economically split world. The only way how to cope with such a situation is systematic attention to educating all people, the care of education as such.

Education for partnership, cooperation and solidarity within the globalizing world has become one of the main targets of the National Programme of Development of Education in the Czech Republic. We seek to promote a concept of life without conflicts and negative attitudes not only within the national community but also with respect to other nations, linguistic groups, minorities and cultures. We wish to bring up generations of people, who will be able to accept and respect even considerable differences among peoples and cultures of today's interrelated world.

Your predecessor and colleague, Jan Amos Comenius, pedagogue, philosopher and humanist, whose medal you have been awarded today, was born more than 400 years ago on the territory of the contemporary Czech Republic. His importance exceeded the regional framework. His ideas and concepts had a fundamental influence on European as well as world pedagogical thinking and moved the development of education and training in society well ahead. Today, in our turbulent and divided world the ideas of Jan Amos Comenius about the necessity of bringing people close together for a happier life in the future are still appealing to us. Deep contrasts in the development of modern civilization have shaped the world as a place full of violence and misunderstanding. To seek solutions to these problems should be the main task for the generations which have entered the twenty-first century. The motto of the present 46th session of the International Conference on Education – “Learning to Live Together” – is proof that the world community in dealing with education is well aware of such issues and has no intention of ignoring them.

The awarding of the Jan Amos Comenius Medal is an important moment in particular for you, this year's laureates, who are directly involved here and now. The award of the Medal is in a very real sense public recognition, an award, which on the basis of democratic decision has been made by the jury and confirmed by the signatures of the Director-General of UNESCO and the Minister

of Education, Youth and Sport of the country which gave birth to one of the greatest teachers of all time – Jan Amos Comenius.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who have been presented today with the Comenius Medal for your lifelong commitment to education, for your professional work and for the permanent and devoted effort you have dedicated to raising the level of education as a whole all over the world. I am convinced that you will continue – as you have done hitherto – to bear your share of responsibility in such an irreplaceable activity for the benefit of the human race. I wish you full success in your work and in your personal life as well.

I am glad to use the opportunity of this ceremony to invite you personally, laureates of the Comenius Medal, to visit the Czech Republic and to have an opportunity to learn more about the life and work of Jan Amos Comenius, to get acquainted with the rich history and the pulsing reality of present-day life of this country in the heart of Europe. You will have a chance to know more about the Czech Republic and judge for yourselves how far the ideas of its famous citizen – pedagogue, philosopher and humanist Comenius – have come true.

I wish you, distinguished colleagues, as well as the whole world community, to devote your efforts, in cooperation with UNESCO and other international organizations, to safeguarding and strengthening the principal ideas of society – democracy, human rights and respect for man – and to contribute to the positive and dynamic overall development of man, which is primarily based on the level of general education combined with individual creative ability.

I am looking forward to welcoming you, distinguished laureates of the Comenius Medal, within a few days in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic.

ANNEX VIII**Address by Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO
at the opening of the special meeting on the involvement of civil society
in promoting education for all**

Honourable Ministers of Education,
Representatives of civil society,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be with you today for this Special Session of the International Conference on Education (ICE). It is highly appropriate that this Special Session, on the theme of the involvement of civil society in Education for All (EFA), occurs on a day when citizens around the world, governments, politicians, voluntary associations, grassroots workers, teachers, children and many others are celebrating International Literacy Day. In doing so, they are expressing, directly or indirectly, their commitment to the goals shared by everyone in the global EFA movement.

We all have witnessed the lively discussions here at the 46th Session of the ICE. Major issues have been addressed, such as learning to live together in our conflict-ridden world, the complex relationship between globalization and education, and the urgent need to reinforce the ethos and practice of participation at all levels, not least in regard to EFA processes. Allow me to explain, therefore, why this Special Session has been convened.

Since becoming the Director-General of UNESCO in November 1999, I have made the promotion of dialogue with civil society one of my foremost concerns, especially with reference to EFA. At the meeting of the World Education Forum in Dakar in April 2000, I intervened to ensure the wider participation of civil society in that crucial event. Since then, the encouragement of dialogue with civil society on EFA-related matters has taken place largely at the working level. The significance of this Special Session is two-fold: for the first time, it takes this dialogue to a much higher level, at which civil society representatives interact with a large group of Ministers of Education; in addition, this is the first time that such a Special Session of the ICE has been devoted to the question of civil society.

By bringing together representatives from governments and civil society organisations (CSOs) on a single platform, this Special Session has both symbolic and substantive dimensions. It is symbolic by virtue of being a sign of the increasing recognition of the importance of civil society involvement in education, especially basic education. It is also an indication that partnership and collaboration are being pursued seriously and inclusively. I hope that this meeting will serve to symbolize the spirit of openness, dialogue and respect that must shape the relations between all partners in the EFA movement.

Today's meeting also has substantive content. We shall be sharing real experiences of how civil society supports EFA and how collaboration between governments and civil society is conducted in practice. We shall focus on regions of the world where the EFA challenge is greatest and where, as a result, the international community's priorities must lie in terms of technical and financial assistance. Moreover, our substantive purpose today must be to identify practical steps aimed at enhancing civil society's contribution to EFA and promoting better government/civil society relations.

I would like next to briefly consider what is meant by “civil society” in regard to EFA. The term “civil society” should be understood as inclusive of all groups and associations involved in EFA that are non-governmental and non-profit in nature. For UNESCO, civil society embraces NGOs and campaign networks, teacher unions and religious organisations, community associations and research networks, parents associations and professional bodies, student organizations and women’s groups. I am aware that the definition of civil society is subject to much debate. Should it include political parties? Should it include the private or corporate sector? There is undoubtedly a need for greater clarity regarding who constitutes civil society and why. Different concepts and contextual experiences influence our understanding, and these call for further thought and analysis on our part. UNESCO will be most attentive to the discussion of such matters. However, in the context of EFA and the efforts to strengthen the EFA movement, I underline the importance of being as inclusive as possible.

Clearly, national situations differ enormously. State/civil society relations vary correspondingly. Some countries have no tradition of partnership between the state and civil society, and even the concept of civil society may seem alien and inapplicable. By contrast, some countries have benefited immensely from a widening participation of civil society in governance in general and in social development in particular. To reach this point, of course, a prolonged and painful struggle may have been endured but experience suggests that it ultimately bears fruit.

UNESCO believes that EFA will only be achieved if it is rooted in a broad-based societal movement and nourished by viable government/civil society partnerships. Our reasons are based on both principle and realism. The full achievement of the EFA goals requires that the marginalized and excluded are provided with educational opportunities. Civil society organizations are more capable than other EFA partners of reaching the unreached and, especially in the area of non-formal education, they have devised methods and approaches which are more attuned to the needs and life-conditions of the poor.

Moreover, we must acknowledge that, in the majority of developing countries, the public authorities have been unable to satisfy the demand for free and compulsory primary education of good quality for all children. The 113 million school-age children who are out-of-school, high rates of repetition and dropout, and the 875 million adults who are illiterate are evidence of the fact that the size and complexity of the EFA challenge are too great for governments alone to address, even with the best of intentions and effort.

Consequently, there is a need to both reinforce the state’s responsibilities and complement its role in order to ensure quality basic education for all, especially for those who have been ill-served by or left out of mainstream education. Therefore we need partnership, drawing on the particular strengths of each partner.

In the tradition of modern democratic nation-states, elected governments are recognised as the legitimate authority to take decisions on national education policy choices, including such key areas as curriculum development, teacher education and system reform. Many states have shown great capacity in establishing national public education systems and ensuring, at least in principle, free education for all children and offering training opportunities for youth and adults. Governments manage the national education budget and, in the case of developing countries, mobilise and negotiate foreign aid. The public authorities, moreover, provide the framework of legislation, regulation, inspection and monitoring.

Civil society organizations cannot replace the state in the areas of its core educational responsibilities and authority. What, then, are the types of roles that CSOs play in regard to education in general and EFA in particular? In considering this question, it is increasingly apparent that the role of CSOs cannot be reduced to that of merely complementing the efforts of the state; moreover, such a narrow conception ill-serves the needs of the EFA movement. I shall now outline the four main roles performed by CSOs in regard to EFA.

In the first place, as suggested above, CSOs often act as alternative service providers where state-provided services are either absent or insufficient. CSOs have organized programmes for literacy, skills training and other forms of learning, thereby helping people to improve their livelihoods and living conditions. In many developing countries, CSOs have shouldered major responsibilities for non-formal education programmes entrusted to them by governments and funding agencies. CSOs have the advantage of being more flexible than the state, closer to the grassroots and local cultures and, in many cases, more innovative in approach. CSOs have emerged as leaders and major actors in the provision of non-formal and alternative education, with experience in linking education to other development sectors and building partnerships at different levels.

CSOs may also perform a second role, within and beyond national boundaries, as innovators, as sources of new thinking and new practices, especially concerning the impact of globalization on education. The EFA vision cannot remain fixed and immutable but must respond to changes and generate new initiatives. As well as the resource gap affecting the achievement of EFA, there is also an ‘ideas gap’ which CSOs can help to fill in collaboration with other EFA partners.

On the basis of the first two roles, CSOs often perform a third role as informed critics and advocates. The last decade witnessed the emergence of new forms of civil society expression and policy dialogue on a whole range of development issues. In regard to education, collective NGO campaigns were organised and national coalitions built to lobby for free and compulsory education of good quality for all children as well as education programmes for out-of-school youth and adults. Such campaigning has helped to raise important issues and to shape today’s international EFA agenda.

Informed criticism and advocacy by CSOs also found expression through the EFA 2000 Assessment. In a path-breaking exercise, some 80 NGOs engaged in a collective evaluation of their own programmes and their role in and contribution to EFA. The evaluation demonstrated the relative strengths of NGOs/CSOs in such areas as community participation and organization, empowerment, literacy, community schools, reproductive health, and early childhood education. Particularly important for reaching the unreached are alternative education programmes for youth and adults (particularly women), nomads, the disabled, people living in isolated locations, and populations affected by armed conflict and displacement.

At the World Education Forum in Dakar, more than 300 NGO representatives came to attend the international NGO Consultation, which was jointly organized by the UNESCO/NGO Liaison Committee and the Collective Consultation of NGOs on EFA, with UNESCO’s support. The NGOs drew up a joint communication and made valuable contributions to the drafting of the Dakar Framework for Action. Following a special request from the NGOs, I opened the World Education Forum to all participants who had come to the NGO Consultation, thereby encouraging direct interaction between NGOs, governments and development partners.

It came as no surprise, therefore, that the international community in Dakar agreed to acknowledge and support a new role of civil society in education: as policy partner. Governments, it was agreed, have “an obligation to ensure that EFA goals and targets are reached and sustained” (para. 2 of the Dakar Framework for Action) but it was also recognized that this responsibility “will be met most effectively through broad-based partnerships within countries” (para. 2). The participants in the World Education Forum pledged themselves to “ensure the engagement and participation of civil society in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of strategies for educational development” (para. 8). This pledge highlights the new consensus in acknowledging the role of CSOs not only as implementing agencies and service providers, as innovators, and as informed critics and advocates, but also as policy partners. The key question, of course, is how we can move from this clear recognition of civil society’s policy role to genuine participation and partnership at the country level.

National policy dialogue may at times be a cumbersome process, but it is essential for moving the EFA agenda forward. UNESCO is strongly committed to the principle that civil society should participate more fully in the policy process and we very much encourage the development of policy partnership between government and civil society. At the same time, however, we know that different local situations will generate different opportunities, modalities and outcomes. The space for civil society participation may be very limited in some countries today. In such cases, scope must be allowed for circumstances to change and new opportunities to arise so that more democratic and open political processes may develop.

There is no single recipe, no ideal model, and no uniform blueprint to guide our actions regarding the involvement of civil society in EFA. In each country context, we must develop a detailed knowledge of the contributions of civil society to the different EFA themes and goals. Such information is not easily available, so much so, in fact, that there may well be an under-reporting of EFA achievement and progress deriving from the activities of CSOs.

Questions must be raised about how to organize a meaningful dialogue with a constituency as large and diverse as civil society. Who has the legitimacy to represent the interest and opinion of civil society organisations in dialogue with the government? Who can speak for whom? How does civil society’s role fit within or alongside established mechanisms of electoral politics and democratic representation? And what is the real capacity at the level of civil society to negotiate policy choices in substantive areas of EFA? These and other questions need to be seriously addressed within a perspective committed to increasing civil society participation in policy dialogue.

UNESCO is convinced that a new culture of policy dialogue for EFA is needed if we are to connect the international political will for civil society participation with national and local realities. In general terms, the new policy culture should be participatory, democratic, open, transparent and accountable. It should transcend hierarchical and institutional barriers and should focus on issues of direct relevance to people’s lives.

I would like now to briefly mention how UNESCO has been actively seeking to foster the participation of CSOs in policy dialogue within the post-Dakar follow-up process, as today’s Special Session bears witness. For example, international civil society networks and NGOs from the different regions were invited to the first meeting last November of the Working Group on EFA. At this meeting, the NGOs drew attention to the importance of decentralisation in national EFA efforts. Joint presentations by government and civil society representatives drew attention to NGO roles in innovative efforts to provide EFA at the community level.

UNESCO also invited NGOs to a consultation on the Global Initiative for mobilizing resources for EFA, held in Paris in March 2001. Both national and international NGOs stressed the need to include civil society in all stages of the planning, formulation and implementation of EFA. The NGOs emphasized how important it is for international agencies to support capacity building that will enable national NGOs and other civil society organizations to play their accorded role in the EFA movement.

In July, UNESCO and the UNESCO/NGO Liaison Committee co-organized the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on EFA in Bangkok, an event which I consider a milestone in our partnership with civil society. About 100 NGOs from around the world agreed on a new partnership mechanism for EFA that will facilitate and accelerate dialogue, joint reflection, research, and capacity building as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Partnership between governments and civil society at the national level was one of the central themes of the Bangkok meeting. Strategies and activities were proposed that would reinforce the involvement of civil society, including capacity building in policy dialogue and studies of specific country experiences. NGOs also expressed their hope that governments and UNESCO National Commissions would explore various options for creating more space for consultation with civil society. Some NGOs suggested the idea of a protocol to support the dialogue. The meeting also emphasized the need to strengthen civil society coalitions for EFA at the national level; such coalitions will help to build consensus around the priorities and proposals to be brought into the national policy dialogue on education. In addition, international NGOs and NGOs from the different regions agreed to join the co-ordination team which will work with UNESCO to facilitate the implementation of the activities proposed and support the network across the regions.

UNESCO, as the organization mandated to coordinate the EFA partners and maintain their collaborative momentum, has a key role to play in nurturing the new culture of policy dialogue. The Dakar follow-up activities just mentioned illustrate the direction UNESCO wishes to take. We would like to play the role of impartial broker, facilitator and catalyst for promoting and furthering the collaboration between governments and civil society. We believe in the desirability of creating, through dialogue and partnership, an enduring national consensus on the goals, strategies and modalities for achieving EFA.

It is vital that the diversity of voices in the EFA movement is heard and, whenever possible, harmonized. At the same time, UNESCO is keen to encourage intellectual exchange and knowledge creation so that the EFA vision can be continuously refreshed. The ‘ideas gap’ must be addressed through debate and dialogue so that the EFA agenda moves forward but within a shared vision. UNESCO, therefore, will continue to encourage interaction among all EFA partners through the various consultative mechanisms, working groups and fora that exist. The role of informal contacts as well as formal structures is important. UNESCO will encourage governments and National Commissions to talk with civil society and explore how viable mechanisms for consultation on issues related to EFA can be established or strengthened.

We are optimistic because the seeds for the growth of a new culture of EFA policy dialogue do exist in many countries. As stated earlier, there is no single blueprint suitable for all circumstances but there are ideas, experiences and innovations to learn from. Let us listen and learn together.

Thank you.

ANNEX IX

Summary of the panel's statements during the special meeting on the involvement of civil society in promoting education for all

In his opening address, the Director-General of UNESCO spoke of the various roles and responsibilities of governments and civil society organizations in promoting education for all (see Annex VII). He particularly stressed the new role of civil society organizations as policy partners in education and the need to explore how viable mechanisms for consultation on issues related to EFA could be established or strengthened. While recognizing the diversity of country-specific contexts, the Director-General highlighted the way in which UNESCO would continue to promote actively the process of building partnerships and the overall coordination of EFA.

The Minister of Education of Ghana gave a brief account of recent achievements relating to EFA goals and, in particular, to efforts to: (i) integrate early childhood education, which is private for the most part, into the public sector; (ii) raise the provision of compulsory and free universal primary basic education to 83%, with a positive impact on gender disparity under a special programme that began in 1996; (iii) reduce illiteracy rates to 48%; and (iv) improve quality. The Minister then stressed the importance of civil society in this process and explained how Ghana had moved from recognition of the role of civil society as a provider of innovative and complementary services and as an actor in mobilizing communities to its genuine inclusion as a policy-making partner. He gave examples of viable national and local partnership mechanisms.

The representative of ActionAid Ghana also gave examples of viable partnerships with the government, which had led to the recognition and inclusion of new practices in the provision of alternative services. The representative also referred to the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition, an unprecedented experience in terms of partnership within civil society.

The Minister of Education of Mozambique referred to the establishment of institutionalized mechanisms for consultation with civil society at the national level to provide inputs into the education policy-making process. He also mentioned the responsibility recently entrusted to a new education department (Department for Community Participation) for suggesting possible mechanisms for partnership and participation at the local level.

The Education Secretary of Nepal also gave an account of achievements in respect of EFA goals. The literacy rate had reached 58% and the enrolment rate 72%. Gender disparities and quality issues continued to be sizeable challenges. The representative stressed his government's recognition of civil society's contribution in the establishment of primary schools and other educational services since the 1950s. The establishment of a favourable policy and environment had facilitated the provision of complementary services by more than 30,000 civil society organizations (CSOs) in the country. The representative said that the time had perhaps come to include civil society in policy making and referred to the newly established EFA Forum and the process of drawing up the national EFA plan of action.

The civil society representative of Nepal's Asia Pacific Partnership laid emphasis on the positive correlation between periods of democratization and the extent of civil society's involvement in education. He regretted, however, that the democratization process had not continued and urged the government to involve civil society systematically, not only as a provider of services but also as a political partner.

The deputy Minister of Education of Yemen stressed the importance of the private schools' role as providers of complementary services in competition with public schools. The Minister gave

some examples of the experience of parents' committees and stressed the importance of electing local civil society teams to enable them to participate in the planning and implementation of the national education strategy formulated after the Dakar Forum.

The civil society representative of the teachers' union in Yemen spoke of the recent development of what he called a "diversified and independent education sector". The 1990 democratization process had encouraged the development of individual initiatives in education. The representative drew attention to the need for legislative frameworks to organize the operation of such private initiatives and called for civil society to be represented in decision-making bodies responsible for formulating education policy.

The Secretary-General of Education International made an analytical response to the various statements and linked them to key issues such as educational funding and the need to ensure quality and equity. He referred to the extraordinary work undertaken by the Global Campaign for Education in raising awareness of the need to enlist public funds to cover the budget shortfall of US \$7 billion, which are indispensable, according to the Campaign, to ensure EFA at the world level by 2015. The representative examined the dangers of unbridled privatization to the detriment of free education and the harmful effects of the large-scale employment of too many voluntary teachers on the quality of education. The Secretary-General laid emphasis, in particular, on the importance of the government's responsibility for the overall coordination of EFA efforts at the national level and on the improvement of the status and working conditions of teachers with a view to providing free and compulsory quality education for all.

ANNEX X

Message by a pupil of Summerhill School (UK), during the closing ceremony

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a student studying out of personal choice at Summerhill School, a democratic boarding school in England.

I have come here to speak of democracy in schools and its relevance when learning about citizenship, and more importantly the individual, or should I say the individual child.

At my school, pupils and teachers live together in a democratic community, where we have an equal vote and an equal say. It is an international school, with pupils from Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America. We all learn tolerance and respect through living together, and accept each other's cultural and ethical backgrounds. Using this, I have been elected as school ombudsmen, that is, the person who is responsible for solving disagreements between all members of the school – teachers and pupils – using peaceful dialogue, patience and understanding. I have been elected every term for three and a half years.

Participating in community democracy has given me: a sense of responsibility for others; the skills needed for peaceful resolutions in disputes; a way of taking part in the creation and use of law and justice; and space to understand who I am and what I am to the world. In this way I am able to participate as a citizen of the world.

As Jacques Delors said in the report, "Learning – The Treasure Within", UNESCO was founded, based upon the hope for a world that is a better place to live in. I share that hope, and like to think that every child will have the opportunity to learn what I am learning, for these values that I hold are evident in the spirit of this conference.

A number of these schools already exist in many countries, such as: New Zealand, Japan, the United States, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Portugal, France, Germany, Denmark, Israel and Palestine. It is my hope that such schools will prosper and be successfully founded in other countries as well.

I and many other pupils attending these schools have been lucky in what we have experienced, but why only us?

Despite the fact that Summerhill and schools like it correspond so precisely to what you are recommending here, some of them are facing the threat of closure.

These schools may close and need your support, as the hopes of this conference are in these schools. All that I ask is that these schools are recognized, and have a chance to prosper. In this way you can show the world that using democracy, participation and respect for children's rights, you help form the strong individual citizen, but only if you take action and do not make these simply the words appearing in the final report of a conference.

ANNEX XI**Expression of thanks by Ms Cecilia Braslavsky,
Director of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)**

Distinguished Ministers,
Heads of Delegation,
Mr Director-General of UNESCO,
Mr Assistant Director-General for Education,
Madam Counsellor of State, Head of the Swiss Delegation,
Representatives of teachers, parents and pupils,
Members of the various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,
Dear participants and friends,

On behalf of the Secretariat of the 46th session of the International Conference on Education, and in my capacity as Secretary-General of this Conference, it is with no little emotion that I should like – through you, ladies and gentlemen, – to thank the UNESCO General Conference for the challenge issued to the UNESCO International Bureau of Education in asking us to transform ourselves into a centre specializing in the contents, methods and structures of education and also to organize this 46th session of the International Conference on Education on the theme “Learning to live together”.

I should also like to thank the Director-General of UNESCO for the opportunity he gave me to become Director of the International Bureau of Education, a specialized institute of UNESCO. I should similarly like to thank our Council, presided over by Mr Pieter de Meijer, for its guidance, hard work, professionalism and constant demands for evaluation, which should even become a daily requirement.

Without the commitment of the group responsible for helping in the preparation of the International Conference on Education, which was appointed by the IBE Council before I took up the post of Director and which has worked tremendously hard, sometimes into the early hours of the morning this week, this event would have scarcely been possible. I should like to thank its Chair and all its members, with a particular mention for Jean-Pierre Régnier in a personal capacity, while not forgetting that he works in the French National Commission for UNESCO, who has discharged his duties as Executive Secretary with outstanding dedication.

Without the firm support of the Swiss authorities and many Swiss colleagues, among whom I should like to mention Ms Martine Brunschwig Graf, Minister of Education and Counsellor of State in Geneva, Mr Charles Kleiber, Secretary of State for Science and Research with responsibility for the Federal Office of Education and Science in Berne, and Mr François Nordmann, Ambassador and Head of the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, the IBE would not have been able to accomplish in full the mission entrusted to it by the UNESCO General Conference.

I express once again our thanks and gratitude to all the countries and institutions, all the friends and colleagues who – in keeping with the notion of partnership – spared no effort in the preparation of this Conference. My words are addressed to the speakers, organizers, journalists and friends who, in accordance with the programme, all played their part, not hesitating to intervene on occasion to deal with “emergencies”, in an admirable spirit of collaboration and dialogue. All these people supported us by virtue of their commitment, their professionalism and their warm presence. There were even “Mariachis” at the cocktail held in honour of the laureates of the Comenius Medal instituted by the Government of the Czech Republic; they were wholly unscheduled, and this was a fine surprise for the laureates and for the Secretariat.

Without the strong commitment of UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education, Mr John Daniel, the integration of this undertaking in the other activities specified in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy, the completion of the final stages of the preparatory work and the smooth functioning of this week of work would not have been possible. Many thanks are due to him.

Numerous colleagues in UNESCO's Education Sector and central services, in our Secretariat and in the UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva have contributed to or helped us in, as the case may be, strengthening bilateral action by organizing additional activities. For instance, they have taken charge of drawing up the list of participants, organizing the distribution of the documents, managing the organization of the rooms, the interpretation services, the press coverage of the events, etc. There has been excellent work – very serious and extremely effective – behind the scenes, all of which has facilitated dialogue on the complex and delicate problems addressed by the Conference. I should like to extend my sincere thanks to all those concerned.

And finally and above all, I should like to thank my colleagues from the UNESCO International Bureau of Education in Geneva. We form a small team, but a team that is increasingly well-knit and enthusiastic. I should have liked to name them one by one, but we do not have the time. On their behalf, I would simply like to single out two silent workers: our Council Secretary and friend, Pierre Luisoni, and also our youngest expert who came as a student, Renato Mariani.

The ICE is drawing to a close. But with all the team that makes up our Organization – and always in a spirit of cooperation and partnership – we are going to pursue the exciting challenge of realizing the objectives of education for all. First formulated in Jomtien and enriched by inputs from various quarters, in particular the reflections of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century presided over by Jacques Delors and the recommendations of the 45th session of the ICE concerning the teaching profession, these objectives were the subject of a renewed commitment at the Dakar Forum last year. They have also been central to the dialogue at this 46th session of the ICE on “Education for All for Learning to Live Together: Contents and Learning Strategies – problems and solutions”.

Once again, many thanks to you all.

ANNEX XII**Closing speech by Mr Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General of UNESCO**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Ministers of Education,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The International Conference on Education, formerly the International Conference on Public Education, has a rich history and tradition. Over the years, it has addressed the leading educational issues of its time, bringing together the leading educational decision-makers of the world to do so. Certain issues and themes have recurred many times, including the dominant theme of this Session: leaning to live together. Other words and phrases have sometimes been used: for example, education for international solidarity, education for peace, education for tolerance and mutual understanding, and education for world citizenship. This year's Conference has approached this broad family of educational concerns with a distinctive orientation, namely, education for all. But echoes of earlier conferences have reverberated through our own, reminding us that the ICE is part of the whole world's educational heritage.

We have taken part in four days of hard work; it has been a rich learning experience for all of us. Sometimes we learn things that we want to know; sometimes we learn things that we do not want to know; and sometimes we learn things that we should know. I am sure that this Conference has provided opportunities for all three types of learning. And there is also a fourth type of learning: sometimes we need to learn things over and over again. As we do so, we come to recognize the wisdom and foresight of our predecessors who planted the seeds of a new education. Particularly in the aftermath of World War Two, that new education was based on an agreed perception that education must help us to strengthen our capacity to live together in peace. Fifty years from now, I hope that another generation will look back on our deliberations and admire our wisdom and foresight.

Educational change of various kinds has emerged as a common thread running through this Conference. I would like to draw attention to two important dimensions of educational change. First, changes to the contents and methods of education are long-term in character; they need time to develop and come to fruition. Second, such changes do not have a permanent, definitive, once-and-for-all character. In every generation, renewed efforts are necessary so that people may be educated in the values, attitudes and behaviour conducive to living peaceably with one another. Indeed, I have been impressed to learn at this conference of the large numbers of countries that are now embarked upon reforms of their education systems.

At the World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2000, Ministers of Education, international agencies, bilateral and multilateral development partners, and civil society organizations committed themselves not simply to education for all; they took another step forward, towards quality education for all. At this meeting of the ICE, we have taken another step by looking at how this improved quality might be built and what are the very real problems we face in doing so.

We know that sound educational policies for promoting quality education are indispensable. In view of the complex realities they must address, such policies should be formulated and

implemented in close association with civil society, centres of educational research, and, most especially, teachers and parents. In the era of lifelong learning, we must reflect and act as learners ourselves. We cannot encourage children, youth and adults to continue learning while we ourselves remain rooted in outdated or unrealistic assumptions about who are the stakeholders and participants in educational policy-making.

A conference such as this provides an opportunity to learn about the changing world of learning. It is particularly important that educational policies are as well informed as possible, not only in terms of facts and statistics but also in regard to good practices, viable innovations and proven alternatives. We cannot take on new challenges in the emerging knowledge society if we are unaware of the range of policy options available and of the evidence and arguments that support them. We – the decision-makers responsible for fulfilling the commitments made in Dakar – must learn more about the processes of educational change and how they are affected by the realities outside the school gates.

In addressing the theme of learning to live together, this conference has been particularly clear about the risk of overloading the school with responsibilities it is not equipped to fulfil. The school obviously cannot solve all of society's problems, nor can it be insulated from those problems. Particularly important are experiences where new educational policies and practices have helped change the lives of people for the good, resulting in a significant decline in violence. We must learn from such experiences wherever they occur and draw out their implications: for example, they point us towards the decentralization of school systems and the embedding of schools in the community.

The Special Session on the involvement of civil society in EFA has allowed us to learn more about very important experiences of cooperation between the state, government institutions and other relevant actors. The new world of education is one where new partners are appearing on the scene, holding different views and pursuing different agendas. But there are always some dimensions of common concern and shared outlook. It is vital that, for a long-term task such as building quality basic education for all and developing viable approaches to learning to live together, the attempt is made to cultivate a sustainable consensus among all educational partners.

This ICE has been a great opportunity for me to learn, and not only from the formal sessions. I have especially benefited from the many bilateral meetings I have held. Such face-to-face meetings are most helpful for reaching a better understanding of your needs and problems. I have been delighted to hear many Ministers comment positively on how the ICE this year is better organized and better structured, and how it has offered more chances for genuine debate. I must say that the new modalities of running the Conference would not have succeeded without your cooperation, for which I thank you all. A number of Ministers have noted that they are addressing the same or very similar problems. This makes the identification and sharing of good practices especially important.

It will be both a duty and a pleasure to report the conclusions and outcomes of this ICE to the forthcoming 31st session of the UNESCO General Conference. The deliberations of this conference will be used to enrich the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy and, in particular, the way we undertake the fulfilment of our commitments made in Dakar. I will be asking the ADG/ED to look at ways of focusing UNESCO's work on such topics as languages, ICTs and school organization so that we may respond more precisely to the wishes you have expressed here.

I have already asked the IBE Council to begin working on the next ICE and the thematic concerns it should address. One possibility is that the next ICE will be devoted to deepening our knowledge and understanding of the education/poverty nexus, particularly in terms of how curriculum design and teaching/learning practices can be related meaningfully to the struggle against poverty in all its forms and dimensions. This agenda could include such questions as the relation between education and migration; the place of preventive education concerning HIV/AIDS in all types and levels of education; education and social exclusion, with particular attention to youth; and the curricular and pedagogical aspects of schooling that serves poor communities. The essential contributions of teachers and civil society will continue to figure centrally in our dialogue. In the time intervening until the next ICE, I am sure that we will have the chance to deepen and extend our knowledge and understanding of the relationship between poverty and education. Such a theme, by the way, would stay firmly within the framework of UNESCO's strategic orientation for the period ahead, namely, the humanization of globalization.

Many Ministers have expressed such satisfaction with the Conference that I am encouraged to see it held at more regular intervals. Perhaps the next ICE could be held in three years time, in 2004, or in four years time, in 2005. The ICE is clearly a major event for UNESCO, one which I hope will continue for many years to come.

The 46th Session of the International Conference on Education (ICE) has exceeded our expectations. It has been a great success. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to its preparation and organization, those who have contributed through their active presence, and those who have joined into the process of debate and dialogue with candid and forthright views. I recognize that the speaking opportunities for civil society organizations were quite limited, but I would like to assure you that your presence and involvement in the conference has been greatly appreciated.

My special thanks go to you, Mr President, for the way you have fulfilled your duties and tasks with such good-humoured firmness and understanding. I would also like to repeat my thanks to the Swiss Federal authorities and the authorities of the Republic and Canton of Geneva for the welcome and support they have given to this Conference and to the IBE.

The IBE Council, of course, has worked extraordinarily hard and we extend our deep thanks to its members and its Chairperson, Dr Pieter De Meijer. I would like to thank the professionals of UNESCO from the Education Sector, our regional and country offices, other parts of UNESCO, and the Dakar Follow-up Unit for all their contributions during this week. Further thanks are due to all those non-UNESCO staff who have helped to facilitate the Conference, with special mention to the interpreters.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to specifically thank the staff of the IBE who, under the energetic and capable leadership of their Director, have helped to make this conference a real success. Your dedication, hard work and sheer professionalism are much appreciated.

Learning how to live at peace with others is an indispensable part of all education. Let us all take this message away with us and apply it conscientiously to our work.

I wish you all a safe journey home.

Thank you.

ANNEX XIII**Closing speech by Ms Martine Brunschwig Graf,
State Counsellor, Head of the Swiss Delegation**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Mr Director-General of UNESCO,
Madam Director of the IBE,
Representatives of the teaching profession, parents, the scientific world and civil society as a whole,
Dear friends and guests of the Conference,

The time has passed too quickly, paradoxical as it may be to say so when we are concerned with education. Indeed, what a contrast there is between the urgent need that brings us together, namely improving the quality of our education systems, introducing new technologies and developing citizenship education, and the time required to implement the necessary reforms and measures!

This 46th session of the International Conference on Education has shown once again that everything must be done to ensure that States are able to make available the resources necessary for reform and for the development of the school to which we aspire.

We have taken note, in the course of these days spent together, of so many projects and expectations existing alongside successful experiments, which nonetheless remain too few and isolated.

We have expressed and heard expressed so many hopes in the capacity of the school to make those who attend it free and responsible. We must therefore not let matters remain there. Adopting the conclusions and a plan of action commits us to working not only in our own countries but also to acting with a greater measure of solidarity to further the action of others.

In addition, there are topics that need to be explored in greater depth. It would appear, for example, that we have merely skimmed the surface of the measures that need to be taken to enable young girls to gain readier access to school and especially to pursue scientific subjects. And yet women represent for a world in search of motivated and well-trained teachers a huge potential, which can only be turned to account by a sound basic education.

We have spoken of citizenship education in school, but it remains for us to achieve the practical application of citizenship in society, since we cannot envisage assigning to the pupils we educate the sole responsibility for developing democratic practice and civic commitment in the society in which we live.

The children who have come to sing for you belong to our Geneva state school system. They are from very different backgrounds and living together represents for them, as for us, a challenge that they take up every day with the help of their teachers, their parents and the entire Geneva community.

They are here to bring us a moment of welcome relaxation through their songs and at the same time to remind us for whom we work, for whom we commit ourselves and for whom we speak, deliberate and negotiate. Let them also be witnesses of our resolve to act!

Shortly, the Council of the International Bureau of Education will carry out an assessment of this 46th session of the ICE. For the moment, I should like to offer my warm thanks to the IBE – particularly Cecilia Braslawsky and Pierre Luisoni but also to all those who have made a contribution to the successful organization of the Conference. I should also like to express our gratitude to the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Matsuura, whose support is invaluable and vital for the cause that we defend.

Finally, dear colleagues and friends, members of delegations, experts, parents and teachers, I wish to say how much the people of Geneva have been happy over these last four days to have you among us in our city. I have only one wish to express by way of conclusion. Come back to Geneva to speak about education! You will be welcomed with open arms!

ANNEX XIV

**Closing speech by Mr A. B. Borishade, Minister of Education of Nigeria
and President of the 46th session of the International Conference on Education**

Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura,
Assistant Director-General for Education, Sir John Daniel,
Director of the International Bureau of Education, Mrs Cecilia Braslavsky,
Honourable Ministers and other Heads of Delegations,
Delegates,
Members of Intergovernmental Organization, Foundations and Non-Governmental Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

When this conference opened four days ago we were faced with a historic assignment that is to identify problems and proffer solutions to the challenge of living together in a globalizing world.

Today we have listened to the outcome of this Conference, we need to congratulate ourselves for a very fruitful Conference. I feel confident to state that the Conference has fulfilled its essence, which is to examine, more precisely, how to promote the mastery of the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the intellectual and moral development of individuals and our societies so that we can live together in peace and harmony.

The outcome of this conference will surely form a major addition to the body of knowledge on human diversity and will become an integral part of strategic prescriptions for the promotion of quality education for all across all activities in which humans are involved, but more importantly on learning to live together.

Distinguished delegates, we should depart from this Conference not only feeling satisfied for being part of a landmark event but also with the full realization that within the assignment of global peace and harmony we are faced with the challenges of human diversity and that global peace is bound intricately with the clear understanding and respect for the mutuality of the diversities of human heritage and identity. The ultimate survival of humanity may, in fact, be determined by our individual and collective sensitivity to these challenges.

We should all be grateful to the International Bureau of Education for the choice of the theme of this Conference and for creating this credible platform for us to peer into the future of humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to state that this Conference has also brought to the fore the challenges before UNESCO and its operational units, the need to promote dialogue and to pioneer action towards the building of bridges of understanding based on equity and justice among nations. This is a prerequisite for the surrender of old fears and the promotion of a conducive environment for learning to live together. It is an assignment we must all face by cooperating with UNESCO in our respective dispositions and capacities.

Mr Director-General, the Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO, the Director of the International Bureau of Education and fellow delegates, it has been a wonderful experience for me to guide the 46th session of the ICE. I thank you all for giving me this rare honour and for your cooperation.

I wish to state my profound appreciation of the efficiency, organization and rigorous planning of the conference officials and secretariat staff.

The dedication of the resource persons and conference officials as well as the warmness and cordiality of the secretariat staff remain commendable. I have not been surprised but still I am immensely grateful.

Finally, I want to thank the Swiss Government for the hospitality accorded us in this beautiful city of Geneva even the gods of the city brought us sunshine. This has been wonderful.

Distinguished delegates please bear my love to the members of your family and your loved ones and say that we have had a good conference.

Once more, I congratulate all of you for a wonderful conference and I congratulate myself for being part of it all.

Bon voyage.

Thank you.

ANNEX XV

Workshop reports

Workshop 1: “Citizenship education: learning at school and in society”

Workshop No. 1 was dedicated to **citizenship education**. Mr Sveinn Einarsson, the President of the Icelandic National Commission for UNESCO, was the moderator of the session, with the five panellists being:

- Her Excellency Ms Mariana Alwyn, Minister of Education of Chile;
- Her Excellency Ms Margrethe Vestager, Minister of Education of Denmark;
- Mr Benali Benzaghrou, Rector of the University of Science and Technology “Houari Boumediene”, Algiers, Algeria;
- Mr Samuel Lee, Director of the Asian-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (Republic of Korea);
- Mr Cliff Olivier, Co-ordinator of IBIS, Pretoria (South Africa).

A challenging subject, it is currently the centre of debates in all regions and countries of the world. The debates involve not just experts and practitioners but also politicians and decision-makers. For example, citizenship education was the main theme of the Conference of European Ministers of Education held in Crakow, in October 2000.

It is not just politicians and top decision-makers who are interested in citizenship education but also people coming from various business environments, the church, media, politics and civil society. The reason is that the world of education has high **expectations** of citizenship learning. For instance, some of the participants at the workshop mentioned the contribution of citizenship education to social cohesion, social trust and confidence building particularly in areas of conflict. For others, citizenship education is the main tool to educate citizens to live in a State governed by the rule of law. For some, citizenship education has to contribute to democratic governance while other contributors put the emphasis on the importance of preparing the student for employment and social participation. Finally, it was a general concern that citizenship is a general factor for sustainable development.

These high expectations could create unrealistic pressures on the school. This is why some other participants called for more pragmatic and feasible approaches, rather than expecting that citizenship education alone could solve these societal problems. As stated by one panellist, we have to avoid citizenship education becoming a “semantic illusion” in the way which moral education was traditionally considered as a panacea for all social problems. Similarly, as another panellist stated, we have to overcome the danger of a narrow interpretation of citizenship education related to political or ideological indoctrination often imposed on schools as a ready-made solution.

Beyond these controversies, dilemmas and open questions, the fact is that citizenship education is present in daily life in all countries and regions. This is the result, in some cases, of clear political options, or explicit educational policies, or in other cases, the consequence of initiatives by teachers and parents who find the area of citizenship education a pedagogical space allowing innovation and creativity.

In this framework, most of the contributions focused on four issues. One, the relationship between citizenship education and learning to live together, secondly, the question of how to implement citizenship education in a variety of social and economic contexts, thirdly, citizenship education as a challenge for the educational community, and fourthly, education for global citizenship. These four points summarize the direction of the debate which took place.

Message No. 1: Citizenship education is an essential means of learning to live together.

It is important to stress that in this context “together” does not refer uniquely to individuals, but also to institutions, communities and nations which have to cooperate and build partnerships. In this respect, some participants considered that learning to live together is a societal project to which contribute different types of education such as peace education, human rights education, citizenship education and values education. This implies a shift from learning by transmission of knowledge to a social learning perspective and a student centred approach, as well as the incorporation of new forms of learning in the school context. As reported from various national initiatives, this includes contextual learning, activity learning, collaborative learning and particularly, experiential learning. However, the links between citizenship education and learning to live together remain to be explored, at least from certain participants point of view. As pointed out by one panellist, learning to live together is more clear and accessible for all societies than citizenship education for which the content has to be described according to the “variable geometric principle”.

This brings us to the second message, namely, **how to implement citizenship education in a variety of contexts**. It was generally accepted that citizenship education is learning throughout life, in all circumstances and in every form of human activity. As pointed out in the background paper prepared by the Danish Ministry of Education, learning for citizenship makes use of both organized learning (formal and non-formal) as well as of the learning potential to be found in daily circumstances (informal or incidental learning).

Within this lifelong learning system, the school is a major factor of citizenship education. In order to increase the efficiency of citizenship education, participants pointed out that the school should:

- encourage the participation of pupils in internal school decisions and student associations;
- create an institutional ethos encouraging dialogue, cooperation and democratic relations;
- establish cooperation with families, communities and the social environment;
- promote a whole school approach to citizenship education.

Provision is made for citizenship education in the curriculum of all the countries represented at the workshop. In most cases, according to the national reports prepared for the International Conference on Education, citizenship education is a separate subject in the formal curriculum. Other experiences encourage integrated programmes or cross-curricular themes. In addition to the provisions in the formal curriculum, participants stressed the numerous experiences resulting from out-of-school activities such as residential visits, pilot projects or voluntary activities. Finally, the importance of the hidden curriculum was emphasized, namely of natural and spontaneous encounters in daily school life, which often have a greater impact than the formal curriculum.

Message No. 3: Citizenship education creates new challenges for the educational community.

In some cases, citizenship education is the core for reforms and innovations in educational systems. Even though it may not be a subject for formal evaluation and selection to universities, it is

an opportunity for alternative approaches, pilot projects and institutional partnerships. In most of the cases, this new pedagogical approach is not possible within the so-called “traditional subjects”. As mentioned by one panellist, citizenship education is not a monopoly of one generation, institution or culture, it must be continuously constructed and innovated. In other words, citizenship education is at the same time an opportunity and a challenge for education. In this perspective, participants mentioned the following specific challenges:

- New roles and assignments of teachers. Instead of a unique source of knowledge, teachers must become moderators, learning facilitators, advisors and resource persons.
- Citizenship education, therefore, must not be limited either to a didactic transmission of knowledge or to a teaching activity proper. What counts most of all is learner participation and direct practice of citizenship in various educational environments.
- As illustrated by some of the case studies put forward in the workshop, citizenship education involves institutional partnerships, the most common being partnerships between school and family, school and community, or the industrial sector. This would imply a convergence of educational messages and values between school and societies as a whole, and particularly the media.
- The role of ICTs and Internet for citizenship education has to be elaborated. For example, how to use it constructively and critically, how to provide access and build networks of citizens.

Message No. 4: Education for global citizenship is instrumental to cope with the challenges of globalization.

Although it is not yet properly defined, it is commonly characterized by global awareness, shared values and joint projects. As stressed by a number of participants, global citizenship goes beyond the narrow, national perspective of membership. It implies shared responsibility and the idea of belonging to the same global entity. This is, in fact, the very essence of learning to live together.

Chair/Excellencies/Ladies and Gentlemen,

These messages represent the essentials of the debate held during Workshop No. 1. The question we should ask ourselves now is “How do we make the best use of these messages?” Or, in other words, how can we make these important conclusions produce an impact beyond that of a mere report presented in the ICE plenary?

Without claiming to have covered all possibilities, in our opinion the following means should be taken into account:

1. Obviously, the first possible impact will be to incorporate some of our conclusions in the final report of ICE. This would result in an extended international audience especially within the UNESCO system and among its partners.
2. In the second place, it would be possible to take these recommendations into consideration for the future mid-term programme of UNESCO. Actually, as we observed during the workshop, citizenship education is a major dimension of educational policies in the member countries with high expectations in this field. To

meet these expectations, UNESCO must consider citizenship education as a priority among its actions in the field of education and must allot adequate resources.

3. Thirdly, the International Bureau of Education in its capacity of specialized institution could actually implement some of our conclusions. In recent years, IBE has focused its attention on educational contents and learning to live together. IBE could add to its valuable activities an equally important dimension, namely education for global citizenship.
4. In the fourth place, our conclusions could be useful in developing projects at national, regional or international level. These activities should take into account specific contexts and should keep in view the “variable geometry” principle. Ultimately, citizenship education is applied in a concrete cultural and social environment, where priorities and constraints may differ.

Finally, our conclusions might be of particular interest to practitioners in their daily work for citizenship education.

Thank you for your attention.

Workshop 2: “Social exclusion and violence: Education for social cohesion”

Moderator: Mr Jean-Pierre GONTARD (Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Geneva).

Panelists:

H.E. Mr Pierre NZILA, Minister of Education, Republic of the Congo;

H.E. Mr Antanas MOCKUS, Mayor of Bogota, Colombia;

H.E. Ms Isabel COUSO TAPIA, Secretary-General, Ministry of Education, Spain;

Professor Ivan IVIC, Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade, Yugoslavia;

Ms Pari ZARRABI, Sociologist, Geneva, Switzerland.

The workshop was organized around the question of how formal education relates to processes of social exclusion and to patterns of violence associated with the breakdown of social cohesion. More particularly, the discussion focused on three main questions:

1. What consequences does societal violence have on education?
2. How does formal education relate to wider processes of social exclusion?
3. How can education contribute to strengthening or rebuilding social cohesion?

The following salient points emerged in the course of the discussion:

1. Need for clear definitions and conceptual clarifications

The ideas presented and discussed during the workshop revolved around the relation of education to violence at two distinct levels:

- (1) schooling and the prevention of violence among youth, and the necessary distinction between school-based violence and wider institutional violence, and
- (2) the consequences of armed conflict and civil strife on education systems and the possibilities and limits of schooling in restoring social cohesion in post-conflict settings.

The theme of exclusion, whether in terms of poverty, inequality or the denial of fundamental social and political rights, was a common thread that ran through the discussions of violence at both these levels. Although there is clear overlap between the two levels of analysis, the discussions still pointed to the need for a distinction between the two, and for clear definitions with regard to patterns of violence.

2. Need to consider schooling within wider environment

It was recalled that formal education, and schooling in particular, must be considered in relation to forms of exclusion that are shaped by wider social, economic, political and historic forces. Any discussion of the relation between education and violence, and of the potential of formal education to contribute to enhancing and restoring social cohesion, must therefore consider these wider societal processes. Moreover, it was pointed out that, at times, schooling also reproduces or even exacerbates forms of discrimination, inequality and exclusion based on gender, socio-economic status, ethnic, cultural or political identities.

3. Conditions for education for social cohesion

Protecting fundamental rights

Education for “living together” requires that life, health and human dignity be protected so as to ensure the basic right to education for the poor, girls and women, minority groups, refugees and civilian populations in war-torn areas. Social divisions and exclusion are first and foremost a result of the denial of the right to education for significant proportions of children and young people concentrated mainly, but not exclusively, in the poorest areas of the South.

Ensuring justice

How does one learn to “live together” in the wake of bloody conflicts within divided societies? The notion of “living together” in the aftermath of civil strife and extreme societal violence within divided societies is a problematic and complex endeavour. Many delegations expressed the view that social cohesion presupposes peace, and that peace must be based on justice. And one approach to justice is truth and reconciliation. Education is clearly a complement to such approaches.

4. Limits of educational initiatives

Although schooling may constitute an important vehicle for social reconstruction following periods of internal conflict and weakened if not collapsed state structures, it is important to acknowledge the limits of schooling as a delivery channel for reconciliation and the reconstruction of social cohesion for a number of reasons.

The relative weight of schooling in civic and political socialization

It was noted, for example, that the family, the home and the immediate community have a central place in the informal political socialisation initiated from an early age. Also, it can be argued that the media, and (satellite) television in particular, has an increasing weight in the education of young people in an increasingly globalized world. Finally, not only are these processes of socialization multiple, but they are also sometimes in competition or in contradiction. The real impact of peace education through schooling is therefore seriously hampered when it contrasts with surrounding adult role models in the home, the wider community or the media. This points to the need to consider wider initiatives that include adult education and the media.

Transferring values and attitudes from school to wider society

Such observations about the limit of schooling also highlight the lack of conclusive evidence relative to the way in which individual and interpersonal skills and attitudes transmitted through formal or non-formal education transfer to group behaviour, particularly in settings of acute social and political tensions. It is therefore important to acknowledge the limits of educational initiatives in preventing or reducing violence among youth when the causes of such violence lie outside of the education system.

5. Promising combination of strategies

A number of promising experiences relating both to violence prevention among youth and to education in post-conflict settings were shared. These experiences have in common a more holistic approach based on effective context-specific combinations of complementary strategies. These strategies range from curricular enrichment and inclusive participatory school-based processes, to non-formal education and life-long learning perspectives. Examples were also provided of how governing can be creatively made to be a form of citizenship education, developing a civic culture

through the awareness of the need for minimal rules to live together, and how this may be a powerful strategy of violence prevention in urban areas. Other examples demonstrated how education can promote social cohesion by preventing and reducing social exclusion. Indeed, measures of positive discrimination have shown how patterns of school failure and drop-out can be reversed thus reducing the probability of exclusion from future welfare. Finally, examples were discussed of how combinations of formal and non-formal approaches (including basic schooling, curricular innovation, adult literacy, alternative accelerated primary education for out-of-school youth, and psycho-social support) have contributed to reconstructing social cohesion in post-conflict settings. It was felt that such experiences deserved to be shared more widely among partners and networks involved in education.

Workshop 3: “Shared values, cultural diversity and education: what and how to learn?”

Moderator: Mr Luis Enrique LOPEZ (PROEIB-ANDES)

Panelists:

H.E. Ms Lucija COK, Minister of Education and Sports, Slovenia

Mr Bodo RICHTER, Secretary of State, Kultusministerium des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany

Mr Abdeljalil AKKARI SCKELL, Professor, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Dr Geraldine CASTLETON, Researcher, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia

Mr Tesfamichael GERATHU, Director-General, Ministry of Education of Eritrea

The discussions in Workshop No. 3 gave rise to a very strong consensus on the relevance of the question of promoting and developing shared values, cultural diversity and their integration in and by education.

This overall consensus did not necessarily stem from an identity of motives or reasoning.

Cultural diversity and the practice of shared values were recognized as being a functional reality in many societies. Such values, constrained by historical factors such as colonization, had difficulty in endowing their basic postulates with a legal status, official recognition and legitimacy. So it was that these values, despite the fact of their existence, appeared informal, inferior and a source of complex unease. This situation concerned most of the formerly colonized countries of the South. The integration of such practices, values and customs by education was therefore ultimately conditional on their rehabilitation.

Cultural diversity and the importance of sharing the values of others had only become a requirement for some societies because of the reality of globalization, immigration and the mobility of people, ideas and information technologies. For those societies in which “monoculturalism” was the rule, the introduction of interculturalism into education was seen as both a challenge and a need, a necessity that had to be addressed. Some States, even in the West, had committed themselves to work in that direction.

Whatever the case, the introduction of an intercultural and pluralistic perspective by education presupposed:

- (a) an epistemological, organizational, strategic and ideological shift of focus;
- (b) suitable methods;
- (c) a revision or adaptation of content;
- (d) a keen awareness of the upstream and downstream problems.

METHODS

Taking account of pluralism and cultural diversity at school called for appropriate pedagogical methods such as a renewed approach to teaching, constructivism, “dialogics”, interdisciplinarity and active pupil participation, problem solving and conflict resolution, and self-observation and self-evaluation strategies. The aim must be to enable the child to acquire a good grasp of traditional and modern knowledge and, above all, to develop fully as an individual.

Further details on the precise implications of the different methods cited could be supplied by Dr Lucija Cok, Dr Geraldine Castelton, Dr Bodo Richter, Dr Tesfamichael Gerahtu, Dr Abdeljalil Akkari and Dr Enrique Lopez and all those who worked in this workshop in their particular areas of concern.

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The contents that needed to be taught with a view to taking better account of diversity should first and foremost aim at ensuring:

autonomy with respect to globalization;

transmission of the cultural heritage;

relevance for the community and those most closely involved;

promotion of gender equality.

Mention was made of a number of key values that should be explicitly taught. They included love, peace, solidarity, tolerance, learning about differences, etc.

In that connection, while some subjects were mentioned as being best suited to incorporating this teaching, nothing precise seems to have been proposed concerning the methods to be employed for that purpose.

The question that commanded the greatest attention was the teaching of languages, or more precisely use of the mother tongue or minority languages in teaching. Provision was not structured in the same way everywhere. In some cases, the tendency was towards strengthening the rights of minority cultures in relation to their identity without refusing them access to the culture and language of the majority. In other cases, it was a matter of making the whole range of cultural contents of the majority and minorities alike available to all citizens so as to arrive at a common intercultural education for all pupils, thereby providing the basis for constructive coexistence.

An education properly based on cultural diversity should avoid relying on a hierarchy of languages. It should rather be based on the recognition of equal status for all languages. It could also rest on the notion of a complementarity of languages and cultures.

However well it was organized, education that took account of cultural diversity raised many questions.

For example, it was important to ask whether all the cultural aspects were positive and deserved to be taken up and transmitted? Whether they were all conducive to learning to live together? How shared values could be taught in a context of fear of others, discrimination, etc.?

Were we not asking too much of the school?

How could school alone assume responsibility for problems rooted at different levels (political, economic, historical, etc.)?

Were there institutions in society other than school that could help in the promotion of cultural diversity?

By way of response to these questions, a number of provisions were envisaged:

The first involved work of an epistemological and conceptual nature. The aim here would be:

- to make a distinction between education and school enrolment and to take steps to ensure that, in taking cultural diversity into account, no boundaries were set between formal and non-formal education;
- to carry out systematic research in order to identify the shared values disseminated across cultures;
- to explore in greater depth the concept of globalization;
- to articulate the concept of living together;
- to define bilingualism and multilingualism.

All this presupposed efforts in the political sphere to ensure:

- interdependence between States and regions of the world, within States, between regions, between ethnic and cultural groups, between the efforts of the international community and national educational policies;
- greater involvement of actors and stakeholders in education at all levels: the family, social groups, parents of pupils, target community, pupils, teachers, local, regional and national authorities;
- a high level of cooperation and coordination within the school;
- a political choice involving a move from “monolingual” schooling to a multilingual education, geared to imparting life skills and taking into account the learner’s socio-cultural context.

These provisions should be accompanied by:

- measures to develop initial and in-service training;
- strengthening of the intercultural dimension of existing curricula, especially in history, geography, civics, social studies, religious studies, ethics, mother tongues and foreign languages;
- the acquisition by students of foreign languages of skills in their mother tongue;
- increased cooperation with other sectors (social sector, youth institutions or those working with young people, institutions engaged in socio-cultural initiatives, local committees);
- the promotion of twinning among schools, pupil exchanges, support for multilateral projects and international school networks such as the UNESCO Associated Schools network;
- the production of textbooks and teaching aids, taking care to ensure that the aspects relating to society and culture were not marginalized or devalued;
- the promotion of foreign language teaching.

By way of an open-ended conclusion, it should be noted that an education that pays due regard to diversity will not simply be aimed at harmonization but rather at “dialogical” coexistence. It is a matter of being aware of the permanence of conflicts and of working through them, not bypassing or displacing them. Intercultural education and education for cultural pluralism needs to be set firmly in a critical perspective.

Workshop 4: “Language teaching and learning strategies for understanding and communication”

Introduction

The conclusions of Workshop 4 of the ICE are drawn from both the outcomes of the preparatory work and discussions that took place on Thursday, 6 September 2001. Workshop 4 was moderated by Mr Theo van Els, University of Nijmegen, Netherlands. The panellists were:

H.E. Mr. Jeffrey LANTZ, Minister of Education, Prince Edward Island, Canada;

Mr Abbas SADRI, Consultant to the Minister and Director-General of the Office of Higher Technical-Vocational Schools, Islamic Republic of Iran;

Mr Gabor BOLDIZSAR, Administrative Councillor, Ministry of Education, Hungary;

Ms Blanca Estela COLOP ALVARADO, Coordinator, Mayan Education Unit, UNESCO/PROMEM, Guatemala;

Mr Abou DIARRA, Director-General, National Education Centre, Bamako, Mali.

These conclusions take into consideration and reinforce the guidelines and reflections established at the Jomtien and Dakar Conferences and those appearing in the report of the Delors Commission.

In this sense, language learning and teaching strategies are assumed to be central in learning to live together: Language is a fundamental element to configure and express personal and group identity. It is also a very important instrument for communicating between each other. Languages teaching and learning develop and improve the capacity of listening, expression, exchange, communication and dialogue.

Dynamic of the debate

The discussion focused on three main themes, including:

1. Linguistic diversity: the different “status” of languages nationally and internationally;
2. The importance of language(s) of instruction;
3. Foreign language(s) instruction.

In the framework of the discussion on the last two themes, participants also made some contributions in a transversal way about (both mother-tongue and other) language learning and teaching strategies.

1. Linguistic diversity: the different “status” of languages nationally and internationally

Many participants recognized that they belong to multilingual countries. In many cases one language is chosen called the national or official language, occasionally two or three. The language chosen is usually spoken by a majority of the population. But, sometimes one “international” language, like English, or another “lingua franca” is adopted. This trend has been based on improving the national communication process.

Many delegations and other participants expressed the concern that these unifying trends in the language of exchange bring harm to:

the recognition of other languages that are spoken in the country, and therefore oversimplify the linguistic and cultural diversity;

the non-native speakers of that language, and give an advantage to mother-tongue speakers of the preferred language.

However, the diagnosis is even more complex when faced with the increasingly interdependent world. The languages of many states have no place in the domain of international relations. With regard to this matter, two positions were registered.

First, the moderator tried to de-dramatize the use of “global” languages in international organizations and agencies. On this point, he introduced the concept of the “domain” in which the language is used. In other words, “global” languages are normally used for specific purposes only, and in a restricted number of language-use situations. Moreover, some participants of African countries expressed the opinion that their official languages are not closely related to their cultures and they are only used to “communicate”.

Second, however, an important number of delegations and other participants stressed the dangers of granting a preferred status to only one language in international organizations. It would promote and disseminate the idea of teaching and learning only one foreign language, and might thus encourage one unilateral worldview.

Participants emphasized that the importance of the use of languages also taking into account their use in specific domains, such as the international organizations implied not only a way of communicating but also cultural or intercultural aspects.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of time, discussion on this topic could not be continued, but had certainly aroused a great deal of controversy.

2. The importance of language(s) of instruction

A great consensus was registered about the importance of making available, maintaining and reinforcing the teaching and learning of the mother-tongue. The profitability of starting primary education in the mother-tongue was also emphasized, taking into account pedagogical, social and cultural considerations:

- Then access to higher forms of thinking and other languages depends on a good mastery of the mother-tongue. So, receiving instruction in a language other than one's own is a serious handicap for learning. Pupils being instructed in a non-native language right from the start of primary school usually fall seriously behind.
- Learning in the mother-tongue re-values the cultural aspects of belonging to the community. This enables the learner to better understand the other members of his/her community and therefore promotes communication and dialogue as a way of conflict resolution in a peaceful way.
- Normally children learn their mother-tongue within their family and community, and they very often learn it in an affective way. Thus, learning of the mother-tongue at school enables learners to deepen and reflect these relationships of affectivity, of personal and community memories, leading to a better understanding of oneself. From a better

understanding and appreciation of oneself, it is possible to recognize others, their differences, and become involved with them in a frank and open dialogue leading to an understanding of each other.

Finally, participants agreed that there are neither inferior nor superior languages, that all languages can be useful in transmitting knowledge and to promote dialogue.

3. Foreign language(s) instruction

Participants expressed their support for the inclusion of foreign language(s) learning at school. They gave the following reasons among others:

- the global economy and technology require the learning of foreign languages that promote regional and international communication;
- it facilitates the mobility of students and workers;
- the learning of foreign languages enables a better understand of others and promotes dialogue to understand what is different, for example, in neighbouring countries.

Some participants asked what is the proper age to start learning foreign languages at school. For example, they had no evidence to support the advantages of early learning of foreign languages, and particularly its consequences for the learning of their own language.

Ultimately, then, faced with this complex issue confronting the international educational community and each country in particular, a thorough diagnosis is required. It is recognized that there is no point in putting forward simplistic solutions or easy formulas of universal validity that can be applied in all countries.

A number of other concerns were also expressed, but could not be discussed because of time constraints:

- the immersion method was described, but its teaching strategies were not explained.
- teaching strategies focusing on understanding require the inclusion of actions promoting the qualification of the body of teachers. (Teachers must be properly trained on language-teaching strategies.)
- it was also proposed to reactivate some UNESCO programmes about language-teaching strategies.

Finally, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of maintaining, deepening and, in some cases, extending the political dialogue at all levels, so as to promote the goal of learning and teaching languages as a fundamental key to learning to live together.

Workshop 5: “Scientific progress and science education: basic knowledge, interdisciplinarity and ethical issues”

Conducted by Mr Jean-Marie Sani, Project Leader at the Cité des Sciences, Workshop 5 gave rise to a fertile discussion, based on an introduction to the topic by the moderator and the five presentations by the panellists, dealing with the following themes:

- scientific progress and science education in Zimbabwe;
- comparisons between science curricula in the developed countries and those in the developing countries;
- reflection on curricular standards against the background of the national standard in Japan;
- individual and social contributions to science education;
- a philosophical perspective on the links between the study of science and ethics.

The speakers were respectively:

- H.E. Dr Samuel C. Mumbengegwi, Minister of Higher Education and Technology in Zimbabwe;
- Ms Doris Jorde, Senior Lecturer, Department of Teacher Education and School Development at Oslo University;
- Mr Shiegeo Yoshikawa, Department of Curricula at the Ministry of Education in Japan;
- Dr Jaak Aaviksoo, Professor at Tartu University, Estonia;
- Dr Pablo Latapi Sarre, Professor, Mexico.

The exchanges during this workshop may be grouped under four main headings:

The first brings together the ideas concerning the link between the theme of the workshop – scientific progress and science education – and the overall theme of the conference, namely learning to live together.

The second relates to the difficulties and problems with which this education was perceived to be confronted.

The third concerns ideas on science teaching, its goals, objectives and methods.

The fourth comprises the suggestions and recommendations that emerged from the discussions.

1. Link between scientific progress and science education and the need to learn to live together

Raised by the moderator when launching the workshop, the question of the link between science education and the need to live together gave rise to many observations, which can be summed up as follows:

- The universality of the sciences – not only of their content but also the methods of reasoning they promote, the way of conceiving the world they underpin, and the values of sharing, cooperation and teamwork they foster – is an important dimension of living together. The sciences bring individuals and peoples of different nationalities closer together, often transcending frontiers. They develop intellectual rigour and the need to base results on demonstrations and proof. Science education thereby helps to promote the ability to live with others.
- Science education is a factor of economic growth and development, whose absence can be an impediment to living in community.
- Access to universal scientific knowledge being a right for all, for rich and poor, for boys and girls, regardless of ethnic and religious affiliation, it is accordingly closely linked to democracy and the exercise of citizenship. Life with others can thus be jeopardized by the division in society between the learned and the ignorant.

2. Difficulties affecting the development of science teaching

- Access to scientific knowledge nevertheless remains limited in many countries and the quality of such knowledge is substandard, despite the efforts made and the reforms of science education carried out in many of them. This is due to the difficulties and the problems identified by many speakers, foremost among which is the absence of basic infrastructures, financial and human resources and a favourable cultural environment. These deficiencies are the main cause of the inequalities between the developed countries and the developing countries and between urban and rural districts in this sphere.
- The gap between the developed countries and the poor countries is reflected in the way science is actually viewed in these countries. While the sciences are highly valued by the former, they give rise to suspicion in the latter. This suspicion is rooted in the political spin-off of the sciences, namely the appropriation of the natural and human resources of Third World countries by the industrialized countries, accentuated by the recent advances in the biological sciences. The destructive effects of scientific progress, which are more widely felt in the developing countries, is another reason for this suspicion.
- The nature of scientific teaching in many countries, which remains theoretical and wedded to abstract thinking and obsolete contents, is identified as another difficulty responsible for the waning interest of young people in science studies – attested by the decreasing number of students opting for science courses, these are often considered as élitist career paths, an attitude that is reinforced by the tendency of teachers of these subjects themselves to make a mystique of the sciences.
- A further difficulty resides in the shortage of teachers of scientific subjects, a situation which is likely to persist if the status of teachers is not reconsidered by taking into account the difficulty specific to these subjects.

3. What type of science education? Directed to what goals and objectives? What methods should be used for science teaching?

Many speakers placed emphasis on the development of scientific skills as the objective of science education. Its goal being to train citizens capable of understanding the world and acting upon it, as agents of economic growth and sustainable social development, internalizing the ethical values of citizenship, science education should meet the following conditions:

- Adopt active, application-oriented methods, using the real world as the foundation of the learning process by putting knowledge to the test of reality. These methods are moreover applicable to other disciplines, not to say the apprehension of reality and problems of lived experience, since science teaching must not be aimed solely at the sciences but must be geared to life;
- Foster the development of the critical spirit necessary for intellectual discovery, developing the curiosity that is natural to a child and stimulating interest in the sciences by encouraging a precocious taste for such knowledge while explaining its universal significance;
- Streamline science curricula and adapt them to the learners' capacity to assimilate;
- Adapt scientific curricula to social contexts so as to avoid any discontinuity with reality, bringing them into line with economic changes, scientific progress and new scientific and technological discoveries;
- Link science teaching to the social and human context so as to introduce the ethical dimension into such teaching. The ethic in question should be based on the universal foundations and shared values implicit in human rights, responsibility towards others, the environment and future generations;
- Adopt a multidisciplinary and integrated approach as a means to contextualizing knowledge from the social standpoint;
- Develop the capacity to learn how to learn in association with others so as to ensure the continuity of science education;
- Increase the facilities for science education and encourage the links between school and out-of-school education, formal and non-formal learning;
- Create an environment favourable to science education, which requires among other things a broad-based scientific education fostering the emergence of a scientific and technological culture founded on a culture of innovation, one in which innovation is promoted and society develops its capacity to use the resulting innovations. The media can greatly contribute to the development of such a culture;
- A favourable environment also requires the introduction of the necessary infrastructures, ranging from basic infrastructures to equipment specific to science teaching, including school amenities;
- the new information and communication technologies, whose role was considered by most speakers as crucial to the quality of science teaching at the present time, were nevertheless called into question by some. In one speaker's view, those technologies were not essential to the learning process, which could take place without them and they neither could, nor should, replace learning in and through the real world and practical experiments.

At all events, the need to develop science education was unanimously agreed upon. For, as one speaker explained, the future of humanity depended on such education and not scientific advances alone.

4. Recommendations

The debates gave rise to the following recommendations:

Science education is in need of radical reform in the sense of greater relevance, better adaptation and increased effectiveness. Certain experiments – some fairly original – described during the discussions, including the video presentation of the Cuban experiment on raising awareness of solar energy use through the involvement of learners, could be used as a point of departure.

The technical education model should be extended as a model meeting the citizen's new needs and corresponding to the methods and strategies required for science education and education in general.

The teacher, on whom the quality of science education primarily depends, should receive high-quality, continually updated training and be given improved status.

UNESCO is called upon to play a major role in improving the quality of science education as a dimension of living together, not only by extending successful experiences, by supplying the necessary technical backstopping and expertise and by carrying out the requisite studies and experiments, but also, and above all, by mobilizing partnerships and financial resources to help countries in need to set up the essential infrastructures for high-quality science teaching.

Insofar as science teachers are best equipped to provide education to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS, the workshop appealed for them to be strongly involved in strategies to combat this scourge.

**Workshop 6: Narrowing the gap between the information rich and the information poor:
new technologies and the future of education**

Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present a summary of Workshop 6 whose central theme was on: “Narrowing the gap between information rich and the information poor: new technologies and the future of education”.

The moderator of the session was Mr Vis Naidoo, Education Specialist, Commonwealth of Learning.

The panellists were:

The Honourable Louis Steven OBEEGADOO, Minister of Education and Scientific Research, Mauritius

Dr Johanna Lasonen, Professor, University of Jyväskylä

Ms Heba Ramzy, Director, Kids and Youth Programs, Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Centre, Egypt

Professor Alexey Semenov, Rector, Moscow Institute of Teacher Development

Mr Siva Subramanian, Educational International, Malaysia.

Introduction

The undeniable importance of education within the context of globalization requires an ongoing, in-depth discussion about the role of new technologies. Access to information worldwide today entails having and using ICT. As there is no level playing field from which societies around the world can respond to, and keep up with, the frantic pace of technological change and the effects it brings about, the emerging exclusion of many communities from the benefits of ICT is a growing concern. The imbalance of access fosters inequities among and within countries, localities and workplaces.

The role of new technologies in facilitating access to “education for all” has to be critically examined within the context of globalization. New technologies (ICTs) are often assumed to be a readily available access avenue to quality education in a variety of settings. The impact of ICT, however, may have to be judged on the basis of how effectively it will contribute to the expansion of humanity’s knowledge base all over the world.

With these contextual remarks, let’s turn our attention to some of the fundamental issues that deserve critical attention as we gauge both the possibilities and the risks intrinsic to the establishment of new technologies as a fixture of the educational landscape.

In doing so, we will examine:

- enduring challenges to be overcome;
- critical ingredients that are deemed essential to start addressing the digital divide; and
- priority action areas for a wide variety of actors.

Fundamental issues and challenges:

As part of the reality check at the outset, let's highlight some givens.

Recognize the inequalities in access to technologies, information and knowledge which give rise to the digital divide between the knows and the know-nots, a phenomenon which is not unlike the other divide between the haves and the have-nots.

Evidence shows that the digital divide exists worldwide between the global regions, between countries, and between groups and individuals within countries. Access to ICT is divided along economic, gender, ethnic and linguistic lines.

Notwithstanding the fact that all societies can be said to have a wealth of information and a rich knowledge base, be mindful who structures technologically-transmitted information, who owns it, who decides how it ought to be used and circulated.

Keep in mind that despite improvement, traditional illiteracy remains a reality in many parts of the world and that resources are lacking just to address this reality.

To be aware that access to infrastructures is uneven and once again determined by the availability of economic means.

Opportunities:

Notwithstanding these limitations, the benefits of ICT in education cannot be underestimated. With adequate access, the recourse to ICT can:

At an individual level:

- maximize the exchange of ideas and creative projects across boundaries.
- unleash the innovative potential of the human mind and put this creativity at the service of problem-solving schemes that can be shared as exemplary practices and transferred into a variety of contexts.

At a collective level:

- lend itself to the multifaceted networking of users in many places and as such, contribute to the building of communities of learners and problem-solvers across national, cultural, social, and economic boundaries.
- assist in the education of a global citizenry through exposure to the varied and multifaceted perspectives of other communities.

Priority areas:

That said, the potential for ICT can be tapped into and if the new technologies are to be successfully integrated into education for all, the following have to be taken into consideration:

At the national level:

- the availability of new technologies has to be organized through policies and programmes which are meant to maximize access to the public in general. This includes:

- strengthening and extending the ICT infrastructure;
- expanding ICT access through public institutions;
- upgrading citizens’ and workers’ skills;
- making available subsidized ICT access in schools and in other public sites;
- ensuring that ICT is accessible to underprivileged groups through open sites of access.

Resources – software tools – must be put at the disposal of users at no cost so that the support tools that are essential for the training of a technologically and information literate population are available on an equitable basis.

School level:

The key learning competencies of learners have to be clearly articulated so that curricular contents can be made more relevant. As well, learning methods have to be updated with a view to making them compatible with the imperatives of e-learning.

Pre-service and in-service education of teachers:

Make sure that both incoming teachers and experienced teachers are well prepared so that there can be an effective integration of new technologies into the delivery of education. Newly designed or adapted pedagogical methodologies – including subject-based methodologies – have to be explored, tapped into, and implemented if the education of learners is to occur in an effective way.

Finally, learning materials have to be provided in multi-media formats so that knowledge can be imparted through a variety of modes.

Key messages

Take a planned, holistic approach to policies and strategies to cover not only the integration of technologies into education but also to examine some of the telecommunication issues that need to be addressed.

Build on multi-party partnerships – under the lead role of public institutions and including community-based organizations – to plan, design, and implement key initiatives and sustain them over time.

Invest resources in capacity-building so that a variety of users can become not only technologically proficient but also information literate – that is, be able to put received information under the scrutiny of a lucid and discerning lens.

Proceed with a strategic deployment of resources – based on a carefully designed needs assessment and with focused, complementary actions that are likely to have a systemic impact.

Build on what already exists, including more traditional technologies of learning (i.e. books, radio, audiovisual equipment) so that the potential of technology can be harnessed to expand the learning rather than replace it – beware of tabula rasa pseudo-solutions that usually end up eradicating the past and present without any safety net and no transition measures.

Keep in mind that quality of e-learning depends on wide access to ICT and support mechanisms as well as the critical engagement of teachers and learners in the schools and in the classroom.

Education for all is the priority. New technologies should be used to support the established curricular policies and programmes, as well as school management and administration processes. It is therefore imperative that new technologies be customized to the particulars of local contexts.

There is room for an expanded role for UNESCO to assist:

- Countries in the development of their ICT-in-education policies;
- In promoting the integration of new educational technologies on an equitable basis;
- In documenting and disseminating key requirements and competencies for e-learning;
- In evaluating and monitoring the quality of educational software.

Conclusion

In addressing the challenges to narrow the gap between the information rich and the information poor, countries have made substantial progress and undertaken innovative projects. These examples of successful practices should serve as models on which to draw.

Final remarks

Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This concludes the summary report for Workshop 6 on: “Narrowing the gap between the information rich and the information poor: new technologies and the future of education”. I thank you for your attention.

ANNEX XVI

LIST OF SPEAKERS IN MAJOR DEBATES I and II

MAJOR DEBATE I / GRAND DEBAT I / GRAN DEBATE I

One world, one future: education and the challenge of globalization

Un monde, un avenir: l'éducation et le défi de la mondialisation

Un mundo, un futuro: la educación y el desafío de la mundialización

Moderator/Animateur/Moderador: Mr Pablo LATAPI ORTEGA, Journalist, TV Azteca, México

- Key Speakers/Intervenants/Participantes:
- H.E. Dr Mohammed J.K. AL GHATAM, Minister of Education, Bahrain
 - H.E. Prof. Abraham BORISHADE, Minister of Education, Nigeria
 - H.E. Mr Burchell WHITEMAN, Minister of Education, Youth and Culture, Jamaica
 - H.E. Dr Sirikorn MANEERIN, Deputy Minister of Education, Thailand
 - Mr Aaron BENAVIDES, Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus, Israel
 - Mr Alejandro TIANA, Professor, Faculty of Education, UNED, Madrid (Spain)

MAJOR DEBATE II / GRAND DEBAT II / GRAN DEBATE II

Quality education for all for living together in the twenty-first century: intensifying the international policy dialogue on structures, contents, methods and means of education, and mobilizing the actors and partnerships

Éducation de qualité pour tous pour vivre ensemble au XXI^e siècle : intensifier le dialogue politique international sur les structures, les contenus, les méthodes et les moyens d'enseignement, mobiliser les acteurs et les partenariats

Educación de calidad para todos para vivir juntos en el siglo XXI: intensificar el diálogo político internacional sobre las estructuras, los contenidos, los métodos y los medios de enseñanza, y movilizar los actores y los asociados

Moderator/Animateur/Moderador: M. Daniel BERNARD, Directeur, Leman Bleu Télévision, Suisse

- Key Speakers/Intervenants/Participantes
- H.E. M. Najib ZEROUAZLI OUARITI, Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur et de la formation des cadres et de la recherche scientifique, Maroc
 - Sr. Ricardo SANTOS, Senador, Brazil
 - M. Pierre THENARD, Conseiller technique au Cabinet du Ministre-délégué à la Coopération et à la Francophonie, France
 - M. Thomas BEDIAKO, Chef Coordinateur pour la région Afrique, Education Internationale, Ghana
 - M. Moncef GUITOUNI, Président de la Fédération internationale pour l'éducation des parents, Montréal (Canada)
 - Mrs Michèle RIBOUD, Manager, Human Development Division; World Bank, Washington DC
 - Mr Kazimier KORAB, Director, Department of Strategy and Development, Ministry of Education, Poland
 - Dr. Ella YULAELAWATI, Head, Curriculum Division of Primary School, Ministry of Education, Indonesia

ANNEX XVII

LIST OF SPEAKERS IN THE WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1 / ATELIER 1 / TALLER 1

Citizenship education: learning at school and in society

L'éducation à la citoyenneté : les apprentissages scolaires et sociaux

La educación para la ciudadanía: aprendizajes escolares y sociales

Elaboration of Discussion Paper Elaboration document de débat Autor del documento de debate	}	Danish Research and Development Center for Adult Education, Copenhagen
Co-organization and financing Coorganización y financiación Co-organisation et financement	}	Danish Ministry of Education

Moderator/Animateur/Moderador : Mr. Sveinn EINARSSON, Counsellor of Culture, Iceland

Rapporteur/Rapporteur/Relator: Mr. Cesar BIRZEA, Directeur, Institut des Sciences de l'Éducation, Roumanie

Key Speakers/Intervenants/Participantes:

- H.E. Ms Mariana AYLWIN OYARZÚN, Minister of Education, Chile
- H.E. Ms Margrethe VESTAGER, Minister of Education, Denmark
- Mr. Benali BENZAGHOU, Recteur de l'Université des Sciences et de Technologie, Alger
- Mr. Samuel LEE, Director, Asian-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding, Seoul (Republic of Korea)
- Mr. Cliff OLIVIER, Co-ordinator, The Life Science Project, Namibia

Introductory Video : Citizenship practices : school and social learning (Geneva)

Vidéo d'introduction : Pratiques de la citoyenneté : l'école et l'apprentissage social (Genève)

Videocinta de presentación : Prácticas de la ciudadanía : aprendizaje escolar y social (Ginebra)

WORKSHOP 2 / ATELIER 2 / TALLER 2

Social exclusion and violence : Education for social cohesion

Exclusion sociale et violences : L'éducation pour la cohésion sociale

Exclusión social y violencia : la educación para la cohesión social

Elaboration of Discussion Paper
Elaboration document de débat
Autor del documento de debate } Mr. Sobhi TAWIL (IUED)

Co-organization
Co-organisation
Coorganización } Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Développement (IUED), Suisse

Financing
Financement
Financiación } Ministerio de Educación de Argentina

Moderator/Animateur/Moderador : M. Jean-Pierre GONTARD, Secrétaire Général (IUED)

Rapporteur/Rapporteur/Relator: Mr. Joo-Seok KIM, Minister, Deputy Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Republic of Korea

Key Speakers/Intervenants/Participantes:

- S.E. M. Pierre NZILA, Ministre de l'enseignement primaire, secondaire et supérieur de la Rép. du Congo
- Sr. Antanas MOCKUS, Alcalde de Bogotá (Colombia)
- Excma. Sra. Isabel COUSO TAPIA, Secretaria General de Educación y Formación Profesional, Ministerio de Educación, España
- M. Ivan IVIC, Professeur Universitaire, Filozofski fakultet, Belgrade (Yougoslavie)
- Mme Pari ZARRABI, Sociologue, Genève

Introductory Video : Forty School Project (South Africa)

Vidéo d'introduction : Projet des 40 Ecoles (Afrique du Sud)

Videocinta de presentación : Proyecto de las cuarenta escuelas (Sudáfrica)

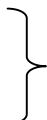
WORKSHOP 3 / ATELIER 3 / TALLER 3

Common values, cultural diversity and education : what and how to teach

Valeurs communes, diversité culturelle et éducation : qu'apprendre et comment apprendre ?

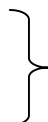
Valores comunes, diversidad cultural y educación : ¿qué y cómo aprender?

Elaboration of Discussion Paper
Elaboration document de débat
Autor del documento de debate



Sr. Luis Enrique LÓPEZ (PROIEB-ANDES)

Co-organization
Co-organisation
Coorganización



Programa de Formación en Educación Intercultural Bilingüe
para los Países Andinos (PROIEB-ANDES)

Co-financing
Cofinancement
Cofinanciación



German National Commission for UNESCO

Moderator/Animateur/Moderador : Sr. Luis Enrique LÓPEZ (PROIEB-ANDES)

Rapporteur/Rapporteur/Relator: M. Mohamadou Aly SALL, Directeur de l'Enseignement élémentaire, Dakar (Sénégal)

Key Speakers/Intervenants/Participantes:

- H.E. Ms Lucija COK, Minister of Education & Sport Slovenia
- Mr. Bodo RICHTER, Secretary of State, Kultusministerium des Landes Sachsen-anhalt, Magdeburg (Germany)
- M. Abdeljalil AKKARI SCKELL, Professeur, Université de Fribourg (Suisse)
- Dr Geraldine CASTLETON, Research Fellow, Griffith University, Brisbane (Australia)
- Mr. Tesfamichael GERAHTU, Director-General, Department of Education, Ministry of Education, Erit

Introductory Video : A new meaning for the education system (Nunavut, Canada)

Vidéo d'introduction : Une nouvelle orientation pour le système éducatif (Nunavut, Canada)

Videocinta de presentación : Nuevo sentido para el sistema educativo (Nunavut, Canadá)

WORKSHOP 4 / ATELIER 4 / TALLER 4

Language(s) teaching and learning strategies for understanding and communication **Les stratégies d’enseignement et d’apprentissage des langues pour la compréhension et la communication**

Estrategia de enseñanza y de aprendizaje de los idiomas para la comprensión y la comunicación

Elaboration of Discussion Paper
Elaboration document de débat
Autor del documento de debate } Prof. Dr. Theo J.M. VAN ELS, Professor Emeritus,
University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Co-organization and financing
Co-organisation et financement
Coorganización y financiación } Ministry of Education, The Netherlands

Moderator/Animateur/Moderador : Prof. Dr. Theo J.M. VAN ELS

Rapporteur/Rapporteur/Relator: Prof. Antonio GUERRA CARABALLO, Uruguay

Key Speakers/Intervenants/Participantes:

- H.E. Mr Jeff LANTZ, Minister of Education, Prince Edward Island (Canada)
- Mr Abbas SADRI, Consultant to the Minister and Director General for the Office of Higher Technical-Vocational Schools, Islamic Republic of Iran
- M. Gabor BOLDISZAR, Conseiller général d’administration, Ministère de l’Education, Hongrie
- Mrs. Blanca Estela COLOP ALVARADO, Co-ordinator, Mayan Education Unit, UNESCO/PROMEM, Guatemala
- M. Abou DIARRA, Directeur général, Centre national de l’Education, Bamako (Mali)

Introductory Video : Language Education (Czech Republic)

Vidéo d’introduction : L’enseignement des langues (République Tchèque)

Videocinta de presentación : Enseñanza de idiomas (República Checa)

WORKSHOP 5 / ATELIER 5 / TALLER 5

Scientific progress and science teaching: basic knowledge, interdisciplinarity and ethical problems

Progrès scientifique et enseignement des sciences: connaissances de base, interdisciplinarité et problèmes éthiques

Progreso científico y enseñanza de la ciencia: conocimientos básicos, interdisciplinaridad y problemas éticos

Elaboration of Discussion Paper
Elaboration document de débat
Autor del documento de debate } M. Jean-Marie SANI, Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, La Villette, Paris

Co-organization
Co-organisation
Coorganización } Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, La Villette, Paris

Financing
Financement
Financiación } Norway and Finland (from the Dakar Follow-up Special Account)

Moderator/Animateur/Moderador : M. Jean-Marie SANI, Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, La Villette, Paris

Rapporteur/Rapporteur/Relator: Mme Naïma TABET, Secrétaire générale, Commission nationale marocaine pour l'UNESCO

Key Speakers/Intervenants/Participantes:

- H.E. Dr S.C. MUMBENGEGWI, Minister for Higher Education and Technology, Zimbabwe
- Prof. Jaak AAVIKSOO, Rector, Professor, University of Tartu (Estonia)
- Dr Pablo LATAPI SARRE, Profesor, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México D.F. (México)
- Mr. Shigeo YOSHIKAWA, Senior Curriculum Specialist, Ministry of Education, Japan
- Mme Doris JORDE, Senior Lecturer, Oslo University, (Norway)

Introductory Video : Awareness of solar energy and renewable energy (Cuba)

Vidéo d'introduction : Sensibilisation à l'énergie solaire et aux énergies renouvelables (Cuba)

Videocinta de presentación : Sensibilización a la energía solar y las energías renovables (Cuba)

WORKSHOP 6 / ATELIER 6 / TALLER 6

Narrowing the gap between the information rich and the information poor: new technologies and the future of education

**Réduire le fossé entre ceux qui sont riches et ceux qui sont pauvres en termes d'accès à
l'information : Les nouvelles technologies et l'avenir de l'éducation**

**Reducir la brecha entre ricos y pobres en información : las nuevas tecnologías y el futuro
de la escuela**

Elaboration of Discussion Paper :
Elaboration document de débat :
Autor del documento de debate : } Mr. Vis NAIDOO, Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver
(Canada)

Co-organization:
Co-organisation:
Coorganización: } The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)

Financing
Financement
Financiación } Norway and Finland (from the Dakar Follow-up Special Account)

Moderator/Animateur/Moderador : M. Vis NAIDOO, The Commonwealth of Learning

Rapporteur/Rapporteur/Relator: Mme Marie-Lison FOUGÈRE, Directrice, Direction des politiques et des programmes, Ministère de l'Éducation de l'Ontario, Canada

Key Speakers/Intervenants/Participantes:

- H.E. Mr. Louis Steven OBEEGADOO, Minister of Education and Scientific Research, Mauritius
- Dr. Johanna LASONEN, Professor, Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä (Finland)
- Mrs Heba RAMZY, Director, Regional Information Technology & Software Engineering Center (RITSEC), Cairo (Egypt)
- Prof. Alexey SEMENOV, Rector, Moscow Institute of Teacher Development, Moscow (Russian Federation)
- M. Siva SUBRAMANIAN, Secrétaire Général de NUTP, Education Internationale, Kuala Lumpur (Indonesia)

Introductory Video : Internet Mobile Unit (Malaysia)

Vidéo d'introduction : L'Unité Mobile Internet (Malaisie)

Videocinta de presentación : Unidad Móvil Internet (Malasia)

ANNEX XVIII

List of documents distributed during the session

Working documents

ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/1	Provisional agenda
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/2	Proposed organization of the work of the Conference
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/3	Reference document on: “Education for all for learning to live together”: contents and learning strategies – problems and solutions
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/4	Documents to assist the discussions during the six workshops
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/5	General overview of the 46th session of the ICE
ED/BIE/CONFINTED 46/6	Draft “Conclusions and proposals for action” arising from the 46th session of the ICE”

Information documents

“Messages of ministers of education”, a delegate’s guide, a provisional list of participants and a conference evaluation questionnaire were distributed to the participants. Many delegates’ statements were also made available at their authors’ request.

National reports submitted to the 46th session of the ICE

A total of 99 national reports were submitted by the following Member States: Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Barbados; Belarus; Belgium (Flemish community and French community); Benin; Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; Bulgaria; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; Central African Republic; Chad; China; Colombia; Congo; Congo, People’s Democratic Republic; Costa Rica; Côte d’Ivoire; Croatia; Cuba; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Egypt; Estonia; Ethiopia; Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Finland; France; Germany; Ghana; Guinea; Honduras; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Korea, Democratic People’s Republic; Korea, Republic of; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lebanon; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mali; Mauritius; Mexico; Moldova; Mozambique; Namibia; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Peru; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sudan; Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Tunisia; Turkey, Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Republic of Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

Other documents available during the Conference

- (a) World Data on Education, fourth edition of the CD-ROM produced by the IBE and containing data on 158 education systems
- (b) Education for citizenship, a CD-ROM produced by the Education Sector of UNESCO
- (c) Prospects, special issue of UNESCO’s quarterly review prepared by the IBE on the theme “Learning to live together”

- (d) Video-cassette on the BRIDGE project (introductory documents for the six workshops)
- (e) “Demain l’éducation ...” recording of the debate programme produced by Léman bleTV Geneva
- (f) 100 and 1 terms for human rights education: a glossary prepared by Ramdane Babadji for the World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace (EIP), in collaboration with the IBE

ANNEX XIX

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