

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization is a permanent specialized agency of the United Nations. The Preamble to the Constitution declares—

“That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of Peace must be constructed; that ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause throughout the history of mankind of that suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war; . . . that a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting, and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.”

The purpose of the Organization, in the words of Article I, is “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science, and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world without distinction of race, sex, language, or religion by the Charter of the United Nations.” To realize this purpose the Organization will—

“(a) Collaborate in the work of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples, through all means of mass communication, and to that end recommend such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image;

“(b) Give fresh impulse to popular education and to the spread of culture:

“By collaborating with members, at their request, in the development of educational activities;

“By instituting collaboration among the nations to advance the ideal of equality of educational opportunity without regard to race, sex, or any distinctions, economic or social;

“By suggesting educational methods best suited to prepare the children of the world for responsibilities of freedom;

“(c) Maintain, increase, and diffuse knowledge:

“By assuring the conservation and protection of the world's inheritance of books, works of art, and monuments of history and science, and recommending to the nations concerned the necessary international conventions;

“By encouraging co-operation among the nations in all branches of intellectual activity, including the international