



This Fact Sheet provides a summary of UNESCO's 2008-2013 Medium Term Strategy (published on 5 Feb 2008) and a brief overview of UNESCO's strategic planning cycle and process.

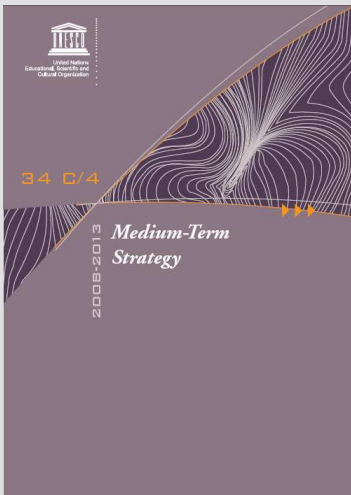


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Other Relevant Fact Sheets:

- Overview of UNESCO
- Regional Consultation with National Commissions for UNESCO

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MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY

UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (presented as a "C4" document) outlines the Organization's major objectives and strategic orientation over a **six-year** cycle while providing direction for its programme and budget. The programme and budget run on a two-year cycle (referred to as a "biennium"), which evolves as it comes under the scrutiny of the Executive Board and General Conference.

The strategy is conceived as rolling, allowing it to reflect ongoing developments in the field, results and outcomes of programme activities, and findings from regular evaluation and monitoring.

In delivering the Medium Term Strategy, UNESCO operates through global, regional and country-level action by: (i) promoting global research, innovative thinking, and evidence-based policy debate; (ii) setting standards and norms; (iii) monitoring and benchmarking; and (iv) helping countries to develop their own policies for building human and institutional capacities.

Highlights of the 2008-2013 Medium-Term Strategy

■ **A single unifying theme:**

"As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information."

■ **Two priority areas**, to underpin UNESCO's commitment and support to:

1. **Africa** – with a particular focus on the eradication of poverty, the achievement of the Education for All (EFA) goals, and supporting strategies to strengthen national, subregional and regional capacities and develop human resources
2. **Gender equality** – through action in all of UNESCO's fields of competence supported by a two-pronged approach pursuing both women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming

■ **Three priority focus groups**, that are normally vulnerable, excluded or disadvantaged:

1. Youth
2. The least developed countries (LDCs)
3. Small island developing States (SIDS)

■ **5 Overarching Objectives (OO) and 14 Strategic Programme Objectives (SPO)**. UNESCO seeks to accomplish each OO through corresponding SPOs.

Overall, the Organization will pursue in all its fields of competence a human rights-based approach to programming.

Additional Information

To download the 2008-2013 Medium Term Strategy ("34 C/4" document), please visit: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001499/149999e.pdf> (590kb)

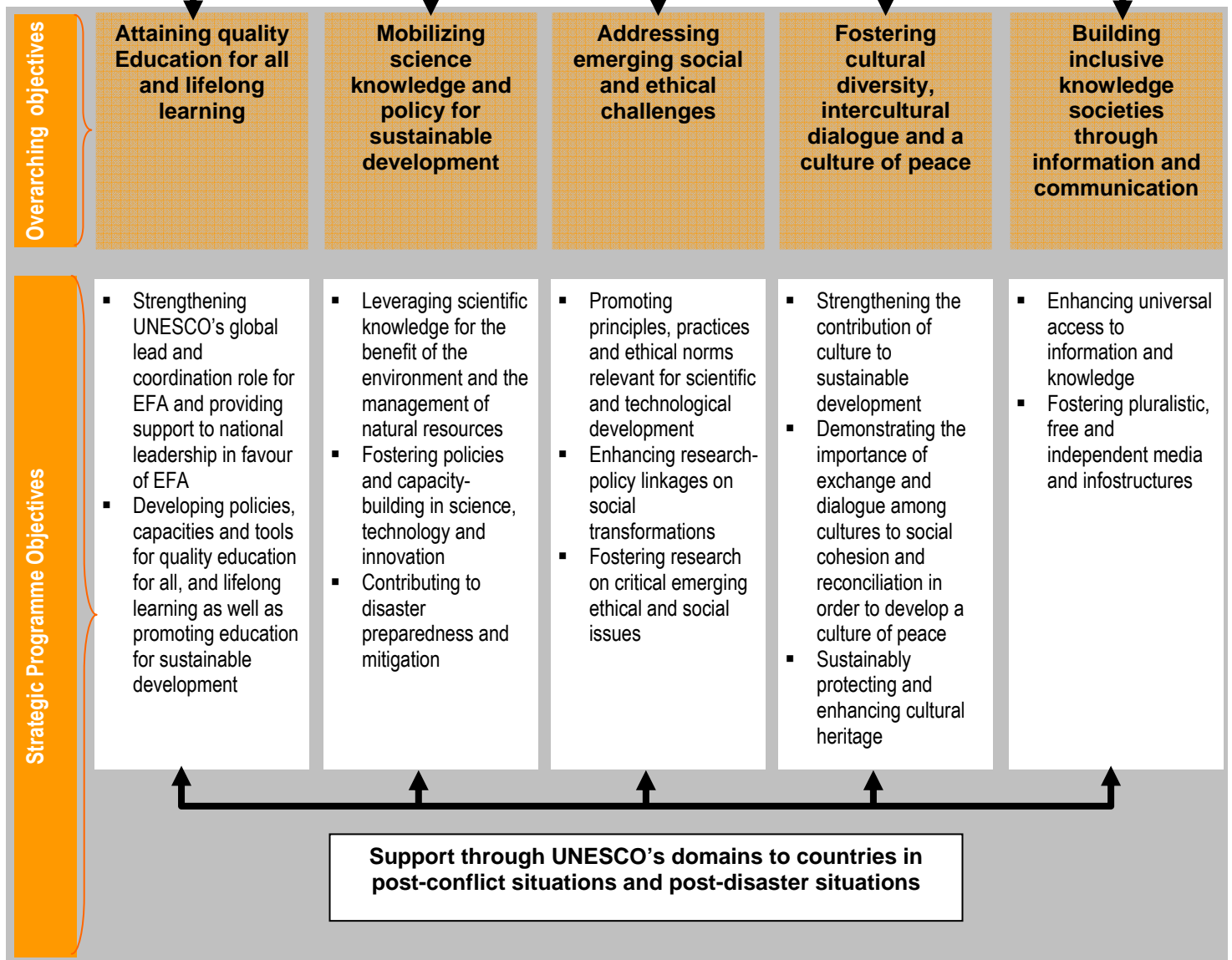
**2008-2013 Medium Term Strategy:
5 Overarching Objectives and 14 Strategic Programme Objectives**

UNESCO CONSTITUTION

MISSION STATEMENT:
As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

PRIORITY AFRICA

PRIORITY GENDER EQUALITY



Refer to the full [2008-2013 Medium Term Strategy](#) for detailed outcomes for each SPO (📄 590kb). ■