



**OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY
*UNESCO's partners***

Thursday 25 October 2007

We, representatives of the Member States of UNESCO, non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, local representatives and private sector enterprises, participating in the International Forum of Civil Society convened by UNESCO on 25 October 2007 in Paris during the 34th session of the General Conference,

Considering Article XI.4 of the Constitution of UNESCO, which stipulates that the Organization “may make suitable arrangements for consultation and cooperation with non-governmental international organizations concerned with matters within its competence”;

Recalling the provisions governing partnerships with civil society and the private sector contained in the Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000 by the United Nations General Assembly;

Mindful of the in-depth analysis of the relations between the United Nations system and civil society, including parliamentarians and the private sector, contained in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons entitled “We the peoples: civil society, the United Nations and global governance”, known as the “Cardoso Report”, of 11 June 2004;

Aware of the growing desire of citizens around the world to participate in discussions aimed at providing answers to today’s major challenges at the local, national and international levels;

Affirming the crucial importance of forming multi-stakeholder partnerships and alliances in order to achieve the internationally recognized development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

Emphasizing the need to more effectively pool the resources, experience and expertise of the various stakeholders in order to implement better coordinated and more effective action;

Affirm our commitment to the five overarching objectives defined in UNESCO’s Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013:

- Attaining quality education for all and lifelong education
- Mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development
- Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges
- Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace
- Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication

Support UNESCO’s approach, which makes gender equality and Africa cross-cutting priorities for all of UNESCO’s activities;

In each of these areas, we are committed to supporting UNESCO through our respective means of action by:

- helping to keep citizens better informed and to promote greater public awareness;
- encouraging project ownership by beneficiaries, the inclusion of a broad range of partners and the preservation of diversity of opinions;
- participating in discussions and consultations held in the context of programme preparation;
- promoting the ratification of standard-setting instruments adopted at UNESCO and the adoption of relevant legislation and appropriate budgets;
- providing feedback on the programmes and activities implemented and acting as a bridge, wherever possible, between citizens and UNESCO;

Invite UNESCO to continue to act as an interface between the various spheres of civil society and to create the necessary forums for dialogue with a view to promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships at the international, national and regional levels through its field offices and in liaison with the National Commissions for UNESCO;

Adopt this document on this 25th day of the month of October 2007 in Paris, France.