



UNESCO 1945-1995: A Fact Sheet

The **Constitution** of UNESCO was signed in London on 16 November 1945 by 37 countries and came into force with the 20th ratification on 4 November 1946 (see list of the 20 founding Member States below*). The governments solemnly declared: "**Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed (...)** 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 the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the **intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind**". The governments signing the Constitution believed "in **full and equal opportunities for education for all**, in the **unrestricted pursuit of objective truth** and in the **free exchange of ideas and knowledge**".

The **purpose** of the Organization was defined as: "to **contribute to peace and security** by promoting collaboration among nations **through education, science and culture** in order to further universal respect for justice, for 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".

Origins of UNESCO:

The main predecessors of UNESCO were The International Committee of Intellectual Co-operation (CICI), Geneva 1922-1946, The International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation (IICI), Paris 1925-1946 and The International Bureau of Education (IBE), Geneva 1925-1968; the latter has since 1969 been part of the Unesco Secretariat under its own statutes.

A Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME) started its meetings in London on 16 November 1942 and continued until 5 December 1945. 18 governments were represented. Upon the proposal of CAME a United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization (ECO/CONF) was convened in London 1-16 November 1945. 44 governments were represented. On 16 November 1945 the Constitution of UNESCO was signed and a Preparatory Commission established. The first session of the General Conference took place in Paris from 19 November to 10 December 1946 with the participation of representatives from thirty governments entitled to vote.

Member States

* **Founding Member States:** the first twenty States to ratify the Constitution in 1946:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 United Kingdom | 11 Egypt |
| 2 New Zealand | 12 Norway |
| 3 Saudi Arabia | 13 Canada |
| 4 Union of South Africa | 14 China |
| 5 Australia | 15 Denmark |
| 6 India | 16 United States of America |
| 7 Mexico | 17 Czechoslovakia |
| 8 France | 18 Brazil |
| 9 Dominican Republic | 19 Lebanon |
| 10 Turkey | 20 Greece |

Number of Member States:

1950	59	1975	136
1955	74	1980	153
1960	99	1985	160
1965	120	1990	159
1970	125	1995	184

UNESCO like the United Nations was born in the ashes of the Second World War and this is reflected in the composition of the founding Member States. Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany became members in 1951, Spain in 1953. Other major historical factors, as the Cold War, the decolonization process and the dissolution of the USSR, also left their trace on UNESCO. The USSR joined UNESCO in 1954 and was replaced by the Russian Federation in 1992. 19 African States became Members in 1960. 12 Republics emanating from the former Soviet Union entered Unesco in 1991-93.

As a consequence of the entry of the People's Republic of China into the United Nations it has been the only legitimate representative of China at UNESCO since 1971. The German Democratic Republic was a Member from 1972 to 1990, when it joined the Federal Republic of Germany.

South Africa withdrew from Unesco in 1956 and rejoined in December 1994 as the 183rd Member State. Portugal withdrew by the end of 1972 and resumed its membership in 1974. The USA withdrew in 1984, United Kingdom and Singapore in 1985. There have been 10 withdrawals in all and 7 re-entries. In 1995 Unesco has 3 **Associate Members**, countries not conducting their own foreign policy.

Organization: The **General Conference (C)** is the main decision-making body of UNESCO. It meets every two years and determines the policies of the Organization and approves the programme and budget. Every six years it appoints the Director-General upon the recommendation of the Executive Board. The **Executive Board (EX)** is composed of 51 Members and meets twice a year. It is responsible for the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference.

The **Secretariat** consists of the **Director-General (DG)** and the **staff** appointed by him. The DG prepares the draft programme and budget and formulates proposals for appropriate action. Five programme sectors and a number of transverse units work in collaboration with the administrative services to carry out the programme (for details see below under "**Activities**").

177 States have established a **National Commission for Unesco** as a governmental advisory body (May 1995). By virtue of Article VII of its constitution UNESCO is the only Specialized Agency of the United Nations to provide for the establishment of a National Commission by each of its Member States. In addition Governments maintain **Permanent Delegates** in Paris to keep close contacts with the Organization.

Regional structure :

In 1995 60 **Unesco field offices and units** exist in different parts of the world. 548 staff members work in the field offices and 79 in field projects as compared to 1.856 at Headquarters.

Subsidiary bodies :

Advisory and consultative committees, international commissions, intergovernmental councils for the management of major programmes; about 100 such bodies have been in existence since 1946, for ex.:

- Commission on Technical Needs in Press, Radio, Film 1947-1949
- International Commission for a History of the Scientific and Cultural Development of Mankind 1950-1969, 1978-
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) 1961-
- International Commission on the Development of Education (Faure Commission) 1971-1972
- International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems (MacBride Commission) 1977-1980
- International Commission on Education and Learning for the 21st Century (Jacques Delors Commission) 1992-
- World Commission on Culture and Development (Perez de Cuellar Commission) 1992-

Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (IGOs and NGOs):

In May 1995 Unesco was in relation with 121 IGOs and maintained official relations with 28 foundations. 588 NGOs were admitted into relationship with Unesco.

Directors-General:

Julian Huxley (1887-1975) United Kingdom	1946 - 1948
Jaime Torres Bodet (1902-1974) Mexico	1948 - 1952
John W. Taylor (1906-) USA, Acting DG	1952 - 1953
Luther Evans (1902-1981) USA	1953 - 1958
Vittorino Veronese (1910-1986) Italy	1958 - 1961
René Maheu (1905-1975) France	1961 - 1974
Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow (1921-) Senegal	1974 - 1987
Federico Mayor (1934-) Spain	1987 -

Staff:	Total	Headquarters	Field
1950	855	807	48
1960	1 593	1 005	588
1970	3 197	1 852	1 345
1975	3.457	2.193	1.264
1980	3 390	2 377	1 013
1985	3.148	2.350	798
1990	2.763	2.000	763
1995	2.483	1.856	627

The staff is divided into professional (P) and general service (GS) category; the professional staff consisted in January 1995 of 1 Deputy Director-General and 11 Assistant Directors-General, 100 Directors and 908 Programme Specialists. In February 1995 women and men from 147 countries served in the Secretariat. Of the professional staff 31 % were female, 69 % male, while the figures for the GS-staff reflected a reverse situation (69 % female, 31 % male).

Budget:	Regular budget	Extrabudgetary funds	(in annual figures; the budget is voted for a biennium. In 1994-95 the regular budget was thus \$ 455 mill. and the extrabudgetary resources were estimated to be \$ 275 mill.)
1950	8,0 mill. \$	-	
1960	13,7	4,5	
1970	39,4	37,0	
1980	151,5	90,6	
1985	187,2	80,3	
1986	144,6	75,0	
1990	189,4	108,3	
1995	227,8	137,4 (estimated)	

Withdrawals of the USA, UK and Singapore meant a **30% reduction of contributions**; budgets for 1985-91 and 1994-95 were based on zero growth, the budget for 1992-93 showed a 2,6 % reduction in real terms

I. Regular budget: \$ 455 million for the biennium 1994-1995, comprised of obligatory contributions from the Member States.

II. Extrabudgetary funds: \$ 275 million for 1994-1995. Of these \$ 69 million emanate from the UNDP and other UN agencies. In a growing proportion the extrabudgetary funds derive from Special Accounts financed by Member States and from Funds-in-Trust (FIT). The FIT are funds for definite projects put at the disposal of UNESCO by donor countries to benefit a third party country.

Until 1970 the United Nations Technical Assistance (TA,EPTA),1950-1970, and the United Nations Special Fund (SF),1960-1970, were among the important partners of UNESCO. At present the main contributors are:

- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) 1966-
- UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
- UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)
- WFP (World Food Programme)
- The World Bank and regional development banks
- Funds-in-Trust (FIT) 1963-
- Voluntary contributions of Member States for the benefit of Unesco programmes
- Foundations (cf. document 23 C/23)

Major Programme Areas and Transverse Themes: (the total costs of programmes including common service and administrative costs are given as percentages of the regular budget for 1994-95, cf. document 27 C/5 Approved, Appendix VI):

Education (ED): 36.0 %

Natural Sciences (SC): 20.6 %

Culture (CLT): 15.8 %

Communication, Information and Informatics (CII): 10.4 %

Social and Human Sciences (SHS): 9.6 %

Transverse themes , programmes and activities: 7.6 %

Contributions of Member States 1950-1995 : percentages of the regular budget for countries with an obligatory contribution **exceeding 2 %**:

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995
	Percentages					
Argentina	2.16					
Australia	2.30				2.21	2.07
Brazil	2.16				2.04	2.30
Canada	3.74	3.01	2.84	3.01	4.33	4.35
France	7.00	6.19	5.65	5.77	8.83	8.97
Germany FR		5.16	6.60	7.63	11.41	12.69
India	3.80	2.38				
Italy		2.18	3.05	3.35	5.63	6.79
Japan		2.12	3.56	8.56	16.07	19.80
Netherlands					2.33	2.24
Spain					2.75	3.17
Sweden	2.31					
Ukraine						2.10
USSR/Russia (1995)		13.18	13.75	11.49	14.10	8.05
United Kingdom	13.27	7.53	6.23	4.48		
USA	37.82	31.46	29.73	25.00		

The withdrawals of the USA, UK and Singapore in 1984-85 led to a general increase in the percentages of the regular budget contributions by the Member States. In the above table the contributions including 1990 and 1995 are shown as the real percentages of the regular budget and not the scale as voted by the General Conference. 96 countries pay the minimum rate of assessment, 0.01, in 1995. The scale of assessments for Member States of UNESCO is based on the United Nations scale, subject to adjustments necessitated by the difference in membership. To calculate the contributions the United Nations Committee of Contributions uses the net national income as the principal measure of the capacity to pay with some other criteria such as per capita income.

Activities:

Forms of action

Establishment of international norms : conventions, agreements, recommendations, declarations; conferences and meetings; studies and research; publications: books, periodicals, reports and documents; technical and advisory services to Member States: staff missions, consultants, supplies and equipment; training courses, seminars and workshops; subventions to NGOs; financial contributions; fellowships, study grants and travel grants; other activities

Programmes and projects of Unesco: a selection

- Reconstruction and rehabilitation programme 1945-1950
- Unesco Translation Programme : representative works of world literature: African, Creole, European, Latin American, Oceanian and Oriental series 1948-
- Unesco Fellowship Programme 1948-
- Education of Palestine refugees 1948-
- Unesco Coupons Programme 1948- (Unesco coupons overcome foreign exchange difficulties in buying books and other cultural materials)
- Participation programme (PP) 1955- (Aid for Member States: 18.3 million \$ in 1992-1993)
- Major Project on Scientific Research on Arid Lands (1951-), 1957-1962
- Major Project on Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values 1957-1966

- Major Project of Education in Latin America and the Caribbean 1980-
- International Indian Ocean expedition 1959-1965
- International Campaign to save the monuments of Nubia, 1960-1980
- Oceanographic research and coastal zone management 1961-
- World Experimental Literacy Programme (WELP) 1966-1975
- International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) 1973-
- Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) 1970-
- International Hydrological Decade 1965-1974 / Programme (IHP) 1975-
- General Information Programme (PGI) 1976-
- International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) 1980-
- Education for All, 1984-
- Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue 1988-
- Priority Africa 1989-
- Culture of Peace Programme 1994-

Development projects :

1 148 projects were in progress 1992-93 (cf. document 28 C/3), financed mainly from extrabudgetary sources.

A selection of ten projects :

- New Delhi Public Library, pilot project 1950-1951
- Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) 1951-1955
- Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey 1960-1966
- Ecole normale supérieure, Abidjan, Ivory Coast 1961-1969
- Mekong River Delta Model Study (UNDP/SF/REG.10) 1962-1967
- Population Education in Secondary Schools, China (CPR/80/P14) 1980-
- Pan African News Agency (RAF/81/045) 1981-
- Support for the National System of Curriculum Improvement and Adaptation, Guatemala (GUA/87/001) 1987-
- Training in Integrated Pastoral Development in the Sahel (RAF/87/050) 1987-
- Revival of the Library of Alexandria, Egypt (EGY/88/003) 1988-

Important Unesco conferences : a selection of fifteen meetings

- International Conferences on Education (IBE) 1947-
- International Conference on Science Abstracting, Paris 1949
- International Conference of Universities, Nice 1950
- International Conference of Artists, Venice, 1952
- Intergovernmental Copyright Conference, Geneva 1952
- International Conference on Information Processing, Paris 1959
- Regional Conferences of Ministers of Education, 1960-
- World Congress on the Eradication of Illiteracy, Teheran 1965
- Intergovernmental Conference for Rational Use and Conservation of Biosphere, Paris 1968
- Conference on World Science Information System (UNISIST), Paris 1971
- International Conference on Environmental Education, Tbilisi 1977
- World Congress on Books, London 1982
- World Conference on Cultural Policies, Mexico 1982
- World Conference of Education for All, Jomtien, Thailand 1990 (with UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank)
- Audience Africa, Paris 1995

Unesco publications

About 8.500 titles have been issued by Unesco directly or under its auspices 1946-1995

Major books by Unesco : a selection:

- Reflections on Our Age: lectures at the opening session of Unesco, 1946
- Fundamental Education: common ground for all peoples, 1947
- World Survey of Education I-V, 1955-1971
- Unesco Source Book for Science Teaching, 1956
- The Race Question in Modern Science, 1956
- Current Trends in Scientific Research, 1961 (Auger report)
- History of Mankind: cultural and scientific development I-VI, 1963-1976 (new edition in seven volumes under way, 1994-)
- Mass Media and National Development, 1964
- Birthright of Man: selection of texts (on human rights), 1968
- Main Trends of Research in Social and Human Sciences, 1970, 1978
- Learning to Be: the world of education today and tomorrow, 1972 (Faure Commission report)
- Many Voices, One World: towards a new, more just and more efficient world information and communication order, 1980 (MacBride Commission report)
- General History of Africa I-VIII , 1981-
- World Communication Report, 1989
- World Education Report, 1991 (new edition in 1993; 1995-edition in preparation)
- History of Civilizations of Central Asia I-VI, 1992-
- World Science Report, 1993

Major serial publications by Unesco: a selection of fifteen titles

- Index translationum: international bibliography of translations, 1948-
- Unesco collection of representative works, 1948- ; more than 850 volumes of world literature as translations
- Press, film and radio in the world of today 1949-1961
- Study abroad : international scholarships and courses, 28 editions since 1949
- Catalogue of reproductions of paintings, 1949-1978/1981, 10 editions (volume of paintings prior to 1860), 11 editions (volume on paintings after 1860)
- Reports and papers in mass communication 1952-
- Educational studies and documents 1953-
- Reports and papers in the social sciences 1955-
- Statistical reports and studies 1955-
- Natural resources research 1963-
- Unesco statistical yearbook 1963-
- Scientific maps and atlases 1964-
- Science policy studies and documents 1965-
- Studies and reports in hydrology 1969-
- Studies and documents on cultural policies 1969-

Main periodicals of Unesco :

- The Unesco Courier, 1948-; illustrated monthly, published in 30 languages and in braille
- Unesco Bulletin for Libraries (UBL)1947-1978 ; Unesco Journal for information science, librarianship and archives administration (UJISLAA), 1979-1984
- Museum, 1948-1992, Museum International, 1993-

- Impact of science on society, 1948-1992
- Copyright bulletin, 1948-
- International social science journal (ISSJ), 1949-
- Journal of World History 1953-1972; Cultures, 1973-1985
- Nature and resources, 1965-
- Prospects: quarterly review of education 1969-
- Archivum: international review on archives. International Council on Archives, 1950-
- Diogenes: an international review of philosophy and humanistic studies. International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic studies, 1955-
- International Review of Education. Unesco Institute for Education, Hamburg, 1955-

News bulletins:

- Unesco Bulletin 1946; Unesco Monitor 1947; Unesco Official Bulletin 1948-1955;
- Unesco Newsletter 1949-1955; Unesco Chronicle 1955-1980; Unesco News 1979-1987;
- Unesco Sources 1988-

More information to be found in:

- Internet: <http://www.unesco.org/>
- Unesco Sources and Unesco periodicals, Press releases
- Information materials by the Office of Public Information (OPI), call (33.1) 45.68.16.82
- Unesco Programmes and Priorities 1994-1995, Unesco 1995
- Unesco Publishing Catalogue
- Report of the Director-General and the Programme and Budget (documents C/3 and C/5)
- A Chronology of Unesco 1945-1987 (LAD.85/WS/4 Rev)
- Michel Conil Lacoste: The story of a grand design: UNESCO 1946-1993, Unesco 1994
- Unesco Library (for information please call (33.1) 45 68 03 56)
- Unesco Archives (for information please call (33.1) 45 68 19 50)

Out-of-print publications and documents since 1945 are available on microfiche (20 FF a fiche) or as photocopies (2 FF a page) from the Archives and Micrography Section. References in:

- Directory of Unesco Databases, 1994 (DIT.CH/94/008)
- Directory of Unesco Information Services, 1994 (DIT.CH/94/009)
- Bibliography of publications issued by Unesco 1946-1971, UNESCO, Paris, 1973
- Unesco List of Documents and Publications (ULDP) 1972-
- Unesco Bibliographic Data Base (UNESBIB) 1972-
- List of Unesco Secretariat main series documents 1947-1971 (LAD.86/WS/1)
- Index to the resolutions of the General Conference 1946-1993 (1-27 C/Res./Index)
- Index to the decisions of the Executive Board 1946-1995 (EX/Index/1-8)
- Index of Field Mission Reports 1947- (BMS/RD), (UNESBIB 1972-)
- Inventory of the Speeches of the Director-General 1946- (UNESBIB 1972-)
- Unesco Archives Finding Aids (ARC.91/WS/2) (1922-1992)
- List of Documents issued by the Archives Service 1947-1994 (ARC.94/WS/3)

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