



United Kingdom
National Commission
for UNESCO

Annual Report 2006



Annual Report 2006 reviews progress and activities since the re-establishment of the current UK National Commission in March 2004.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

“since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed” – preamble to the UNESCO Constitution

The United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) is one of the 18 Specialized Agencies in the United Nations system. The UK was one of the 26 founding member of the Organization, whose Constitution was signed in London on 16 November 1945.

Its Constitution sets out the purpose of the Organization:

“... 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, 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”.

United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO

The UK National Commission is set up by the Government to act as the focal point between Government, civil society and UNESCO on matters relating to UNESCO. The current National Commission was launched in March 2004 by the Rt Hon. Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development.

The UK National Commission is set up as an independent body. It works in partnership with Government and UK civil society with the overarching objectives of developing UK input into UNESCO policy making; effecting reforms in UNESCO; and encouraging support in the UK for UNESCO's ideals and work.

The UK National Commission is not part of UNESCO. Rather, it is an essential partner to UNESCO and acts as a focal point and catalyst to involve key national players in the Organization's five programme sectors – education, natural sciences, social & human sciences, culture and communication & information. National Commissions are unique to UNESCO in the UN system. The UK is part of a global community of 192 National Commissions.

Milestones in UNESCO's History

- Two British scientists Sir Julian Huxley (biologist, 1887-1975) and Dr Joseph Needham (scientist and sinologist, 1900-1995) put the “S” into UNESCO, ensuring science was included in the founding of the Organization in 1945.
- Sir Julian Huxley was the first Director-General of UNESCO (1947-8) and Dr Joseph Needham the first head of UNESCO's Science Division.
- The Constitution of UNESCO was signed in the Great Hall of the Institute of Civil Engineers in London on 16 November 1945 by 37 countries and came into force on 4 November 1946 following ratification by 20 signatories.

UK and UNESCO

- The UK rejoined UNESCO in 1997, after leaving in 1985.
- The Department for International Development (DFID) is the sponsoring department for UK relationship with UNESCO.
- UK policy and liaison with UNESCO is managed by the UK Permanent Delegation to UNESCO based in Paris.
- DFID provides funding for the UK National Commission's Secretariat and activities. The Department for Education and Skills (DFES) provides funding for the National Commission's Education Committee.
- The UK's annual subscription contributes to 7% of UNESCO's regular budget.
- There are 26 World Heritage Sites in the UK.

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Christine Whatford (Chair of Education Committee and Vice Chair of UK National Commission for UNESCO), Koïchiro Matsuura (Director-General of UNESCO) and Rt Hon. Baroness Amos (Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council) at the Global Launch of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report in London on 9 December 2005. © Tower Hamlet

Students at the calligraphy workshop at the World Heritage Education Forum at the University of Newcastle (6-11 April 2005). © Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership

Dr Maleeha Lodhi (High Commissioner for Pakistan) and William Horsley (BBC European Affair Correspondent) at the World Press Freedom Day debate in London on 3 May 2006. © Abid Ali

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Foreword

Professor Alec Boksenberg CBE FRS
Chair, UK National Commission for UNESCO

It gives me great pleasure to present this first Annual Report of the UK National Commission since Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, began our new existence in March 2004. It doubles the pleasure for me that its production coincides with our first Annual Conference, being held this year in Nottingham University.

It is fitting here that I convey special thanks for the enduring efforts of the large number of concerned people that made up the Campaign Group whose advocacy was successful in achieving the UK National Commission's reinstatement. Many became members of the newly constituted organisation.

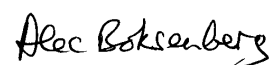
While the UK National Commission is an independent body, we work in partnership with Government and share its main objectives in its relationship with UNESCO. We also work in close collaboration with the UK Permanent Delegation to UNESCO. I view the excellent nature of this association, and the resultant opportunities afforded us for beneficial engagement with UNESCO as well as with Government, to have been crucial to enabling the many successes we have achieved. I am particularly grateful to the Ambassador for his personal commitment to this and for the valuable advice and attention he has so generously given us.

The overarching goals for which UNESCO was established remain valid and relevant today, although the priorities for action continue to evolve as the global context changes. As the Director-General conveys in his introduction to the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007, UNESCO must make strategic choices based on its mandate and a dynamic analysis of its comparative advantage and of emerging challenges. It must drop marginal endeavours; its scope of activities must be confined to those which maximise its impact; and it must contribute to joint and purposeful action by the United Nations system. We look forward to playing our part in boosting UNESCO's role through such appropriately aligned development of the next phase of its strategy and programme.

As an example I mention the Overall Review of UNESCO's science work that we strongly participated in initiating and have direct involvement in carrying through. This is an important opportunity for UNESCO. Major threats to tomorrow's world that must be urgently addressed are many in number. The landscape of scientific understanding is complex, but major contributions can be made through global, regional and country policy development that informs effective and timely action. Around 1830 the world reached a population of 1 billion people. Today we total 6.5 billion and are headed for around 9 billion by 2050. But already we are likely to be beyond the Earth's sustainable population-carrying capacity; and deeply serious consequences are now predicted for global climate change, spread of infectious diseases and loss in biological diversity. Solutions require advances in basic understanding, identification of practical measures, and appropriate policy recommendations which transcend national borders. Furthermore, they encompass the disciplines not only of natural and social sciences but also education, culture and communication. UNESCO's forceful and effective presence on the international stage is at least as important today as at any other time in its history.

This Report gives information about the principle activities of the UK National Commission. We have had an immensely rewarding two years since 2004, thanks to the expertise, enthusiasm, dedication and continuing generosity with their time of our members, and the support of our partners in Government and civil society. Without this we could not have travelled so far in the short time since we came into being. Not least, I thank our staff for their efficiency, responsive hard work and unstinting commitment in the unrelentingly intensive activity which has been so necessary for making us as productive as we wished to be.

Looking ahead, we resolve to continue furthering UNESCO's goals and helping ever to enhance its impact where it is needed most.



Alec Boksenberg

H. E. Timothy J. Craddock
Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

It is fitting that as we celebrate UNESCO's 60th anniversary, we should have such a strong and productive National Commission for UNESCO in the UK.

The UK's relationship with UNESCO has been one of ups and downs. Indeed there is still much cynicism - or plain ignorance - about UNESCO even among those in Britain who know a great deal about the United Nations or who are involved in international cooperation of one sort or another. But it cannot be forgotten that Britain provided much of the original inspiration for the creation of UNESCO, and for its immediate post-war work in the reconstruction of Europe as well as its ground-breaking contribution in the poorer countries of Africa and Asia in the early days of independence. And when we rejoined in 1997 it was with a deep commitment to the international system as a whole, particularly the United Nations, and to promoting as effective as possible a multilateral role in meeting the challenges of our time, reflected in the Millennium Development Goals.

So since the re-establishment of the UK National Commission two years ago, the Government has been working in close partnership with the National Commission on the key objectives of making UNESCO more effective, and making it a more valuable partner, particularly for the poorest countries of the World.

The National Commission has also been crucial in the task of reinvigorating as much as possible links across the UK in order to share experience and good practice in the areas of UNESCO's mandate, and to ensure that we too respect UNESCO's standards and share its policies. For example, the National Commission was the main driving force for the current review of UNESCO's science work - to make sure it is effective, and fully in line with what we need to meet the Millennium Development Goals. It has been spreading the word across the UK on current concerns about literacy, and education for sustainable development. And it has been giving advice on whether proposals concerning our domestic World Heritage sites are in accordance with the standards

required by the UNESCO Convention.

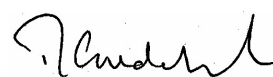
The fact that the Government works in partnership with the National Commission does not affect in any way its independence.

We want the National Commission to be a strong body which is not afraid of standing up for what it believes in. We want it to provide high-quality and professional advice to Government in the areas of UNESCO's mandate, advice that may not always be completely in line with current Government policy. We want the work of the National Commission to be lively, challenging and thought-provoking.

The relevant Government Departments look forward to a dialogue from which all can benefit. For the National Commission can reach out to very wide communities across the whole UK and have a key role there in improving the quality of advice to government, and to UNESCO. It can have an equally important role in promoting debate about the key issues of the role of the United Nations and what contribution it should be making in the 21st century, and the core values for which UNESCO stands and on which it has the international lead - from freedom of the press, to Education for All, to more practical matters such as the establishment of tsunami warning systems.

So it is a great pleasure to report, only two years after the National Commission's re-establishment, that not only is it seen already as a great success in the UK, but that in UNESCO itself the UK National Commission is now perceived to be one of the most active and most constructive of all National Commissions. It is having a real impact on the Organization and on its policies.

The first Annual Conference can only strengthen the National Commission further and make its role and potential contribution clearer. I wish it great success.



Tim Craddock

Foreword

Mr Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General of UNESCO

It gives me much pleasure to provide this foreword to the first annual report of the reconstituted and reinvigorated UK National Commission for UNESCO. In my view, the health and vitality of the UK National Commission is a clear sign that the relationship between the UK and UNESCO is strong and getting stronger.

The formative influence of the UK on UNESCO and its development is part of the Organization's history, going back to its founding just over 60 years ago in London, the addition of the "S" for science in UNESCO's name and the major contribution made by Sir Julian Huxley as the first Director-General. One of the early innovations of UNESCO was the creation of National Commissions as an integral part of the Organization's structure whose work is vital for the pursuit of UNESCO's noble goals, as enshrined in its Constitution. Thus, National Commissions are both constituent elements and constituencies of the Organization.

It was foreseen that a National Commission would be established in every Member State and even in Associate Member States – so we have today 191 Member States and 192 National Commissions. They are indeed an essential part of UNESCO's goal to achieve universality of representation and to maximize outreach and participation.

National Commissions are a means for securing civil society involvement, for bringing expertise to bear on challenges and problems, for multiplying the impact and effect of interventions, for implementing programmes in a Member State and for fostering joint action. Each National Commission has its own story and each has its own distinctive range of possibilities and opportunities. The reconstituted UK National Commission has quickly developed into a dynamic entity with a unique and important voice.

As this report shows, the UK National Commission can be proud of its full array of activities and accomplishments. I

have followed some of your initiatives with interest, especially through the participation of National Commission members in UNESCO activities in the UK, at Headquarters and around the world. UNESCO needs strong and resourceful National Commissions and the UK National Commission is setting a good example from which others may learn. I am confident that you will continue as you have begun – constructively, productively and cooperatively.

UNESCO is committed to enhancing its impact at the country level, the regional level and the global level through a well-balanced mix of normative and operational activities. In the context of UN reform, we are committed to showing that normative and operational activities aimed at improving the lives of others are closely, indeed inseparably, linked.

We aspire to make a real difference in several key areas, which include the Education for All (EFA) drive to make quality basic education available to everyone; the protection and promotion of cultural diversity; accessing, using and managing freshwater; the debate over the ethics of science and technology, especially bioethics; and the emergence of knowledge societies.

UNESCO's challenge is to demonstrate that it can mobilize around the globe as a laboratory of ideas, as a capacity-builder and as a trusted policy adviser and advocate. Above all, we strive through our actions to promote international cooperation aimed at consolidating and building peace.

I congratulate the UK National Commission for UNESCO on its achievements and I look forward to continuing to work closely with it in the common pursuit of the Organization's mission.



Koïchiro Matsuura

Glossary

AD-G	Assistant Director-General (UNESCO)	ISP	International/Intergovernmental Scientific Programmes
ASPnet	Associated Schools Project Network	MAB	Man and the Biosphere
AU	Africa Union	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
CFA	Commission for Africa	MOST	Management of Social Transformation
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	MOTW	Memory of the World (Registry)
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	MTS	Medium-Term Strategy (UNESCO)
DESD	Decade of Education for Sustainable Development	NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
DfES	Department for Education and Skills	NIACE	National Institute of Adult Continuing Education
DFID	Department for International Development	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
DH	Department of Health	OST	Office of Science and Technology
DTI	Department for Trade and Industry	PEACE	Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education
EFA	Education for All	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development	UNITWIN	University Education Twinning and Networking Scheme
EU	The European Union	UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	WHC	World Heritage Committee
GMR	Education for All Global Monitoring Report	WHEF	World Heritage Education Forum
IBC	International Bioethics Committee	WPDF	World Press Freedom Day (May 3)
ICT	information and communications technology	WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
IGBC	Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee		
IGCP	International Geoscience Programme		
IHP	International Hydrological Programme		
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission		
IFAP	Information for All Programme		
IPDC	International Programme for the Development of Communication		

UNESCO: An Overview

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), founded in 1945, is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations whose purpose is “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”.

UNESCO celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2005. At the ceremony in Paris, the Director-General noted that “what we are celebrating today is not so much the commemoration of a past event but pride in our capacity to respond with courage, energy and commitment to the challenges of our time.”

Membership

UNESCO has 191 Member States and six Associated Members. Most have established National Commissions to represent their countries and provide a focal point for UNESCO headquarters and field offices, civil society and national governments.

National Commissions are unique to UNESCO in the UN system: strongly involving civil society, they function as essential partners to UNESCO and act as catalysts to involve key national actors in the Organization’s five programme areas of Education, Natural Sciences, Social & Human Sciences, Culture, and Communication & Information.

Main Functions in its Fields of Competence

- **Laboratory of Ideas:** serves as a think tank to facilitate understanding, in the light of the ethical principles that it champions, of the most important issues in its fields, and to identify strategies and policies to deal with them
- **Standard Setter:** serves as a central forum for articulating the ethical, normative and intellectual issues of our time, fostering multidisciplinary exchange and mutual understanding
- **Clearinghouse:** has a role in gathering, transferring, disseminating and sharing available information, knowledge and best practice, identifying innovative

solutions and testing them through pilot projects

- **Capacity Building:** provides technical expertise and organises international cooperation to assist countries in building human and institutional capacity
- **Catalyst for International Cooperation:** as a technical multidisciplinary agency, assumes a catalytic role for development cooperation, seeking to ensure that projects are implemented, in particular at regional and national levels innovatively and effectively

Structure and Governance

UNESCO’s headquarters is in Paris. It supports 58 field offices and several institutes and centres throughout the world. Member States establish Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, also based in UNESCO Headquarters, which ensure liaison between Governments and UNESCO’s Secretariat.

UNESCO’s three principal constitutional organs are:

1. **The General Conference.** The paramount decision-making body for UNESCO’s policies and major undertakings. All Member States have the right to be represented, each with one vote. From 1946 to 1952 the General Conference met every year. Since then it has met normally every two years.

Decisions of the General Conference are made by a simple majority vote, except for certain constitutionally-specified matters, such as amending the UNESCO Constitution or adopting an international convention, that require a two-thirds majority.
2. **The Executive Board.** 58 Members elected by the General Conference, each serving a four-year term. It meets at least twice a year. It supervises the execution of UNESCO’s programme, and reviews the budget estimate and work programme for the following two-year period and submits its recommendations to the General Conference.
3. **The Secretariat.** Responsible for carrying out UNESCO’s programmes. It is headed by the Director-General, operating with staff from some 170 countries appointed by him. Currently over 30% of the staff work in field offices.



Strategy, Budget and Programmes

UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) outlines the Organization's major objectives for six-year cycles and provides direction for its programme and budget, which runs on two-year cycles (referred to as a "biennium").

The programme and budget evolves as it comes under the scrutiny of the Executive Board and General Conference through each biennium.

The 2002-2007 MTS is formulated around a single unifying theme – UNESCO contributing to peace and human development in an era of globalisation through education, the sciences, culture and communication.

The five UNESCO programme sectors and their current priorities are:

- **Education:** Basic education for all, with special attention given to literacy, HIV/AIDS prevention education and teacher training in sub-Saharan Africa; secondary education; quality education; higher education
- **Natural Sciences:** Water and associated ecosystems; oceans; capacity-building in the basic and engineering sciences, formulation of science policies; application of science, engineering and technologies for sustainable development
- **Social & Human Sciences:** Ethics of science and technology with emphasis on bioethics; human rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination and intolerance; foresight; philosophy; management of social transformations
- **Culture:** Promoting cultural diversity, with special emphasis on tangible and intangible cultural heritage; cultural policies as well as intercultural and interfaith dialogue and understanding; cultural industries and artistic expressions

- **Communication & Information:** Empowering people through access to information and knowledge with special emphasis on freedom of expression; communication development; advancing the use of ICT for education, science and culture

Member States pay an annual subscription towards UNESCO's regular budget. Some also voluntarily give further contributions to support specific areas of UNESCO's work. For the 2006-7 biennium, the Organization's total regular budget is US\$610m (the UK's subscription accounts for 7%) and the extra-budgetary contribution is US\$408m.

UNESCO and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders agreed to a set of time bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. Eight goals were set to be achieved by 2015. Progress was reviewed at the World Summit held at the UN General Assembly in September 2005. Increased efforts and coordination were urged especially at country levels. As part of the UN system, UNESCO pursues the MDGs through its strategy and activities.

Through the new MTS (2008-2013), whose consultation and preparation process started in May 2006, UNESCO will review its programme in the context of today's global needs and emerging priorities. It has already begun to implement and align its programme with the 2005 World Summit Outcome document, which addresses many issues of relevance for UNESCO, such as Education for All, cultural diversity, sustainable development, communication and information, action in support of Africa, women's empowerment, and promoting international dialogue and a culture of peace.

The UK National Commission for UNESCO

The United Kingdom was one of the founding members of UNESCO. In the wake of the 1939-45 world war the Governments of the UK and France convened a conference with a view to setting up an organisation dedicated to education and culture. 44 countries were represented at this conference, held in London from 1 to 16 November 1945.

Two British scientists, Joseph Needham and Sir Julian Huxley, pleaded for an organisation that would include scientific matters. Thus was born UNESCO: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its Constitution was signed in the Great Hall of the Institute of Civil Engineering in London in 1945.

The sponsoring department for UK relationship with UNESCO is the Department for International Development (DFID). It is responsible for the UK's subscription to UNESCO and provides the core funding for the UK National Commission's Secretariat and activities.

Recent History

The UK rejoined UNESCO in 1997, having left the Organization in 1985. In the interim, interest in the Organization and its ideals remained. Activities were taken up and kept alive both through the ad hoc activity of individuals and by civil society organisations such as Friends of UNESCO. Between 1997 and 2000 when the UK National Commission's structure was the subject of consultation and debate, Friends of UNESCO and the then United Nations Association Parliamentary Working Party on UNESCO combined to form the UK UNESCO Forum, providing a "single voice of UK civil society".

In its initial form, the UK National Commission operated between 2000 and 2003. While work began with enthusiasm, difficulties arose which caused it to be discontinued in March 2003.

Thereupon, the former Chairs of the main Committees gathered a large group of concerned individuals, both from the lapsed National Commission and outside (the Campaign

Group), and lobbied for reinstatement. Hilary Benn, who had become the Minister of State for International Development, was encouragingly receptive. With advice from the UK Permanent Delegation, in a landmark meeting at the end of March 2004, now as Secretary of State, Hilary Benn approved a rapid re-start of the UK National Commission. It has been successfully operating since that time.

UK National Commission for UNESCO

The UK National Commission was set up as an independent body, working in partnership with Government and closely with the UK Permanent Delegation. It elected to operate within the context of the Government's three main objectives in its relationship with UNESCO:

1. to develop UK input to UNESCO policy-making and debate, from all parts of the UK and all sections of society;
2. to build a more effective UNESCO which achieves positive outcomes in areas in which it has competence;
3. to encourage support in the UK for UNESCO's ideals and work.

Key Objectives

1. to provide expert analysis, comment and advice as input to UK policy-making on key UNESCO programmes and issues;
2. to bring to the attention of Government aspects of UK policy towards UNESCO or matters in which UNESCO has legitimate interest, which in the National Commission's opinion need to be reviewed or enhanced by Government;
3. to participate as far as practical in UNESCO's programmes, their preparation and evaluation, in debates and in decision-making activities;
4. to develop capacity to reach out to UK civil society, through a wide variety of channels, so as to enable as many people and organisations as possible to understand more about UNESCO, and to participate in its programmes and debates;
5. to facilitate the management of UNESCO activities in the UK;
6. to develop constructive working relationships with the UNESCO Secretariat and with other National Commissions.



I was delighted to relaunch last year the UK National Commission for UNESCO. The Commission has an important role in improving UK input into all aspects of UNESCO policy-making and debate, and in helping build a more effective UNESCO.

There is a particularly important job to be done this year in helping UNESCO galvanise global efforts to meet the education Millennium Development Goals, including giving all children access to primary education by 2015.

The UNESCO National Commissions are a unique feature of the UN system and are, above all, valuable because the experts in many of the sectors over which UNESCO has competence are outside the traditional domain of government. This is particularly true of science and culture. The Commission has already begun excellent work in improving UK input to UNESCO's science and culture policies.

I look forward to working in partnership with the Commission in the years to come.



Hilary Benn in January 2005

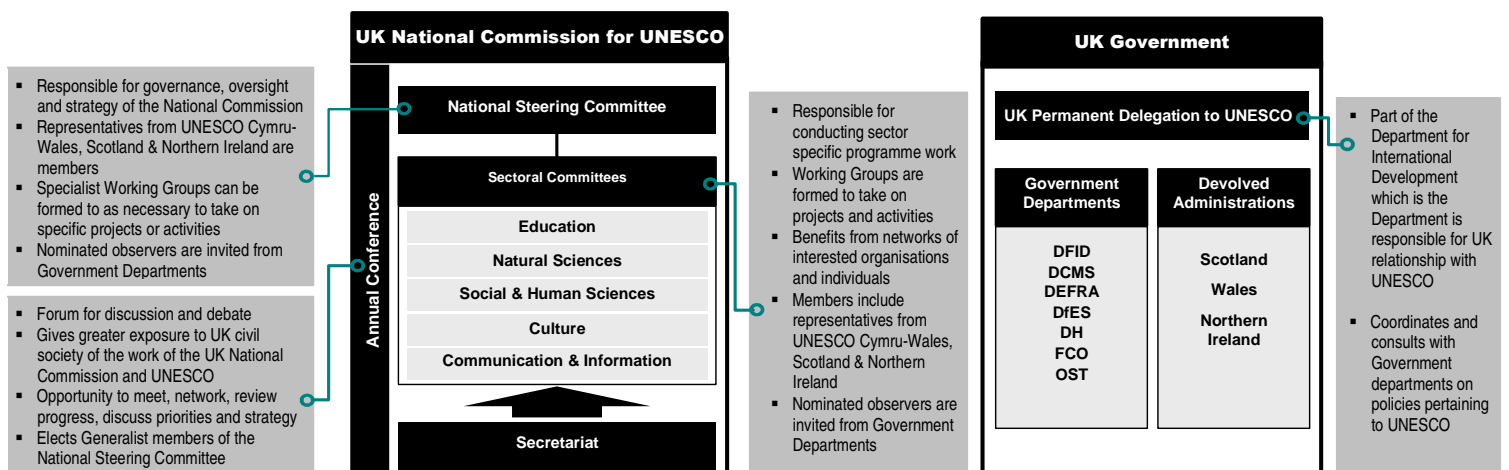
Structure and Membership

The UK National Commission centrally comprises a National Steering Committee, sectoral Committees and Working Groups in Education, Natural Sciences, Social & Human Sciences (while there is activity for this programme, the Committee is still to be fully convened), Culture, and Communication & Information, all supported by a Secretariat. Its overall structure and membership reflect the devolved nature of UK Government. It supports an Annual Conference to extend further the outreach and exposure of its work to civil society interests.

Overall, the membership includes over 150 individuals, bringing in their wide expertise and valuable access to intellectual communities in the respective sectors.

- The **National Steering Committee** is responsible for overall governance, oversight and programme strategy. It is also the main channel of advice to Government on issues transcending sectoral programmes. It contains normally 12 members of civil society: five elected sectoral Committee Chairs and four elected generalists (initial members were appointed by the Secretary of State for International Development following invited nominations), and one representative each from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Committee also supports cross-sectoral issues and has identified peace and security, Africa and sustainable development as the three areas on which to focus efforts.

- The **sectoral Committees** have direct responsibility for conducting the programme work and operate through Working Groups and networks. Members of the Committees are nominated by civil society institutions and interest groups and act as individuals in their own right; each includes a representative from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- **Nominated observers** are invited from the UK Permanent Delegation, Government Departments and Devolved Administrations to sit on the National Steering Committee and sectoral Committees, and on Working Groups if required. Observers do not have the right to vote but otherwise participate fully in meetings, advise on issues and act as return channels to their source.
- The **Annual Conference** is organised as a forum for discussion and debate, including as wide representation as possible from interested institutions, groups and individuals.
- The **Secretariat** is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the UK National Commission and servicing the various Committees and Working Groups. It has evolved over the time since it was set up in July 2004. Currently, there are three full-time staff. A number of interns and volunteers have provided assistance over the period.



Promoting UNESCO's Work

Since its re-launch in 2004, the UK National Commission has been active in raising awareness of UNESCO's ideals and work and of their relevance to today's global needs.

Website and Publications

The National Commission's website (www.unesco.org.uk) came online in November 2005 and has been well received by visitors as an information source and communication tool.

Publications in 2005 and 2006 included:

- Report of International Seminar "Literacy: Britain's Response to the Global Challenge" (2 December 2005)
- Report of UK Launch Conference of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (13 December 2005)
- International Seminar on the 2001 UNESCO Convention on Underwater Cultural Heritage: Collection of Papers (28 October, 2005)
- A comprehensive paper entitled "Achieving Peace & Security: do Education, Sciences, Culture and Communications Matter?" was sent to UK Government Departments, noting that that UNESCO's areas of competence are highly relevant to UK priorities on promoting peace and security.

Advising Government on UNESCO-related Matters

The UK National Commission has been actively engaging relevant Government Departments to discuss the common ground between the Government's priorities and UNESCO's strategy and programmes especially in education, science and development, culture policy, and Africa.

Since 2004, a series of visits to the UK have been arranged for the Assistant Director-Generals (AD-Gs) of several of the UNESCO programme Sectors. These visits have helped to familiarise UK Government, civil society organisations and the UK National Commission more fully with UNESCO's work, and vice versa. Reciprocal visits to Paris were also organised for Government Department representatives and National Commission members to meet with relevant programme staff.

The AD-Gs for Natural Sciences, Education, and Communication & Information have made such visits to the UK. In the past two years the Director-General himself has visited the UK twice and meetings with the UK National Commission were arranged.

Chairs and Members of the sectoral Committees are also making links and building working relationship with relevant Government Departments and with UNESCO programme Sectors.

Providing Expert Advice to Government

As part of the UK National Commission's remit of providing expert advice to Government on UNESCO-related matters, the National Commission made a number of formal responses to Government public consultations.

The National Commission's Culture Committee responded to the DCMS public consultation on the proposed UK ratification of the 1954 'Hague' Convention; the Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee's Inquiry on 'Protecting, preserving and making accessible our Nation's Heritage'; and the Highway Agency's public consultation on Stonehenge and the A303 Improvements.

The National Commission also responded to the Commission for Africa's public consultation and to the Government's White Paper "Eliminating World Poverty".

UNESCO Chairs in the UK

At present, there are seven UNESCO Chairs in the UK. The UNESCO Chairs form part of the UNITWIN (University Education Twinning and Networking Scheme) launched in 1992 to promote higher education, training and research activities in fields such as Education, Human Rights, Cultural Development, Environment, Natural and Engineering Sciences and Communications. The principal beneficiaries of this programme are institutions of higher learning in developing countries and countries in transition.

in the UK and beyond

UK UNESCO Chairs in:

Information and Communication Engineering, established in 1998 at City University. Chairholder: Professor Florin Popentiu Vlădicescu

Education for Pluralism, Human Rights and Democracy, established in 1999 at the University of Ulster. Chairholder: Professor Alan Smith

Interfaith Studies, established in 1999 at the University of Birmingham. Chairholder: Professor Jonathan Webber.

Higher Education Management, established in 2000 at the University of Bath. Chairholder: Professor Richard Mawditt

Intercultural Studies and Teacher Education, established in 2000 at the University of London. Chairholder: Professor Jagdish Gundara

Political Economy of Education, established in 2005 at the University of Nottingham. Chairholder: Professor W. John Morgan

Education as a Humanitarian Response, established in 2005 at the University of Oxford. Chairholder: Dr Colin Brock

Professor John Morgan (University of Nottingham and UNESCO Chairholder) is responsible for coordinating UNESCO Chair activities in the UK.

The first formal meeting of the UNESCO Chairs Group took place on 13 May 2006 during which strategies for closer collaboration and coordination were discussed. The Group's Terms of Reference has now been approved by the UK National Commission's National Steering Committee and efforts will be put to widening the network with priorities in the fields of Natural and Human Sciences, Engineering, Culture, and Communications.

Beyond the UK:

Promoting Literacy at the Cannes Lions Advertising Competition

The Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival is an annual week-long gathering of over 8,000 of the world's advertising, creative, film, radio, media, and marketing communities. Each year, the Festival organisers work with an international organisation or charity to devise a brief on a topical issue for a design competition for young advertising executives.

At the 52nd International Festival which took place in June 2004, the UK National Commission and UNESCO's Basic Education Division worked with the Festival organisers on a brief "Literacy: to produce graphic and cyber designs to

promote literacy among young people".

The collaboration was a success on all fronts. The UK National Commission Secretariat, working closely with Dr Peter Lavender of NIACE, provided the competition brief. Dr Namtip Asornkool, UNESCO programme specialist, attended the Festival and provided technical advice to competitors on aspects of literacy.

UNESCO and the issue of literacy benefited from the publicity accorded by the international press. More than 900 media professionals and journalists attended the Festival. Major television broadcasters such as CNBC covered the event.

UNESCO's image and visibility were enhanced outside its traditional partnership network. UNESCO's logo, in association with the publicity of the event, was featured in major international media including a full page of USA Today, The Financial Times, and The Guardian, among others. The winning work is published in major national newspapers around the world such as The Bangkok Post, The Philippine Daily Inquirer, and Estado de Sao Paulo. The Festival magazine featured a full page on the event and a column on literacy. The winning posters were also used for UNESCO's International Literacy Day (September 8) promotion.

Study Visit of Japanese Students

In January 2006, approached by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, the UK National Commission hosted part of a study visit by students and teachers from the Kyoto Municipal Horikawa Senior High School. The students were winners of the Vodafone Mobile Eco School Awards 2005 for their innovative design in utilising portable telephones as instruments to gather data for studying photochemical smog.

Among other activities, the party visited the Great Hall of the Institute of Civil Engineering in which the UNESCO Constitution was signed in 1945. The students also had the opportunity to present and discuss their design to students at a local school in Newbury and spend a day in class with the local students.

Ensuring the UK's Contribution to UNESCO

The UK has been one of the most vocal in advocating UNESCO's continued reform for improved effectiveness. The UK National Commission has made significant headway in coordinating and providing constructive input to UNESCO.

In addition to participating in the Executive Boards and General Conference, members of the UK National Commission continue to build close working relationships with counterparts in other National Commissions and with UNESCO programme specialists at Headquarters and in Field Offices.

Executive Boards

At UNESCO's Executive Boards the UK National Commission through its Chair works in partnership with the UK Permanent Delegation to promote the UK position on enhancing UNESCO's effectiveness.

Action in the past two years to effect a review of the Sciences, both individually and with partner countries, has been particularly influential.

General Conference

The 33rd session of the General Conference, coinciding with the UK's presidency of the European Union, took place between 3 and 21 October 2005.

It was a successful General Conference for the UK. A delegation of 11 representatives from the UK National Commission and colleagues from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and the Department of Health (DH) participated with the UK Permanent Delegation over the duration of the proceedings.

The UK was elected to four intergovernmental committees¹ and was also co-submitter of the Draft Resolution calling for an overall review of UNESCO's Natural and Social & Human Sciences programmes.

A number of important meetings were held at the General Conference in which the UK was an active participant, including the Ministerial Roundtables on Education for All and on Basic Sciences and the panel discussion on enhancing cooperation between National Commissions and the International / Intergovernmental Scientific Programmes. The Rt Hon. Baroness Amos, Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council, delivered the EU and UK statements in the General Conference's plenary session on 4 October.

Four important standard-setting instruments were adopted at the General Conference: the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, the International Convention Against Doping in Sport, the UNESCO / OECD Guideline on Quality Education, and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The UK supported all of them. Representatives from DH, DfES and DCMS were involved extensively in the drafting and negotiation of the instruments.

The Secretariat of the UK National Commission coordinated its delegation to the General Conference, which involved extensive preparation, briefings, administration and production of a post-Conference report.

Participation at the Youth Forum

With the support of the UK Permanent Delegation, two youth delegates, Dipti Shah and Nazia Patel, attended the fourth UNESCO Youth Forum, held in Paris between 29 September and 2 October 2005, with the theme "Young People and the Dialogue among Civilisations, Cultures and Peoples - Ideas for Action in Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication".

Participants comprising delegates from 128 Member States and observers from international youth networks, governments, and National Commissions totalled 229. The Forum's final report with the young people's recommendations and proposals for concrete action was, for the first time, presented to the opening session of the 33rd General Conference and adopted as an official document of the Conference.

¹ International Hydrological Program Council (IHP); International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB); Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee

Regional Consultation for National Commissions

The 2004 Regional Consultation in Zurich took place shortly after the UK National Commission was re-established. Three members of the National Steering Committee, Professor Alec Boksenberg, Sian Healey and Professor John Morgan constituted the UK delegation.

Two years on, the UK National Commission is preparing to contribute more actively to the Regional Consultation in Athens, reflecting its importance in contributing to UNESCO's new Medium-Term Strategy and the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009.

EFA and Reform at UNESCO

Christine Whatford (Chair of the Education Committee and Vice Chair of the UK National Commission) was part of the UK delegation at the 2004 EFA High Level Group meeting in Brasilia. The UK National Commission subsequently wrote to the Director-General with observations of the proceedings, strongly urging more steps be taken to ensure that UNESCO proactively takes up its leadership role in coordinating EFA efforts internationally.

The same message was conveyed equally emphatically at the various Executive Boards, resulting in a review in 2005 of UNESCO's overall EFA strategy and targets. The UK National Commission looks forward to continue working closely with UNESCO's Education Sector under its newly appointed AD-G for Education, Peter Smith.

Overall Review of the Sciences

The UK National Commission, working through the UK Permanent Delegation and in partnership with other National Commissions, initiated a significant process for a fundamental review of UNESCO's programme in the Sciences.

This culminated in the adoption by the 33rd General Conference of resolution 33 C/COM.III/DR.2 submitted by Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the UK for an overall review of Major Programmes II (Natural Sciences) and III (Social & Human Sciences) against the background of UNESCO's mandate, country and regional priorities and today's global needs. The Review will be conducted in consolidation with the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5).

Unique for UNESCO, this is a bottom-up review to be carried out by a coordinated body containing a multidisciplinary team

of expert scientific representatives of Member States working together with counterpart representatives of the UNESCO Secretariat. The Chair of the UK National Commission, Professor Alec Boksenberg, is a member of the Review Committee (see page 16).

Working with other National Commissions

The UK National Commission is among the more active and visible at UNESCO.

At the meeting of Presidents and Chairs of National Commissions during the General Conference in October 2005, the UK, represented by its Chair, was one of the panellists and was also elected to its newly constituted Steering Group of 14 members, drawn from all UNESCO's Regions, "collaborating to advance UNESCO's programmes in Member States, to improve the visibility of the Organization, to increase the effectiveness of National Commissions and to engage with the Secretariat through the Director General".

In addition to working in association with many National Commissions, since 2004 the UK National Commission has received visits from the Australian, New Zealand, Danish and Jamaican National Commissions.

The UK National Commission has been requested by the Singapore Government for assistance in its preparations to set up its own National Commission.

Financial Support

DFID provides the core operational funding for the UK National Commission. This includes Secretariat salaries, related and administration costs, and general support for the business of the Committees. DfES currently provides additional funding for the Education Committee. Further contributions come from the Devolved Administrations for support of the locally constituted structures.

To support the UK rejoining the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), in October 2005 the Council for Education in World Citizenship agreed to fund and host the National Coordinator until 2007 (see page 15).

The UK Government has been providing extra-budgetary support for important aspects of UNESCO's work, including support for the Institute for Statistics (based in Montreal, Canada) and for the Education for All Global Monitoring Report Team (based at UNESCO).

Education

UNESCO's priorities in Education are: basic education for all, with special attention given to literacy, HIV/AIDS prevention education and teacher training in sub-Saharan Africa; secondary education; quality education; higher education. UNESCO is tasked with the international coordinating role for Education for All (EFA).

The UK National Commission's Education Committee has four Working Groups: (i) Education for All; (ii) Education for Sustainable Development (ESD); (iii) Africa; (iv) Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

Education Committee

The Committee was constituted in November 2004. Its 23 members reflect a broad spectrum of the UK education sector with experts in primary, further and higher education, vocational training, and formal and informal education.

It works in collaboration with the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for International Development (DFID), whose representatives sit on the Committee as observers. DfES provides additional funding for the Committee's programme activities.

Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR) Launch in London: 9 November 2005

The global launch of the 2006 EFA GMR "Literacy for Life" was held at the Whitechapel Idea Store with the collaboration of the Education Committee, UNESCO and DFID.

Speakers included The Rt Hon. Baroness Amos (Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council), Mr Koichiro Matsuura (UNESCO Director-General) and Dr Nicholas Burnett (Director of the GMR). A highlight of the event was testimony by Anwara Begum, a local resident from Bangladesh who spoke about her experience of learning to read and write as an adult in the UK.

The Whitechapel Idea Store is one of seven such Stores pioneered by the Tower Hamlets Council to create a network of adult education, library and information services rooted

within the local community. In addition to a traditional library service, Idea Stores offer a wide range of adult education classes, along with career support, training, meeting areas, and other facilities.

The decision to launch the GMR globally at the Idea Store reflected the attention given in the GMR to enriching the literate environment through community-based services, access to ICT facilities and adult education opportunities.

Follow-up events in the UK were taken up actively by the Education Committee and partner organisations, including seminars to discuss the literacy challenge (see below) and sponsoring a lecture and discussion jointly with the Council for Education in the Commonwealth for Dr Nicholas Burnett at the House of Commons on 24 January 2006.

"Literacy for All: Britain's Response to the Global Challenge" International Seminar

The Committee's Africa and Education for All Working Groups, in association with the UK Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET) and the British Association for Literacy in Development (BALID), organised the International Seminar on 2 December 2005 at St Antony's College (University of Oxford).

As the first of a two-stage discussion forum in the UK on the global literacy situation after the 2006 GMR launch, it focused on the Report's findings and discussed approaches to policy and to the practice of literacy programmes and how to share best practice. Recognising the range of literacy expertise and resources in the UK, it explored areas in which civil society could constructively engage with, and contribute to, UNESCO's and other international literacy programmes.

The Seminar was attended by a wide range of participants, representing perspectives from international organisations, Government, public agencies, academic teaching and research, international students, and voluntary organisations.

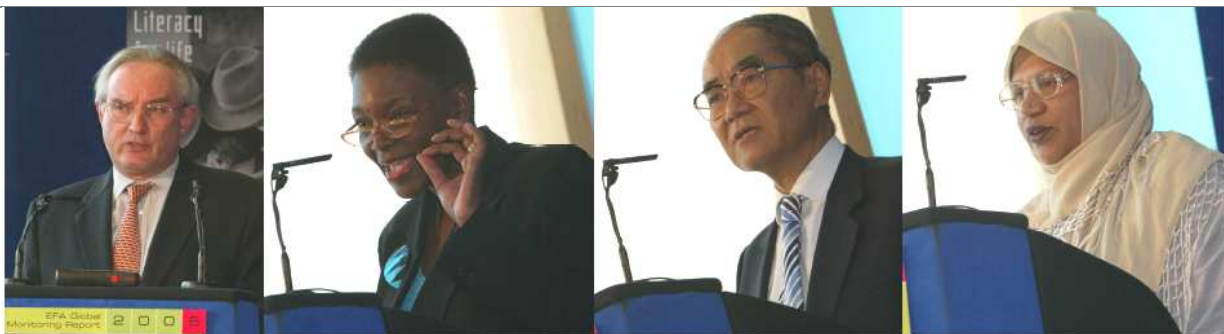
International and UK speakers included Dr Adama Ouane (Director of the UNESCO Institute of Education in Hamburg), Dr Leslie Limage (UNESCO Division of Basic Education), Professor Alan Rogers (University of East Anglia), Dr Janine Eldred (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education

**Global Launch of the 2006
Education for All Global
Monitoring Report at the
Whitechapel Idea Store**

photos@Tower Hamlet

(from left to right)

**Nicholas Burnett ,
The Rt Hon. Baroness Amos,
Koïchiro Matsuura,
Anwara Begum**



(NIACE)), Mr Andrew Nelson (DfES), Dr Rosemary Preston (University of Warwick) and Professor Lalage Bown (Council for Education in the Commonwealth).

EFA Research Projects

Three research projects are currently underway, all of which are germane to UNESCO's EFA priorities. Reports on all three projects are set to be published later in 2006.

Professor Bob Moon (Open University) is leading a study on teacher training in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on issues surrounding recruitment, training, policy and roles that the international community can play in contributing to solutions to the problems around teachers and teaching education.

Dr Janine Eldred (NIACE) is directing a scoping study of family learning and literacy in the UK, with the objective of assessing the scope for sharing UK experience in the context of the development of education in Africa.

In addition, Dr Colin Brock (University of Oxford; UNESCO Chairholder) is conducting a research project "Education as a Humanitarian Response".

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD or the "Decade")

The Committee recognises the importance of DESD and its linkages across all other sectors in the UK National Commission. To mark the UK launch of the Decade, the ESD Working Group, chaired by Doug Bourn (Development Education Association), organised a Conference entitled "From Local to Global: The Long Term Vision for the Decade" on 13 December 2005 at the Institute of Education.

The Conference provided an opportunity for practitioners, policy makers, civil society and the general public to discuss UNESCO's DESD strategy, the UK's contribution and how further to contribute towards ESD practices in the UK.

Over 200 participants representing perspectives from ESD practitioners, Government, the Devolved Administrations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector attended. Dr Mary Joy Pigozzi (Division for the Promotion of Quality Education, UNESCO) and Professor William Scott (University of Bath) were among the keynote speakers.

The ESD Working Group is currently undertaking a wide consultation to define its future role in coordinating the UK's contribution to the Decade.

Africa in the UK

The Committee's Africa Working Group, chaired by Professor Peter Williams of the Council for Education in the Commonwealth, is developing a project to engage schools in the UK to promote awareness of the positive contributions that Africans and Africa have made to life and culture in the UK. Materials will be produced to show Africa's contribution through the professions and other walks of life and in areas such as music, literature, sport and food that are part of everyday life in the UK.

Engagement of African Diaspora organisations and individuals is crucial to the project. A seminar was held in April 2005 to initiate dialogue and listen to presentations of ongoing work and activities. Speakers included Nyeye Yan (GHARWEG), Mama Toro (African Women's Arts Culture and Development International Network), Bob Awuor (African Community Development Foundation), Onyekachi Wambu (African Foundation for Development).

Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)

ASPnet was launched by UNESCO in 1953 with the UK playing a leading role. The UK, however, had not been a member since 1985.

Professor Richard Ennals of Kingston University led the research and consultation on requirements, and in October 2005 recommended that the UK re-join the programme.

The Council for Education in World Citizenship (CEWC) currently provides the UK National Coordinator (Les Stratton), whose role is to support schools through provision of resources and information, working closely with other partners in the sector,

A Steering Group, chaired by Professor Lynn Davies, serves as a forum for discussion and provides project oversight. Since October 2005, Les Stratton and his team have been actively developing the programme and network of participating schools with a target of 100 ASPnet schools by 2007.

Natural Sciences

UNESCO's Natural Sciences programme focuses on: water and associated ecosystems; oceans; capacity-building in the basic and engineering sciences, formulation of science policies; application of science, engineering and technologies for sustainable development.

Priorities of the UK National Commission's Natural Sciences Committee are: (i) review of UNESCO's Sciences programme; (ii) promoting actions on UK-UNESCO collaboration in science; (iii) science and technology capacity building for sustainable development and revitalising the higher education system through partnerships with Africa; (iv) increasing cooperation and coordination among the UNESCO Intergovernmental / International Scientific Programmes (ISPs).

The Committee, through its Chair, works closely with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe.

Natural Sciences Committee

The Committee was constituted in February 2005 with 24 members representing the scientific specialisms of a wide spectrum of learned institutions and bodies in the UK.

Included in the Committee are the UK National Committee Chairs of four of UNESCO's International / Intergovernmental Scientific Programmes (ISP): Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and International Geoscience Programme (IGCP).

Review of UNESCO's Sciences Programme

Since April 2005, the Committee, through its Chair (and Chair of the UK National Commission) Professor Alec Boksenberg acting with the UK Permanent Delegation, has been advocating a fundamental review of UNESCO's Sciences programme, therein to reassess its priorities in the light of progress made, changing needs both globally and in-country, and allied work across the UN and other bodies.

A significant intervention by the UK was made in UNESCO's Executive Board at that time. In the same year the Nordic Countries and the UK (later joined by France and Slovenia) co-submitted a Draft Resolution to the 33rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference, calling for a forward-looking overall review and planning of the Natural Sciences and Social & Human Sciences programmes that forms an integral part of the preparation of the MTS 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and related Programme & Budget 2008-2009 (34 C/5).

An important premise, unique for UNESCO, was that this review would be effected through direct participation of a distinguished body of experts from the Member States working together with the Secretariat. This received the full support of the General Conference and the Resolution was adopted.

The Review Committee (15 nominated experts from all UNESCO's Regions and six senior members of UNESCO's Secretariat) with the UNESCO Deputy Director-General as Chair is now formed and to date has held two meetings, in March and May 2006. Professor Alec Boksenberg is a member and a Vice Chair of this Committee.

UK-UNESCO Cooperation in Natural Sciences

The UNESCO AD-G for Natural Sciences, Walter Erdelen, visited the UK on a four-day mission in October 2004, invited by the Committee's Chair and the UK Permanent Delegation.

A series of high-level meetings were held with Government Departments (DFID Central Research Department, Office of Science and Technology, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Science and Innovation Group), and specialist scientific institutions (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Eden Project, Science Museum, BBC, The Royal Society).

An important outcome of the meetings was the reciprocal recognition of the common aims and considerable scope for cooperation in science and technology for international development, which would mutually enhance the programmes within Government and UNESCO.

The Chilean oceanographic buoy, 280 miles off the coast of Iquique (Northern part of Chile). Tsunami warning system (depth : 4967 meters). © Valparaiso, Chile/Shoa

UNESCO, through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is working to establish a Regional Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean to detect tsunamis before they strike.

A similar warnings system already exists in the Pacific Ocean.



A project was set up in the beginning of 2005 involving UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector, the Natural Sciences Committee and the UK Permanent Delegation. The latter also provided funding for a staff member in UNESCO to progress the identified actions from the visit into concrete activities.

A large array of potential activities has been identified in follow-up visits to Paris and the UK, including:

- negotiating with the BBC on the use and distribution of BBC scientific documentaries in developing countries, especially in Africa (now also involving the Communication & Information Committee);
- exploring development of training courses and programmes for scientific journalists, biodiversity scientists and for sustainable development;
- arranging various exhibitions and seminars to raise awareness of UNESCO-related issues in the UK and vice versa.

Africa, Science and Development

The Commission for Africa's (CFA) report identified higher education institutes and centres of excellence in science and technology as priorities for sustainable development for Africa. It was recommended that UNESCO work with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU) to set up a high-level working group to complete a detailed programme for implementing the CFA recommendations, building on the AU/NEPAD mapping of science and technology capacity.

In taking forward the CFA's recommendation, the Committee, primarily through its Chair, has been working with UNESCO, the UK Permanent Delegation and DFID in initially vitalising UNESCO's cooperation with the AU/NEPAD science and technology activities in Africa.

The Committee has established an Africa Working Group to promote North-South (and South-south) partnerships aimed at facilitating the development of research capacity in Africa. UNESCO supported, through DFID and the UK Permanent Delegation, the Second African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST II) in September 2005 in Dakar where NEPAD's Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action was adopted. The NEPAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the AU Commission and

UNESCO, will develop the Terms of Reference and establish the AU-NEPAD-UNESCO High-Level Working Group to prepare a comprehensive programme for establishing and funding centres of excellence in accordance with the CFA recommendations.

The Committee is also working with the UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector on the following initiatives planned for 2006:

- mapping UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector's work in Africa, cross-linking with other Sectors, to provide a basis to facilitate dialogue with UK partners, and to identify comparative advantages and strategic priorities for input into global efforts
- organising exchanges for key UK partners, in particular DFID, to share experience and identify synergies with UNESCO

Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Reception at the House of Lords

The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme was launched in 1970 with the objective of reducing biodiversity loss and improving the relationship of people with their environment globally. It has a global network of Biosphere Reserves, which serve as vehicles for knowledge sharing, research, education and training. They can also provide learning and demonstration sites in the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). There are currently nine Biosphere Reserves in the UK, only two of which are operational.

To raise awareness in UK Government and civil society of MAB activities, Andrew Bell, Chair of the UK MAB Committee, with the support of the UK National Commission and UK Permanent Delegation, organised a reception at the House of Lords on 15 March 2006.

Promotion of Science Prizes and Fellowships

The L'ORÉAL-UNESCO For Women in Science (FWIS) partnership is a unique example of the private sector and an intergovernmental institution working together to recognise the achievements of women scientists, and to raise the profile of women in science globally. Since its creation in 1998, 126 women scientists from 59 countries have been recognised for excellence in research and awarded fellowships to pursue their careers.

Natural Sciences (cont'd)

Between March and September 2005, the UK National Commission and L'OREAL UK worked closely to raise awareness of and promote the 2006 FWIS fellowships among UK universities and research institutes.

Four out of the 15 fellowships awarded in 2006 are to current research students at UK universities. The Committee looks forward to continue working closely with L'OREAL UK to promote the 2007 fellowships and to explore further collaborative initiatives.

The Chair of the Committee was on the jury of the 2005 UNESCO Science Prize (for outstanding contribution to the technological development of a developing country or region) and the Javed Husain Prize for Young Scientists (for pure or applied research conducted by natural or social scientists aged 36 or younger).

UK Committees of UNESCO Intergovernmental / International Scientific Programmes (ISPs)

With the four UK National Committee Chairs of UNESCO ISPs in the Natural Science Committee, it is the Committee's objective to increase cooperation and coordination across the programmes. The ISP Chairs have formed a Working Group to explore synergies and propose joint operational enhancements through cooperation.

At the 33rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference, the Committee's Chair was on the panel of the Round Table "Promoting Closer Cooperation between National Commissions and the National Committees of the ISPs".

A follow-up workshop at the end of January 2006 in Berlin was organised by the German National Commission. Andrew Bell and the Committee's Chair represented the Committee. A framework of action to strengthen cooperation between National Commissions and ISPs was agreed and a report of the proceedings has been published.

The UK IGCP Committee, chaired by Professor Joe Cann, met with the UNESCO IGCP Secretary Robert Missotten in August 2005 to discuss the direction of the programme. A submission was subsequently made to UNESCO outlining the UK's recommendations and was well received.

Reconstruction of Scientific Cooperation in South East Europe (SEE)

The Committee's Chair has had a long association with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture as a member of its Scientific Council. He was Chair of the International Working Group on Restoring and Improving the Human Potential in Research in SEE, set up within the framework of its initiative to reconstruct scientific cooperation in the post-conflict countries of SEE.

He also carried out an expert mission in Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia & Montenegro to support the astronomical communities of the region in joining collaborative partnerships in observational astronomy through use of enhanced telescopic instrumentation that could serve as a regional resource. The government authorities, inspired by the initiative, contributed to the installations, demonstrating the catalytic value of such action.

Additionally, he successfully recommended resources for Directors and senior scientists of main astronomical research institutions from seven SEE countries to meet, form a Sub-Regional Committee, plan joint activities and prepare significant collaborative research proposals for submission to funding organisations, including UNESCO's International Basic Sciences Programme.

Participation at International Conferences

- International Conference Biodiversity: Science and Governance (Paris, January 2005)
- International Conference Building Science & Technology Capacity with African Partners (London, January 2005)
- International UNESCO/ICSU/TWAS Symposium on World Conference on Science Follow-Up - Harnessing Science for Society: Further Partnerships (Venice, March 2005)
- Ministerial Round Table The Basic Sciences: The Science Lever for Development (at the 33rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference, October 2005)
- Launching of Academics Across Borders Initiative: Opportunities and Options (UNESCO, Paris, November 2005)
- World Science Forum (Budapest, November 2005)
- Institute of Civil Engineering Conference "Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals: Scaling-up Investment in Infrastructure" (London, November 2005)

Social and Human Sciences

UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Programme gives priority to advancing knowledge, standards and intellectual cooperation to facilitate social transformation where the values of justice, freedom and human dignity can be fully realised.

The social and human sciences have a vital role to play in helping to understand and interpret the social, cultural and economic environment; thereby helping to reduce the gap between what is and what should be.

The Programme's principle priorities are: ethics of science and technology with emphasis on bioethics; human rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination and intolerance; foresight; philosophy; management of social transformations.

Its mandate is to promote research, to identify and analyse trends, and to propose paths of action including: (i) determination of what should be (ethics and human rights); (ii) anticipation of what could be (philosophy and prospective studies); (iii) study of what is (empirical social science research).

Social & Human Sciences Committee

A Committee is in the process of being constituted in the UK National Commission. Involvement in social and human sciences, especially in bioethics and the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, is currently being taken up by individual members.

Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme

Professor John Morgan (Director of the Centre for Comparative Education Research at the University of Nottingham and UNESCO Chair of the Political Economy of Education) is a member of UNESCO's Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education (PEACE) Programme and has been the focal point for the National Commission's working links with MOST.

Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology

The Department of Health (DH) has been at the lead of UK bioethics policy and consultations on the issue of bioethics. It is also the lead Government Department on UNESCO-related conventions and issues.

The UK delegation, advised by Dr Sophie Taysom (DH), an observer of the UK National Commission's National Steering Committee and Natural Sciences Committee, has been involved in the drafting, elaboration and negotiation of the Universal Draft Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, the first of such instrument linking bioethics and human rights. The Declaration was adopted by acclamation at the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005.

At the same session of the General Conference, the UK was elected to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC).

The IGBC was created in 1998, comprising 36 Member States tasked with examining the advice and recommendations of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (IBC). The IBC is a body of 36 independent experts created in 1993 to follow progress in the life sciences and its applications to ensure respect for human dignity and freedom. IGBC is the only global forum for in-depth bioethical reflection. It informs the IBC of opinions and submits these opinions to the UNESCO Director-General for transmission to Member States, the Executive Board and the General Conference.

Professor Sheila McLean (University of Glasgow) was nominated in March 2006 to be a member of the IBC.

Culture

UNESCO's Culture programme focuses on promoting cultural diversity, with special emphasis on tangible and intangible cultural heritage; cultural policies as well as intercultural and interfaith dialogue and understanding; cultural industries and artistic expressions.

Work and projects in the UK are undertaken through the Culture Committee and its three Working Groups: (i) Conventions; (ii) Input to Government culture policy and strategy; (iii) Culture and sustainable development.

Culture Committee and Network

The Committee comprises 18 experts representing a wide range of UK cultural and heritage organisations. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is an observer on the Committee. In addition, there is a network of interested organisations from which expertise will be drawn on a project-specific basis.

The Committee aims at being the formal link between civil society, Government (including the Devolved Administrations) and UNESCO on matters relating to culture, specifically in co-ordinating civil society's contribution to UNESCO, to UNESCO conventions, and to UK policy on UNESCO's programme in the culture sector.

The Conventions Working Group

The Working Group, chaired by Dr David Gaimster of the Society of Antiquaries of London, has the remit of assisting the UK National Commission and the Culture Committee in defining their positions on UNESCO Culture conventions and providing advice to Government with respect to the UK's position on the conventions (including those that the UK has and has not ratified). The Working Group comprises 12 specialists and has identified six priority conventions.

The range of projects being developed includes transfer of good practice in convention enforcement, implementation and monitoring to developing countries; and initiation and continuation of discussions in the UK on conventions not yet ratified. More specifically, the Working Group plans to assist Government in undertaking regulatory impact assessment before the UK ratifies the 2005 Convention for the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions.

The Working Group is also evaluating the sustainability and future of the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

The UK has not ratified the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage but has shown interest in its principles. A pilot project is underway, led by Gwyn Edwards (representative of UNESCO Cymru-Wales on the Culture Committee and also member of the Conventions Working Group) to highlight aspects of intangible heritage across the UK.

The Conventions Working Group will Initially Focus on the Following

Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention plus Protocol (1954); Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1999), together, the "Hague" Convention *

Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export & Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)*

Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)*

Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)*

Convention for the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions (2005)**

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) ***

* the UK has not ratified ** UK Government has expressed intention to ratify *** the UK ratified the Convention in 1984.

Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: International Seminar

The Culture Committee was part of a steering group¹ of NGOs that organised a one-day international seminar to discuss the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage at the Society of Antiquaries of London. The UK has not yet ratified the Convention though support was expressed for its principles and objectives.

The Seminar was attended by over 100 delegates from Government, national heritage agencies and key voluntary bodies. It was intended to initiate a dialogue and provide a forum for discussion to examine how the Convention's aims and objectives could be taken forward by the UK. A

¹ Steering Group comprises Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, Society of Antiquaries of London, Institute of Field Archaeologists Maritime Affairs Group, Nautical Archaeology Society, Council for British Archaeology

World Heritage Education Forum (WHEF) at the University of Newcastle. © Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership

(from left to right)

International WHEF students on their first day visit to Birdoswald

A student from the Galapagos admires finds at Vindolanda



collection of the papers delivered is available and a full report is planned for later in 2006.

Convention for the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions

Between 2001 and 2003 the Culture Committee of the previous UK National Commission provided input to DCMS at the drafting of the Convention, which was adopted at the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005. The UK has indicated its intention to ratify the Convention. The current Culture Committee will continue to work closely with DCMS and assist in the Department's regulatory impact assessment exercise in 2006.

Providing Expert Advice to UK Government on UNESCO Cultural-Related Matters

Part of the Committee's remit is to provide independent and expert analysis, comment and advice to Government on UNESCO-related cultural matters. In 2006, the Committee responded to the following public consultations:

- DCMS public consultation on the proposed UK ratification of the 1954 'Hague' Convention
- Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee's Inquiry on "Protecting, preserving and making accessible our Nation's Heritage"
- The Highway Agency's public consultation on Stonehenge and the A303 Improvements

UNESCO University and Heritage Forum

Dr Peter Stone (University of Newcastle) organised two UNESCO Culture conferences in 2005: (i) the World Heritage Education Forum (6-11 April); (ii) the International Seminar of the Network of Universities Forum UNESCO (11-16 April).

The World Heritage Education Forum was attended by teachers and students from seven UK and seven overseas schools. Participants had the opportunity to see two of the UK's World Heritage sites – Hadrian's Wall and Durham Castle and Cathedral and also role-played the World Heritage process and evaluated the nomination documentation of one of UK's prospective World Heritage sites.

The International Seminar of the Network of Universities Forum UNESCO was its 10th session and was entitled

"Cultural Landscapes in the 21st Century: Laws, Management and Public Participation: Heritage as a Challenge of Citizenship". The Seminar was attended by some 340 participants from 46 countries who took part in discussions investigating the division between cultural and natural landscapes and questioned the impact of the division.

Following the successful conclusion of the Seminar, UNESCO requested a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Newcastle to create a UK member of the UNESCO University and Heritage Forum. A project with four strands is being developed, focusing on building cultural heritage capacity Africa. The project has received support from the UK National Commission's Culture Committee, Education Committee and National Steering Committee and is currently being further explored with Government Departments and other stakeholders.

World Heritage and the UK

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) comprises 21 members and is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The UK was a member on the WHC between 2001 and 2005. Dr Christopher Young of English Heritage (also a member of the Culture Committee) was part of the delegation.

There are 26 World Heritage sites in the UK, including iconic tourist attractions like Stonehenge, with cultural as well as economic value. World Heritage sites can also serve as a focal point in raising awareness of UNESCO's activities, and provide linkage to work in education, citizenship, science, climate change, etc. The UK's leadership position in cultural heritage management provides a sound basis for knowledge transfer and capacity building in developing countries.

The Committee was requested by the WHC to review and comment on the management plan for the Avebury site after concern was raised by a local county society. In its submission to the Highway Agency's consultation on Stonehenge and the A303, the Committee urged the Government to opt for the "Published Route" and to take decisive action. The Committee is also an observer on the All Party Parliamentary Group on World Heritage Sites and the Local Authority World Heritage Forum.

Communication and Information

UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector aims to promote the "free flow of ideas by word and image", focusing on: empowering people through access to information and knowledge with special emphasis on freedom of expression; communication development; advancing the use of ICTs for education, science and culture.

The Sector also supports two intergovernmental programmes: the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

Work and activities in the UK context are undertaken by the Communication and Information Committee and its three working groups (i) Freedom of Expression; (ii) Media in the Public Interest; (iii) Information Societies.

Communication and Information Committee

The Committee was constituted in April 2005 after an information meeting in February. It comprises 25 experts in media, journalism, communications and ICTs and aims to be the link between civil society, Government (including the Devolved Administrations) and UNESCO on matters relating to communication, media and development, specifically in co-ordinating civil society's contribution to UNESCO and to UK policy on UNESCO's programme in the sector.

There is a wide and expanding network of interested organisations (e.g. the Press Freedom Network) which the Committee engages with and draws expertise from, on a project-specific basis. The Committee has a working relationship with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and is working to build a closer relationship with DFID.

The Committee is grateful to Clifford Chance, an international law firm, for providing the venue for its meetings since 2005.

World Press Freedom Day (May 3)

The Committee, in conjunction with the Press Freedom Network, has been active in organising events to commemorate World Press Freedom Day in the UK. 2006 is

the fifth year that such have been organised.

The 2006 event took the form of a debate entitled "Freedom of Expression is Sacred" held at the House of Commons. 110 participants took part in a lively discussion centred around the publication of 12 cartoons in Denmark in September 2005, which brought discussion on the principles of freedom of expression and respect for individual religious convictions to the fore.

Since the publication of the cartoons, the world's media have been torn by uncertainty on how to react. Some editors have been more reticent than others. Some face threats and persecution. The question is whether this will have lasting consequences for free speech.

In the chair was William Horsley (BBC European Affairs Correspondent). Speakers included Dr Maleeha Lodhi (High Commissioner for Pakistan), Roger Koeppl (chief editor of *Die Welt*), Lord McNally (Leader of Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords), Brian Whitaker (Middle East editor of *The Guardian*), Steve Herrmann (editor of BBC News Interactive), Lasse Ellegaard (Politiken of Denmark), Peter Tatchell (Human Rights activist), Ibrahim Seaga Shaw (editor of *Expo News*), Abdul-Rehmen Malik (contributing editor of *Q-News*), Ben Ramm (editor of *The Liberal*) and Professor Ivor Gaber (University of Luton).

In Wales, four parallel events were organised by UNESCO Cymru-Wales (see page 24).

Battle of the Somme – First British Inscription on the Memory of the World Register (2005)

The Imperial War Museum's 1916 documentary "The Battle of the Somme" is the first and only British film to be inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, a list of library collections and archives established in 1992 to preserve and promote documentary heritage of universal value.

Der Welt a leading German newspaper who published the cartoons on the front page on 2 February 2006. *Q-News* is a leading Muslim magazine in the UK.

World Press Freedom Day 2006 debate in London. Photos©Harold Stern

1. The High Commissioner for Pakistan and William Horsley (©Abid Ali), 2. Lord McNally, 3. Abdul-Rehmen Malik, 4. Lasse Ellegaard, 5. Peter Tatchell; 6. Roger Koeppel, 7. Ivor Gaber, 8. Ben Ramm, 9. Brian Whitaker, 10. Steve Herrmann; 11. Ibrahim Seaga Shaw



2006 is the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. The Imperial War Museum is planning a series of events to mark the occasion, including a gala screening of the film. The Committee plans to work with the Museum in raising awareness of the Register and assisting others in the UK, as well as in developing countries, with the application process.

Initiatives on Heritage Preservation using Technology

Through Professor Ivor Gaber (University of Luton; Vice Chair of the Committee) a number of initiatives are being developed in Uganda. The Committee is working with the Culture Committee in identifying how best to assist the Uganda Directorate of Information in preserving its national archives.

A project is also being explored with the UNESCO Communication & Information Sector to safeguard heritage in developing countries which are at high risk of war or internal conflict by creating databases of artefacts held in their museums, libraries and archives. The project will complement similar existing schemes on locating and tracking stolen heritage items.

Africa

The Committee has decided initially to focus its efforts on African countries such as Uganda and Ghana with whom relationships have already been initiated.

In Uganda, the Committee is assisting the Uganda Directorate of Information in evaluating the state of their national archives. It is also exploring collaboration with the Uganda National Commission in providing policy advice to the National Library and training for journalists.

In collaboration with the Natural Sciences Committee, talks are underway between the BBC and UNESCO in relation to the distribution of a selection of BBC's Horizon programmes in a number of African countries.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

The Committee's Information Society Working Group is keen to support the follow-up from WSIS which took place in Tunis in November 2005, especially in providing coordination

between UK civil society, Government and UNESCO with the objective of assisting UNESCO in its role of facilitator and moderator on seven of the 11 Action Lines in the Geneva Plan of Action. Briefing meetings were held with the FCO and are being arranged with the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI).

UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

IPDC aims to enhance media capacity "in order to address the needs of developing countries where people are prevented from expressing their aspirations, from sharing and accessing information and from making informed decisions vital to long-term economic and social development". The multilateral component of IPDC's work offers an alternative to bilateral support to the media and, under the auspices of UNESCO, does not compromise the independence of recipient organisations. It is therefore an important add-on to UNESCO's work in the Sector.

The UK is currently not a member of IPDC. However, the Committee feels that the UK has much to offer especially in relation to media policy and is evaluating the merits of joining the Programme. With the support of the UK Permanent Delegation, Gareth Price (Vice Chair of the Committee) attended the IPDC Intergovernmental Council Meeting in March 2006 as an observer. A recommendation was made to the Committee in May and a final decision is due later in the year.

Journalist Safety

At the World Electronic Media Forum at WSIS, the International Federation of Journalists and the International News Safety Institute presented a draft resolution to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, calling for an internationally recognised instrument to improve the safety and security of journalists in situations of armed conflict.

The Committee extended its support for the draft resolution and, with the endorsement of the National Steering Committee, is taking steps not only to raise awareness of journalist safety issues but to work with the FCO and journalist organisations to take the resolution further at UNESCO and the UN.

Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

The UK National Commission's Constitution requires that membership in all part of the UK National Commission should reflect the devolved structure of Government in the UK.

From the outset, representatives of the Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Government have been members of the National Steering Committee, with plans that local civil society Committee structures be set up in the respective Countries as part of the UK National Commission.

With the support of the Welsh Assembly Government, UNESCO Cymru-Wales was set up in 2005 and has since been actively formulating projects around a number of key priorities. Members also engage directly with the UK National Commission's Sectoral Committees. Currently a similar structure is being formed in Scotland.

UNESCO Cymru-Wales

UNESCO Cymru-Wales



UNESCO Cymru-Wales was established with support from the Welsh Assembly Government in 2005 and was launched by Jane Davidson,

Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, at the National Eisteddfod in Bangor.

Professor Michael Scott was elected as Chair and Dr Elizabeth Hughes, Deputy Chair. Professor Scott was involved in the campaign for the UK's re-entry into UNESCO in the 1990s. Dr Hughes' work is in the field of integrating conservation and development and she has been involved in work relating to UNESCO interests in Africa and other parts of the developing world for many years.

The Committee is drawn from across the whole of Wales.

Mission Statement and Structure

UNESCO Cymru-Wales is the link between civil society in Wales and UNESCO's work in contributing to peace, human development and sustainability through education, the sciences, culture and communication.

The Committee seeks to ensure that Wales contributes fully to and benefits from UNESCO's programmes; influences the Welsh Assembly and UK Governments' priorities on UNESCO issues; and communicates UNESCO's work to the people and organisations of Wales.

Chairs of the UNESCO Cymru-Wales sub-committees sit on the relevant sectoral Committees of the UK National Commission. The Chair of UNESCO Cymru-Wales is a member of the UK National Commission's National Steering Committee. A representative of the Welsh Assembly Government sits on the UK National Commission's National Steering Committee as an observer.

Projects:

World Press Freedom Day events

The first public events to be organised by UNESCO Cymru-Wales were those to commemorate World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2006. Four events were hosted across Wales in association with local partners:

- Aberystwyth (in partnership with the Department of International Politics, University of Wales Aberystwyth): a reception followed by a discussion forum on the theme of 'Violence, Suffering and the Media in Africa'.
- Bangor (in partnership with the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign): A showing of the film 'The World Stopped Watching' about the social and political situation in Nicaragua since the revolution and the war, with particular emphasis on the role and experiences of journalists. The film was followed by a panel discussion.
- Swansea (in partnership with Undercurrents): Showing of a series of videos, including: 'Mark Thomas Comedy Show' about media freedom; 'Breaking News'; 'Globalisation and the Media'.
- Wrexham (in partnership with the North East Wales Institute of HE): A Poetry and Music evening around the subject of media and poverty eradication and press freedom in general.

Up-grading of Biosphere Reserve in Wales

UNESCO Cymru-Wales has given financial support to a community engagement and education process in relation to the expansion and more effective management of the Dyfi

World Press Freedom Day event in Aberystwyth,
one of four events organised by UNESCO Cymru-Wales.

photos© UNESCO Cymru-Wales

Discussion forum on “Violence, Suffering and the Media in
Africa”



Biosphere, to enable it to retain its status within the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. Committee members are also offering their support and expertise to the process.

Bid for World Heritage Sites in Wales

The Committee is putting its support behind the bid by Wrexham Borough Council to have Thomas Telford's pioneering engineering structure, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct at Froncysyllte, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Telford's Aqueduct was opened in 1805 and was not only an amazing feat of engineering and mathematical prowess but was also remarkable for safety of the workforce. It is still in operation as part of the Llangollen Canal.

Intangible Heritage in Wales

In close collaboration with the Culture Committee of the UK National Commission, the Committee is pursuing the case for UK Government ratification of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the recognition of the Eisteddfod movement under the Convention.

Community Radio in Africa

This project aims to support the development of community radio stations in Africa (initially in Ghana and Uganda) and to link these with community radio stations in Wales. The project aims to improve technical expertise and know-how; provide an accessible tool for education and information flow; and enhance cultural understanding and exchange between nations.

Training for teachers & health workers in Africa

The Committee recognises the importance of and the need to help develop capacity for training teachers and health workers in Africa. This is a major challenge which UNESCO Cymru-Wales is currently exploring and about which it will collaborate with UNESCO and the UK National Commission in due course.

Research

Research is currently underway by members of UNESCO Cymru-Wales to identify a coherent thematic framework for

further areas of long-term activity in relation to Africa in particular.

Providing Expert Response to Public Consultations

In line with its aim to influence the Welsh Assembly and UK Governments' priorities on UNESCO issues, UNESCO Cymru-Wales submitted formal responses to the DFID public consultation “Eliminating World Poverty” and the Welsh Assembly Government's consultation on International Sustainable Development.

Scotland

The Scottish Executive has received Ministerial approval to establish a UNESCO Committee in Scotland in 2006. An initial meeting is planned for September 2006 and will be hosted by the International Development Group.

A representative from the Scottish Executive currently sits on the UK National Commission's National Steering Committee and acts as liaison for sectoral Committees.

Scotland has longstanding connections with UNESCO. Four out of the 26 World Heritage Sites in the UK are in Scotland. Edinburgh was the first UNESCO City of Literature, named in 2004. The University of Dundee contains the first UNESCO Centre of Excellence in the UK: the UNESCO Centre of Water Law, Policy and Science which was officially launched at the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005.

Northern Ireland

A representative of the Northern Ireland Government sits on the UK National Commission's National Steering Committee.

On sectoral Committees, the interests of Northern Ireland are represented through Government observers and by civil society members serving on Committees.

Northern Ireland contains one UNESCO heritage site, the Giant's Causeway, Causeway Coast and a UNESCO Centre is located in the Education Faculty of the University of Ulster.

Looking Ahead

The UK National Commission has achieved much since 2004. Looking ahead, the overarching challenges are to (i) continue its development to maximise the impact of its work (ii) raise UNESCO's profile and awareness of the role of the UK National Commission in the UK, (iii) further engage UK civil society and Government to broaden its action.

The UK National Commission will continue to advocate the reform agenda at UNESCO and provide constructive input and practical advice.

Sectoral Committees will continue evolving their priorities and expanding their respective civil society networks and outreach. The National Steering Committee will intensify action on overarching priority issues.

Awareness and Profile Raising

The UK National Commission will make a concerted effort to raise awareness and deepen understanding of its work and the role of UNESCO. Across Government, it will continue to inform and cross-link policy and activities in the fields of education, science, culture, communication, sustainable development and capacity building, especially in Africa.

Through its sectoral Committees and Working Groups, it will continue to engage with civil society at large and broaden its support networks.

The UK National Commission's website will continue to be the main channel for communicating and disseminating news and information. A communication strategy is being formulated which will give structure and coherence to the National Commission's initiatives and activities and guide the engagement with the media.

In addition, a number of public events are being planned, the first of which is the Inaugural Conference of the UK National Commission taking place in June 2006.

Reform at UNESCO

In fulfilling its remit of building a more effective UNESCO, the UK National Commission will continue to advocate the need

for the Organization to focus on areas of its core competency, and will provide constructive input and advice. Reform at UNESCO should also be viewed in the context of the UN-wide reform process to modernise the UN in order to fulfil growing expectations and demands placed on it by the international community.

UNESCO holds a unique place in the UN and the international system. On a global level, UNESCO has the potential of leading on policy and dialogue in its areas of competence; further utilising its standard setting role by providing a forum to set objectives and policies and by developing normative instruments; and ensuring monitoring and evaluation of progress. On a country level, UNESCO can focus on ensuring that local programmes are not only well-designed but fit into the country's national strategy and priorities and benefit from the wider UN regional and national coordinating efforts.

Formalising the UK National Commission's Structure

Since its re-launch in March 2004 the UK National Commission has been working under constructive interim operating arrangements.

Currently it is evaluating a permanent structure which appropriately reflects its status and ethos and enables it to formalise its financial arrangements to support the expanding scope of its work. Discussions are being held with DFID with the objective of completing the transition before the end of 2006.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

With the successful establishment of civil society representation in Wales, setting up a similar UNESCO Committee in Scotland is planned before the end of 2006.

The UK National Commission will continue to involve and engage organisations and individuals in Scotland and Northern Ireland in its activities.

The UK National Commission will also build on the existing productive working relationship with UNESCO Cymru-Wales.

Social & Human Sciences Committee

The UK National Commission aims to set up its Social & Human Sciences Committee before the end of 2006. Currently, work and interests in the sector are being taken up by individual members of the National Commission and coordinated through the National Steering Committee.

Inaugural Conference of the National Commission

The UK National Commission's inaugural Annual Conference is planned for 17 June at the University of Nottingham. This will be the first annual conference since 1985.

The Conference is entitled *UK and UNESCO: Challenges and Opportunities*. In addition to reporting on progress, the Conference will focus on looking to the future and preparing to meet the challenges ahead.

It will bring together its current members, many from the wider community who have direct interest in UNESCO's work and given support to the UK National Commission, external partners and colleagues from the UK, and colleagues from UNESCO. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for all to meet, network, review progress and take part in shaping the agenda and priorities of the National Commission in the near and longer term.

Specific Priorities and Activities:

Education

The Committee is planning events surrounding the launch of the 2007 EFA GMR whose theme is "Early Childhood". Three research studies are due to be published with associated seminars planned. The Committee is planning to engage actively with Government on its international education policy and priorities.

Natural Sciences

The Committee's focus will continue to be on engagement in UNESCO's Overall Review of the Sciences. In addition, Working Groups will formulate and take forward activities in individual and institutional capacity building in science and technology and renewal of the higher education system for sustainable development in Africa, UNESCO-UK cooperation in science, increasing cooperation among UNESCO's

Intergovernmental / International Scientific Programmes. The Committee will also explore furthering its working relationship with L'OREAL UK.

Culture

The Committee plans to assist DCMS in the regulatory implementation impact assessment exercise on the 2005 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions. The pilot project on UK intangible heritage will be pursued. On World Heritage matters, the Committee looks to input to UNESCO on the future and implementation of the World Heritage Convention, and use of World Heritage as a platform to raise awareness of UNESCO's activities in the UK.

Communication & Information

The Committee continues to support follow-up actions to the World Summit in the Information Society. It will also provide input to UNESCO on its media and Public Service Broadcasting policy. It will continue to work with the FCO and others in taking forward the issue of journalist safety.

Cross-Sectoral Activities

The Cross-Sectoral Working Group on Peace and Security will continue to work with the FCO and DFID to input and influence the UK Government's conflict, peace and security policy.

The Education Committee's Education for Sustainable Development Working Group is undertaking a wide consultation to define a coordinating role for UK's contribution to the Decade, with the potential of expanding to involve other Sectoral Committees.

In relation to capacity building in Africa, the National Commission and its Sectoral Committees will actively coordinate their efforts and activities.

UNESCO Chairs network in the UK

The Group plans to expand the existing network to include a more diverse spectrum of disciplines and expertise, especially in social & human sciences, engineering, culture and communication.

Appendix

Constitution

Preamble

UNESCO is an organisation dedicated to intellectual cooperation and practical action in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. This is aimed at promoting the inseparable goals of peace, mutual understanding and equitable and sustainable human development.

To achieve these aims UNESCO needs the support and involvement of the widest possible constituency in its member states. It has therefore established a world-wide network of National Commissions. Unique to UNESCO in the UN system, these function as essential partners within the Organisation, acting as catalysts to involve key national actors in its fields of competence.

Article I CONTEXT

1. Her Majesty's Government recognises the need for an effective UK National Commission for UNESCO (hereafter, National Commission), designed and tasked to work closely in partnership with it and able to engage educational, scientific, cultural and other UK organisations and actors in the work of UNESCO.
2. It accords the National Commission a legal status as an independent organisation with the responsibilities and conditions governing its operation as defined in this Constitution, and the authority and specific financial means to enable it to carry out its functions effectively.
3. The National Commission works within the context of the Government's three main objectives in its relationship with UNESCO:
 - (a) to develop UK input to UNESCO policy-making and debate, from all parts of the UK and all sections of society;
 - (b) to build a more effective UNESCO which achieves positive outcomes in areas over which it has competence;
 - (c) to encourage support in the UK for UNESCO's ideals and work.

Article II OBJECTIVES

1. Working in partnership with Government and maintaining close collaboration with the UK Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, the National Commission's main objectives are:
 - (a) to provide expert analysis, comment and advice as input to UK policy-making on key UNESCO programmes and issues;
 - (b) to bring to the attention of Government aspects of UK policy towards UNESCO or matters in which UNESCO has legitimate interest, which in the National Commission's opinion need to be reviewed or enhanced by Government;
 - (c) to participate as far as practical in UNESCO's programmes, their preparation and evaluation, in debates and in decision-making activities;
 - (d) to develop a capacity to reach out as broadly as possible to UK civil society, through a wide variety of channels, so as to enable as many people and organisations as possible to understand more about UNESCO, and to participate as widely as possible in its programmes and debates;
 - (e) to facilitate the management of UNESCO activities in the UK;
 - (f) to develop constructive working relationships both with the UNESCO Secretariat and with other National Commissions.

Article III STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

National Commission

1. The National Commission is composed of a National Steering Committee, sectoral Committees widely engaging civil society community expertise, and a Secretariat. To extend further the outreach and exposure of its work to civil society interests it supports an Annual Conference with participation invited from as wide representation as possible.
2. The sectoral Committees give focus and vitality to the work of the National Commission. Five Committees, operating with specific expert networks and ad hoc working groups, cover UNESCO's major programme sectors - Education, Natural Sciences, Social & Human Sciences, Culture, and Communication & Information. A flexible and adaptable approach is taken to establishing and operationally maintaining these structures, with individual specific needs and ways of working accommodated as deemed to be required for each sector.
3. The membership in all parts of the National Commission should reflect the devolved structure of Government in the UK. In its work the National Commission, while responsible for coordinating its activity across the UK, ensures that it takes full account of where policy and accountability for that policy lies in the Countries of the UK and that it reflects differences where these exist.
4. The membership in all parts of the National Commission should reflect and draw on the broadest possible range of UNESCO-related professional and interest groups. By nature of its composition and functioning the National Commission is capable of informed decision-making and action.
5. The National Commission in its membership, its code of conduct and its practices follows tenets of democracy, equality, clarity, openness, accountability and transparency, and generally is guided by Nolan principles.

National Steering Committee

6. The National Steering Committee is responsible for the governance, oversight and programme strategy of the National Commission. It is also the main channel of advice to Government on issues transcending individual sectoral programmes. Through its Chair (the Chair of the National Commission), together with the UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, it directs the Secretariat's strategic functions and work plan.
7. It contains normally twelve members of civil society: five elected sectoral Chairs, ex officio (paragraphs 19 and 21 of this Article relate); normally four elected generalists having interest in UNESCO and knowledge of its areas of competence (paragraph 29(d) of this Article relates; initial members are appointed by the Secretary of State for International Development following invited nominations); and one member each from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who is identified in the light of locally agreed arrangements. Overall, it should represent an extensive range of complementary expertise and UNESCO experience. When a sectoral Chair is unable to attend, his/her Deputy Chair may substitute.
8. There is a Chair and two Deputy Chairs, elected by the members of the Committee from among their number.
9. Each member is appointed for a term of normally three years and may be elected for further terms. The term of office for the Chair and Deputy Chairs is three years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms (six years in total). After the initial three years of full operation of the National Commission the membership has a turnover rate of approximately a third of the total every three years, maintaining a balance between continuity and renewal as determined by the Committee.
10. The UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, and representatives of other parts of Government including the Devolved Administrations, attend as observers but do not have the right to vote.
11. Where necessary the Committee establishes specialist cross-sectoral working groups, drawn from all parts of the UK, to examine urgent relevant issues, each operating for the duration of specific tasks.
12. The Committee meets normally four times a year; a quorum is six members. Members remain in regular electronic contact between meetings. Wherever possible, decisions are taken by consensus; if this cannot be achieved, a decision by majority vote of the full Committee is required, if necessary communicating electronically.
13. A record of each meeting is taken and normally is made publicly available in full on the National Commission's website. There may however be circumstances (e.g., discussion of appointments and of other personnel issues) when reports of specific items, with the Committee's agreement, are withheld.
14. Each year the Committee with support by the Secretariat is responsible for the preparation of a full report of the work of the National Commission over the past year and a forward business plan, for information of Government and for wide dissemination to civil society organisations and other interested groups.
15. On occasions throughout the year the Committee may consult participants of the Annual Conference on specific issues, communicating electronically (paragraph 33 of this Article relates).

Sectoral Committees

16. The National Commission's sectoral Committees are the bodies having direct responsibility for the conduct of the work in the programme sectors, either within sectors or jointly across sectors.
17. Each works according to its needs with the wide participation of civil society experts within specific networks and ad hoc working groups.
18. The functions of each sectoral Committee are:
 - (a) to accumulate and contribute to knowledge about UNESCO programmes and procedures and to maintain a coherent overview of the work of its sector and its relationship with other sectors;
 - (b) according to individual needs and preferences, to involve its national communities from all parts of the UK by setting up expert networks operating electronically, to disseminate information and for specific consultations;
 - (c) with the agreement of the National Steering Committee, to establish appropriate temporary working groups of experts within or jointly across sectors, drawn from all parts of the UK, accountable to it for specific tasks;
 - (d) to make all strategic decisions for initiation, progression, evolution and curtailment of activities for the work in its sector;
 - (e) to give advice and make recommendations for action to the National Steering Committee;
 - (f) with the agreement of the National Steering Committee, to be the channel of advice for its sector to Government;
 - (g) with the agreement of the National Steering Committee, to seek outside funding support or support in kind for specific programmes.
19. Each sectoral Committee contains normally ten to fifteen experts, whose knowledge and experience cover the fullest possible range of the sector concerned and whose affiliations facilitate extensive access to the intellectual communities in the sector. Members are selected by the National Steering Committee from a number nominated by relevant, representative civil society institutions and interest groups. In addition, each includes one member each from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who is identified in the light of locally agreed arrangements.
20. The members representing Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, each working through their sectoral Committee, individually may set up regional contact groups to assist them to engage with relevant expert communities in their sectors for purposes of disseminating information and gaining advice.
21. Each sectoral Committee has a Chair and Deputy Chair, elected by the members from among their number. The Chair sits on the National Steering Committee.
22. Each member is appointed for a term of normally three years and may be selected for further terms. The term of office for a Chair and Deputy Chair is three years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms (six years in total). After the initial three years of full operation of the National Commission the membership has a turnover rate of approximately a third of the total every three years, maintaining a balance between continuity and renewal as determined by each sectoral Committee.
23. Nominated observers invited from the UK Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and other parts of Government including the Devolved Administrations, attend meetings, advise on issues of interest and concern and act as return conduits, thus encouraging the development of a shared approach to key issues.
24. Sectoral Committees interact as necessary with the Secretariat in UNESCO's Sectors, Regional Offices and other bodies, with their counterparts in other National Commissions, and with the UK Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.

25. Sectoral Committees normally meet three times a year but their main form of communication is electronic. A quorum for meetings is six members, or 50%, whichever is less. Wherever possible, decisions are taken by consensus; if this cannot be achieved, a decision by majority vote of the full Committee is required, if necessary communicating electronically.
26. A record of each meeting is taken and normally is made publicly available in full on the National Commission's website. There may however be circumstances when reports of discussions of specific items, with a sectoral Committee's agreement, are withheld.
27. Each sectoral Committee with support by the Secretariat prepares an annual report on its past year's activities and next year's plans, for discussion with the National Steering Committee and as its draft contributions to the National Commission's annual report and forward business plan.

Annual Conference

28. For the purpose of giving greater exposure to civil society of UNESCO's aims and programmes and the work of the National Commission, and with the participation of the National Steering Committee and sectoral Committees, an Annual Conference held in different parts of the UK is organised as a forum for discussion and debate, including as wide representation as possible from interested institutions, groups and individuals.
29. The Annual Conference has four functions in the context of UNESCO's activities:
 - (a) to hear a report from the National Commission on the previous year's work;
 - (b) to discuss specific ideas and strategies for the coming year;
 - (c) broadly to discuss topical UNESCO issues;
 - (d) to elect the generalist members of the National Steering Committee.
30. The Annual Conference is advertised as widely as possible: by direct notice, on the National Commission's website and in the press.
31. A list of participants and record of proceedings of each Annual Conference is made publicly available in full on the National Commission's website.
32. From time to time throughout the year participants are kept informed of the work of the National Commission through its statutory publications and a Newsletter.
33. On occasions throughout the year participants may be consulted on specific issues by the National Steering Committee, communicating electronically.

Secretariat

34. The duties of the Secretariat are to support and facilitate the work of the National Commission (specifically, the work of all its Committees, namely the National Steering Committee and the sectoral Committees, together with all related committees, networks and groups including those in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) as broadly defined in Articles I & II. It also acts as an office for the National Commission (of which it is part), responsible for its day-to-day operation and acting as the point of liaison.
35. The main tasks of the Secretariat are:
 - (a) thoroughly to acquaint itself with the work and procedures of UNESCO and to keep the Committees of the National Commission and their related bodies in touch with work and events at UNESCO;
 - (b) to perform specific tasks on behalf of the Committees of the National Commission and their related bodies on request (e.g. maintaining UNESCO literature, setting up databases, researching or assessing specific information);
 - (c) to advise the National Steering Committee together with the UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO on priorities for action by the National Commission;
 - (d) to service all communications and meetings of the Committees of the National Commission and their related bodies;
 - (e) to organise the Annual Conference;
 - (f) to assist in the formulation of advice to Government (paragraphs 6 and 18.(f) of this Article relate);
 - (g) to carry out the important day-to-day National Commission work for UNESCO (e.g. relating to the Associated Schools Scheme, UK nominations for UNESCO prizes, etc);
 - (h) to interact with UNESCO's Secretariat and the Secretariat of other National Commissions as appropriate opportunities arise;
 - (i) to develop and maintain a website for the National Commission and
 - (j) to engage in UNESCO outreach work to as wide a cross-section of UK civil society as possible, where appropriate linking with the Committees of the National Commission (this total area to be no more than 20% of the effort of the Secretariat).
36. A contract for the provision of the Secretariat is operated through the Department for International Development (DFID), initiated by an open tender process.
37. The Secretariat normally is made up of three people: an Executive Secretary at its head, supported by two other individuals. The Executive Secretary post is full time as are the other posts, although job share arrangements for the latter can be envisaged.
38. The Executive Secretary reports and is accountable for all purposes save financial accountability, jointly to the Chair of the National Commission (on behalf of the National Steering Committee) and the UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. They jointly agree with the Executive Secretary his/her annual work plan and budgetary disbursements on behalf of the National Commission, and are responsible for his/her performance assessment.
39. The Executive Secretary is responsible for managing other staff in the Secretariat, and agreeing their work plans jointly with the Chair of the National Commission (on behalf of the National Steering Committee) and the UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO.
40. For financial accountability purposes, the Secretariat is responsible to DFID through the UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO.

Article IV FUNDING

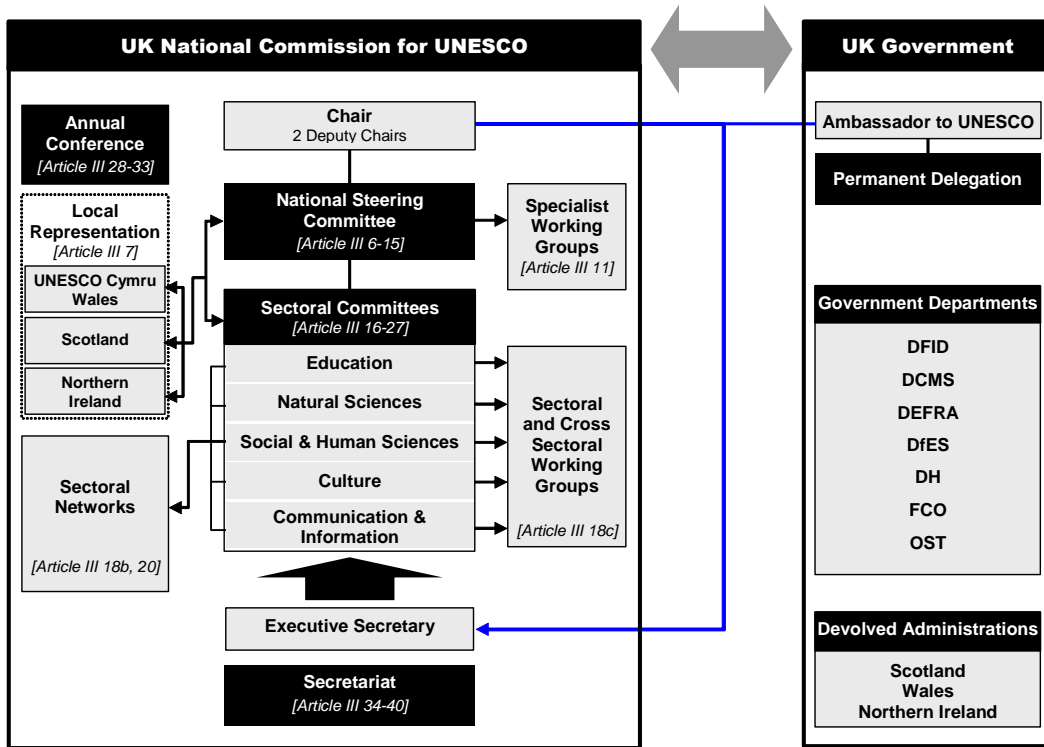
1. DFID provides the core operational funding for the National Commission, recognising that without this financial contribution it could not function. This includes Secretariat salary, related and administration costs, funds to support the day-to-day work, and the travel and subsistence costs of members for meetings and business of the Committees of the National Commission.

- Financial contributions are also sought from other Government Departments and the Devolved Administrations for the fuller support of activities, including contributions towards administrative costs.

Article V AMENDMENTS

- Amendments to this Constitution must be recommended by the National Steering Committee, with a two thirds majority, to the Chair of the National Commission. The Chair would then approve an amendment only with the agreement, after consultation with other Government Departments and the Devolved Administrations, of the Secretary of State for International Development who retains the right of veto.
- Amendments to the functioning and responsibilities of the Secretariat must be agreed jointly by the Chair of the National Commission (on behalf of the National Steering Committee) and the UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO.

Date of final draft: 28 November 2004



Appendix

Members

National Steering Committee

Professor Alec Boksenberg CBE FRS	Chair & Chair of Natural Science Committee
Mrs Christine Whatford CBE	Vice Chair & Chair of Education Committee
Ms Sian Healey	Vice Chair & Chair of Communication & Information Committee
Ms Sue Davies	Chair of Culture Committee
Professor Michael Scott	Chair of UNESCO Wales-Cymru
Mr John Gordon	Generalist, also Chair of Cross-Sectoral Peace and Security Working Group; member of Culture Committee
Professor John Morgan	Generalist, also Coordinator of UNESCO Chairs in the UK; and member of Education Committee
Mr Ian Donaldson	Scottish Executive Representative
Mr Neill Jackson	Northern Ireland Government Representative
Professor Richard Ennals	Generalist, also Member of Education Committee
Professor Ivor Gaber	Generalist, also Vice Chair of Communication & Information Committee
Mr Tim Mason	Generalist, also Member of Culture Committee
Mr John Aslen	Observer; Department for Education and Skills, Commonwealth, UNESCO and Africa Team
Mr Mark Bale	Observer; Department of Health
Mr Tim Craddock	Observer; Ambassador and UK Permanent Delegate to UNESCO
Mr Michael Helston	Observer; Department for Culture Media and Sport, International Unit
Mr Alan Lansdown	Observer; Welsh Assembly Government
Ms Carmel Power	Observer; Foreign and Commonwealth Office, International Organisation Department

The Sectoral Committees have direct responsibility for conducting the programme work and operate through Working Groups and networks. Members of the Committees are nominated by civil society institutions and interest groups and act as individuals in their own right. Unless otherwise noted, the organisations in this section (*in italics*) refer to nominating organisations.

Education Committee

Mrs Christine Whatford CBE	Chair of Education Committee and Vice Chair of UK National Commission
Mr Tim Andrew	<i>Secondary Heads Association</i> ; also Member of ASPnet Steering Group and Africa Working Group
Mr David Archer	<i>Action Aid (International Education)</i> ; also Member of Education for All Working Group
Ms Jill Attewell	<i>Learning and Skills Development Agency (UNEVOC)</i> ; also Member of Education for All Working Group
Ms Sue Barratt	<i>Primary Headteachers Forum (Birmingham)</i> ; also Member of ASPnet Steering Group and Education for All Working Group
Mr Doug Bourn	<i>Development Education Association</i> ; also Chair of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group and member of Africa Working Group
Dr Colin Brock	<i>Oxford University (Department of Educational Studies)</i> ; also member of Africa Working Group and Education for All Working Group
Professor Christopher Colclough	<i>Centre for Commonwealth Education</i> ; also member of Education for All Working Group
Professor Lynn Davies	<i>Birmingham University (Centre for International Education and Research)</i> ; also Chair of ASPnet Steering Group
Mr Bob Doe	<i>Times Educational Supplement</i> ; also member of Africa Working Group
Professor Richard Ennals	<i>Council for Education in World Citizenship</i> ; also member of ASPnet Steering Group
Professor Brenda Gourley	<i>Open University</i>
Professor Jagdish Gundara	<i>International Centre for Intercultural Studies</i> ; UNESCO Chairholder; also member of Education for All Working Group
Dr Seamus Hegarty	<i>National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)</i> ; also Chair of Education for All Working Group
Ms Penny Krucker	<i>Gloucestershire LEA, International Education</i> ; also observer of ASPnet Steering Group & Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Dr Peter Lavender	<i>National Institute of Adult Continuing Education</i> ; also member of Education for All Working Group
Mr Don McBurney	<i>A Ray of Hope, UNESCO Youth Ambassador for the Culture of Peace</i> ; also member of the Africa Working Group and observer of ASPnet Steering Group
Professor John Morgan	<i>University of Nottingham (Commonwealth Education Documentation Centre)</i> ; UNESCO Chairholder; also member of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Mr Brendan O'Malley	<i>Times Educational Supplement</i> ; also member of Education for All Working Group
Dr Rosemary Preston	<i>UK Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET)</i>
Ms Mary Stiasny	<i>The British Council (Education and Training Group)</i>
Mr Steve Sinnott	<i>National Union of Teachers (NUT)</i> ; also member of Africa Working Group
Professor Peter Williams	<i>Council for Education in the Commonwealth</i> ; also Chair of Africa Working Group and member of Education for All Working Group
Mr Richard Arden	Observer, Department for International Development, Education Advisor
Mr John Aslen	Observer; Department for Education and Skills, Commonwealth, UNESCO and Africa Team
Mr Les Stratton	Observer, ASPnet National Coordinator
Ms Katy Webley	Observer, Save the Children UK; Education for All Working Group member

Additional Working Group Members and Observers

Professor Robin Alexander	<i>Cambridge University</i> ; member of Education for All Working Group
Mr David Barrs	<i>Association of Citizenship Teaching</i> ; member of ASPnet Steering Group
Ms Urszula Basini	<i>Kingston University</i> ; member of ASPnet Steering Group
Professor Alec Boksenberg CBE FRS	<i>The Royal Society</i> ; member of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Ms Fiona Booth	<i>Hansard Society</i> ; Observer of ASPnet Steering Group

Additional Working Group Members and Observers (cont'd)

Ms Victoria Brasier	Member of Africa Working Group
Ms Judith Cohen	<i>Learning Skills and Development Agency (UNEVOC)</i> ; member of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Ms Ruth Conway	<i>European Christian Environmental Network</i> ; member of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Mrs May East	<i>Global EcoVillage Network</i> ; member of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group & observer of Education for All Working Group
Dr Janine Eldred	<i>National Institute of Adult Continuing Education</i> ; member of Education for All Working Group
Ms Kate Epstein	<i>The British Council</i> ; member of Education for All Working Group
Ms Aminatta Forna	Member of Africa Working Group
Mr John Gordon	Member of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Ms Victoria Irvine	<i>Teacher Support Network</i> ; member of ASPnet Steering Group and Education for All Working Group
Dr David Johnson	<i>University of Oxford</i> ; member of Africa Working Group
Mr Nick Jones	<i>Crazy Cat Consultants</i> ; member of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Mrs Enid Lodge	<i>Liverpool United Nations Association</i> ; member of ASPnet Steering Group
Ms Alison Lewis	Member of Africa Working Group
Professor Bob Moon	<i>Open University</i> , Africa Working Group and Education for All Working Group
Ms Martine Miel	<i>Rendez Vous of Victory</i> ; Observer of ASPnet Steering Group
Ms Norma Muico	<i>Anti-Slavery International</i> ; Observer of ASPnet Steering Group
Mr Steve Packer	<i>Former Deputy Director of EFA GMR Team</i> , member of Education for All Working Group
Professor Bill Scott	<i>University of Bath</i> ; member of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Dr Alba de Souza	<i>Council for Education in the Commonwealth</i> ; member of Africa Working Group
Professor Alan Tait	<i>Open University (Faculty of Education and Language Studies)</i> ; member of ASPnet Steering Group
Mr John Waddleton	<i>Council for Education in World Citizenship</i> ; member of ASPnet Steering Group
Ms Helen Young	<i>Development Educations Association</i> ; member of ASPnet Steering Group
Mr Ian Donaldson	<i>Scottish Executive</i> ; Observer of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Mr Tim Irwin	<i>Northern Ireland Government</i> ; Observer of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Mr Alan Lansdown	<i>Welsh Assembly Government</i> ; Observer of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Ms Kate Perkins	<i>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</i> ; Observer of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Mr Jake Reynolds	<i>Department for Education and Skills</i> ; Observer of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Mr Miles Simpson	<i>Department for Education and Skills</i> ; Observer of Education for Sustainable Development Working Group
Ms Olga Stanojovic	<i>The British Council</i> ; Observer of ASPnet Steering Group

Working Groups in the Education Committee are: (i) Education for All; (ii) Education for Sustainable Development (ESD); (iii) Africa; (iv) Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

Natural Sciences Committee

Professor Alec Boksenberg CBE FRS	<i>The Royal Society; Chair of Natural Science Committee and Chair of the UK National Commission</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme, Africa and ISP Cooperation Working Group
Dr Lloyd Anderson	<i>The British Council</i>
Dr Sarah Ball	Independent Consultant; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme and Africa Working Group
Mr Andrew Bell	<i>UK National Committee, Man and the Biosphere (MAB)</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme and ISP Cooperation Working Group
Dr Stephen Benn	<i>The Royal Society of Chemistry</i>
Professor David Bogle	<i>Institution of Chemical Engineers</i>
Professor Ian Butterworth CBE FRS	<i>Institute of Physics</i>
Mr Peter Cameron CEng FICE	<i>Institution of Civil Engineers</i> ; also member of Africa Working Group
Professor Joe Cann	<i>UK National Committee, International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme and ISP Cooperation Working Group
Professor Clive Coen	<i>The Royal Institution of Great Britain</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme and Africa Working Group
Professor Alan Cuthbert FRS	<i>British Pharmacological Society</i>
Professor Edward Derbyshire	<i>UK National Committee, International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme and ISP Cooperation Working Group
Professor Peter Downes OBE	<i>Biosciences Federation</i>
Professor Sir Roger Elliott FRS	<i>International Council for Science (ICSU)</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme and Building Scientific Capacity Working Group
Dr Trevor Guymmer	<i>UK National Committee, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme and ISP Cooperation Working Group
Dr Mike Hapgood	Royal Astronomical Society
Mr David Hutton	Institution of Electrical Engineers
Professor Alan Jenkins	<i>UK National Committee, International Hydrological Programme (IHP)</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme and ISP Cooperation Working Group
Sir John Kingman FRS	<i>London Mathematical Society</i>
Dr Nancy Lane OBE	<i>Institute of Biology</i>
Professor Mark G. Macklin	<i>The Geological Society</i>
Dr Anne McLaren DBE FRS	<i>Association for Women in Science and Technology (AWiSE)</i> ; also member of Africa Working Group
Professor Vivienne Nathanson	<i>British Medical Association</i>
Professor Ernest Shannon CBE FREng	<i>Institution of Mechanical Engineers</i> ; also member of Input to UNESCO's Science Programme
Professor Neil Turok	<i>African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)</i> ; also member of Africa Working Group
Dr Catherine Boyle	Observer; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Science Strategy and International Division
Dr Fiona Clouder-Richards	Observer; Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Science and Innovation Group
Dr Tracey Elliott	Observer; Office of Science and Technology, Global Policy Integration
Mr Steve Hillier	Observer; Department for International Development, Head of Cabinet, Chief Scientific Advisor's Office
Dr Bernie Jones	Observer; The Royal Society
Mr Peter O'Neill	Observer; Department for International Development, Central Research Department

Working Groups in the Natural Sciences Committee are: (i) input to UNESCO's Sciences programme; (ii) UK-UNESCO Cooperation; (iii) Africa; (iv) increasing cooperation and coordination among the UNESCO Intergovernmental / International Scientific Programmes (ISPs); (v) science and technology capacity building for sustainable development

Culture Committee

Ms Sue Davies	Chair of Culture Committee; Wessex Archaeology **
Mr Neville Shulman CBE	Deputy Chair; <i>British Centre of the International Theatre Institute</i>
Ms Barbara Woroncow OBE	Deputy Chair; <i>Museums Association – Leeds</i>
Mr Graham Berry	<i>Scottish Arts Council (SAC)</i>
Dr Andrew Burnett	<i>National Museum Directors Conference (NMDC)</i>
Mr Geraint Talfan Davies	<i>Previously, The Arts Council of Wales (ACW)</i>
Ms Gwyn Edwards	<i>UNESCO Cymru-Wales</i> ; also member of the Conventions Working Group
Dr David Fleming OBE	<i>Museums Association - National Museums Liverpool</i>
Dr David Gaimster	<i>Society of Antiquaries of London</i> ; also Chair of the Conventions Working Group
Mr John Gordon	<i>National Steering Committee</i>
Mr Mansell Jagger	<i>International Council on Monuments & Sites UK (ICOMOS UK)</i>
Mr Ayub Khan	<i>Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)</i>
Mr Bob Kindred	<i>Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation (IHBC)</i> ; also member of the Conventions Working Group
Professor Jack Lohman	<i>International Council of Museums (ICOM) and Museum of London</i>
Mr Tim Mason	<i>Independent Consultant</i>
Ms Joanne Orr	<i>Scottish Museums Council</i>
Ms Samantha Raggatt	<i>Derby City Council</i> ; also member of the Conventions Working Group
Ms Sarah Elizabeth Staniforth	<i>The National Trust</i>
Dr Peter Stone	<i>University of Newcastle</i>
Professor Geoffrey J Wainwright	<i>Bluestone</i>
Dr Christopher Young	<i>English Heritage</i> ; also member of the Conventions Working Group
Ms Mandy Barrie	Observer; Department for Culture Media and Sport International, World Heritage & Listing Branch
Mr Michael Helston	Observer; Department for Culture Media and Sport, International Unit
Mr Colin Jack	Observer; Culture Division, Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland

** Nominated jointly by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and Council for British Archaeology

Additional Culture Working Group Members

Ms Nikola Burdon	<i>Museum Association</i> ; member of Conventions Working Group
Ms Sue Cole	<i>English Heritage and Blue Shield</i> ; member of Conventions Working Group
Dr Sarah Dromgoole	<i>Leicester University</i> ; member of Conventions Working Group
Dr Michael Meyer	<i>British Red Cross</i> ; member of Conventions Working Group
Mr Daniel Owen	<i>Fenners Chambers</i> ; member of Conventions Working Group
Dr Mike Williams	<i>Wolverhampton University</i> ; member of Conventions Working Group
Dr Susan Williamson	<i>Historic Scotland (Heritage Policy)</i> ; member of Conventions Working Group

Working Groups in the Culture Committee are: (i) Conventions; (ii) Policy and Strategy; (iii) Culture and Sustainable Development

Culture Network

Mr Chris Batt OBE	<i>The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)</i>
Ms Anthea Case	<i>Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)</i>
Ms Ruth Hasnip	<i>Design Council</i>
Ms Sue Hughes	<i>Policy Division, The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)</i>
Dr David Leitch	<i>National Archive</i>
Ms Freda Matassa	<i>Independent Consultant</i>
Ms Roisín McDonough	<i>Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI)</i>
Mrs Diana Murray	<i>Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)</i>
Mr Mick Rawlings RPS	<i>Historic Environment Consultant</i>
Ms Andrea Rose	<i>The British Council</i>
Mr Martin Wade	<i>National Library of Scotland</i>

Communication & Information Committee

Ms Sian Healey	<i>Chair of Communication & Information Committee; The BBC</i> ; also member of Information Society Working Group
Mr Gareth Price	<i>Vice Chair of Committee, Welsh Centre for International Affairs and Committee Representative to the Wales C&I Committee</i> ; also convener of Media in the Public Interest Working Group
Professor Ivor Gaber	<i>Vice Chair of Committee; University of Luton and Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom</i> ; also member of the Freedom of Expression Working Group
Professor Colin Bickler	<i>City University</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group
Dr Agnès Callamard	<i>Article 19</i>
Ms Tina Carr	<i>Rory Peck Trust</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group
Mr Adam Chadwick	<i>ITN</i>
Mr Iain Christie	<i>Consultant in Media and International Law</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group
Mr David Dawson	<i>Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)</i> ; also member of Information Society Working Group
Mr Gavin Dykes	<i>Independent Consultant</i> ; also member of Information Society Working Group
Mr Jock Gallagher	<i>Press Freedom Network</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group
Professor Peter Golding	<i>Media, Communications and Cultural Studies Association</i> ; also member of Media in the Public Interest Working Group
Mr Tim Gopsill	<i>National Union of Journalists</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group
Ms Jocelyn Hay	<i>Voice of the Listener and Viewer</i> ; also member of Media in the Public Interest Working Group
Professor Stephen Heppell	<i>Independent Consultant</i>
Mr John Ivinson	<i>British Computer Society</i> ; also convener of Information Society and member of Freedom of Expression Working Group
Mr Rohan Jayasekera	<i>Index on Censorship</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group
Mr Stephen King	<i>BBC World Service Trust</i>
Dr Ian W MacDonald	<i>Association of Media Practice Educators</i>
Mr Trevor Mostyn	<i>English PEN's Writers in Prison Committee</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group

Communication & Information Committee (cont'd)

Professor Charles Oppenheim	<i>Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)</i> ; also member of Information Society Working Group
Ms Elizabeth Smith	<i>Commonwealth Broadcasting Association</i> ; also member of Media in the Public Interest Working Group
Mr John Toner	<i>National Union of Journalists</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group
Ms Carole Tongue	<i>Sovereign Strategy</i> ; also member of Media in the Public Interest Working Group
Mr Patrick Towell	<i>Independent Consultant</i> ; also member of Information Society Working Group
Mr David Ward	<i>Centre for Media Policy and Development</i>
Mr Tim Williams	<i>Institute for War and Peace Reporting</i> ; also member of Freedom of Expression Working Group

Working Groups in the Communication and Information Committee are (i) Freedom of Expression; (ii) Media in the Public Interest; (iii) Information Societies

National Commission Secretariat (currently hosted at the offices of United Nations Association–UK)

Ms Linda Leung	Sectoral responsibility: Natural Sciences, Culture and Communication sectors; also responsible for website and publications
Mr Alex Inglis	Sectoral responsibility: Education sector and Peace and Security Cross-sectoral Working Group
Mr Nick Gordon	General

UNESCO Cymru-Wales

Professor Michael Scott	<i>North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)</i> ; Chair of UNESCO Cymru-Wales and member of Education sub-committee
Dr Elizabeth Hughes	<i>International Centre for Protected Landscapes</i> ; Vice Chair of UNESCO Cymru-Wales and member of Natural Sciences and Culture sub-committees
Ms Neeta Baicher	Member of Education and Culture sub-committees
Mr Gary Brace	<i>General Teaching Council for Wales Education</i> ; Chair of Education sub-committee
Mr James Brimble	Member of Communication & Information sub-committee
Mr Kevin Davies	<i>University of Glamorgan (School of Care Sciences)</i> ; Member of Education sub-committee
Ms Gwyn Edwards	Chair of Culture sub-committee
Mr Alan Evans	<i>Denbighshire County Council</i> ; Member of Culture sub-committee
Dr Ian Hosein	Member of Natural Sciences sub-committee
Councillor Rhiannon Hughes	<i>Denbighshire County Council</i> ; Member of Culture sub-committee
Professor Eleri Jones	<i>Welsh School of Hospitality</i> ; Member of Culture sub-committee
Professor Craig Kensler	Chair of Natural Sciences sub-committee
Mr Greg Morgan	Member of Natural Sciences and Culture sub-committees
Professor Richard Neale	<i>University of Glamorgan (School of Technology)</i> ; Member of Education and Culture sub-committees
Professor Glyn O Phillips	Member of Natural Sciences sub-committee
Mr Andy Parnell	<i>Powys Environmental & Development Education Centre</i> ; Chair of Communication & Information sub-committee
Mr Peter Sain ley Berry	Member of Natural Sciences, Culture and Communication & Information sub-committees
Ms Rebecca Williams	Member of Culture and Communication & Information sub-committees
Ms Kate Wolstenholme	<i>CEWC-Cymru</i> ; member of Communication & Information sub-committee
Mr Alan Lansdown	Observer, Welsh Assembly Government
Mr Kevin Higgins	Observer, The British Council
Wales Centre for International Affairs	Observer

UNESCO Cymru-Wales Secretariat (Currently hosted by the Welsh Assembly Government)

Ms Sian Furminger	Department for Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills, Welsh Assembly Government
Mr Alan Lansdown	Department for Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills, Welsh Assembly Government

Appendix

The Millennium Development Goals

What are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to a set of time bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation. Eight goals were proposed for achievement by 2015.

1. **Halve Extreme Poverty and Hunger:** Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day. Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2. **Achieve Universal Primary Education:** Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling
3. **Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015
4. **Reduce Under-Five Mortality:** Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five
5. **Reduce Maternal Mortality:** Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio
6. **Reverse the Spread of Diseases, Especially HIV/AIDS and Malaria:** Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
7. **Ensure Environmental Sustainability:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources. Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020
8. **Create a Global Partnership for Development:** With targets for aid, trade, debt relief, access of information, access to essential drugs, youth, and special needs for land-locked countries

UNESCO and the MDGs

Within UNESCO, the MDGs are being taken into account in its current work and in the strategic programme budget. High priority is given to the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty. There is already a considerable degree of alignment in the education goals as the Millennium Declaration reflects two of the Education for All (EFA) goals adopted at the World Education for All Forum in Dakar in April 2000, the "Dakar EFA Goals".

UNESCO contributes to the achievement of the MDGs through its programme sectors: Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication & Information.

Attention is given to:

- establishing a greater complementarity between the MDGs and the other quantitative and qualitative goals established in the Millennium Declaration and other international agreements;
- raising the profile of neglected development "soft" issues such as culture (cultural diversity, culture and development, cultural heritage, etc.) in the pursuit of MDGs;
- drawing in a flexible manner on existing mechanisms, rather than creating new ones.

A key contribution by UNESCO will be through the work of its Institute for Statistics (UIS) in the collection and use of high quality, timely data in education, science and technology, culture and communication, concentrating on four areas:

- guardianship of cross-national data through regular collections of key data especially those required for monitoring progress towards MDGs, data-sharing and dissemination;
- development of methodology for new indicators and improvement of existing indicators;
- assistance to countries (training) to improve and build their capacities for data collection, use and analysis;
- analysis and interpretation of cross-national data in order to inform policy development and monitoring.

The Education for All Global Monitoring Report (published annually) uses data collected by the UIS as the prime instrument to assess global progress towards achieving the six Dakar EFA goals. The Report tracks progress, identifies effective policy reforms and best practice in all areas relating to EFA, draws attention to emerging challenges and seeks to promote international cooperation in favour of education.

and the Dakar EFA Goals

What are the Dakar Goals?

In April 2000 more than 1,100 participants from 164 countries gathered in Dakar, Senegal, for the World Education Forum.

The participants, ranging from teachers to prime ministers, academics to policymakers, non-governmental bodies to the heads of major international organisations, adopted the 2000-word Dakar Framework for Action, Education for All: Meeting Our Collective Commitments. The six EFA goals identified became known as the “Dakar EFA Goals”.

1. Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
2. Ensuring 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.
3. Ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes.
4. Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults.
5. Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving 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.
6. Improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

What are the Linkage between the MDGs and the Dakar Goals?

The Dakar EFA Goals specifically relate to two MDGs:

- Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education, in ensuring that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling by 2015

- Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, in eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

Progress in Achieving Universal Primary Education (Goal 2) and Gender Parity (Goal 3)

The 2006 Education for All Global Monitoring Report notes the following trends:

Towards Universal Primary Education (UPE):

- Sharp enrolment increase in Sub-Sahara Africa and South Asia
- Over 100 million children are still not enrolled in primary school (70% of whom are in Sub-Sahara Africa and South and West Asia)
- 67 countries are at risk of not achieving UPE by 2015. In 23 of the 67 countries, the enrolment ratios are declining
- Over 80 countries still charge fees for primary education
- 60% of bilateral aid still goes to post-secondary education
- Total estimated external aid to education required to achieve UPE of reasonable quality by 2015 is US\$ 7 billion. A funding gap exists

Towards Gender Parity:

- Despite considerable progress noted in countries with the lowest gender parity index, 94 countries would miss the 2005 gender parity target
- Disparities at the primary level in 60 countries are nearly always at the expense of girls
- At secondary level, boys are under-represented in 56 countries

For more information on the MDGs, Dakar EFA Goals and the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, visit:
UNESCO website (www.unesco.org)
UN website (www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

Appendix

UK World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves

UK World Heritage Sites

The UK ratified the 1972 World Heritage Convention in 1984. There are currently 26 World Heritage Sites in the UK.

1986	Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd C
1986	Durham Castle and Cathedral C
1986	Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast N
1986	Ironbridge Gorge C
1986, 2004, 2005	St Kilda M
1986	Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites C
1986	Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey C
1987	Blenheim Palace C
1987	City of Bath C
1987, 2005 *	Frontiers of the Roman Empire C
1987	Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church C
1988	Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church C
1988	Henderson Island N
1988	Tower of London C
1995, 2004	Gough and Inaccessible Islands (Extension of "Gough Island Wildlife Reserve") N
1995	Old and New Towns of Edinburgh C
1997	Maritime Greenwich C
1999	Heart of Neolithic Orkney C
2000	Blaenavon Industrial Landscape C
2000	Historic Town of St George and Related Fortifications, Bermuda C
2001	Derwent Valley Mills C
2001	Dorset and East Devon Coast N
2001	New Lanark C
2001	Saltaire C
2003	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew C
2004	Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City C

*: transboundary property

C Cultural Sites **N** Natural Sites **M** Mixed Sites

UK Biosphere Reserves

There are currently nine Biosphere Reserves in the UK.

1976	Beinn Eighe (west coast of Scotland)
1976,	Braunton Burrows (North Devon, England)
extended in 2002	
1976	Cairnmore of Fleet (south-west Scotland)
1976	Dyfi (south-central Wales)
1976	Loch Druidibeg (west off the coast of Scotland)
1976	Moor House-Upper Teesdale (northern England)
1976	North Norfolk Coast (Norfolk coast, England)
1976	Silver Flowe-Merrick Kells (south-west Scotland)
1977	Taynish (south-west Scotland)

For more information, visit:

UNESCO World Heritage Sites website (whc.unesco.org/)

UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (www.unesco.org/mab/)



Milestones and Achievements of the UK National Commission since March 2004.

2004	
<p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-launch of the UK National Commission after a year-long campaign and lobbying p.8 <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Steering Committee formed. Chair elected p.8 <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNESCO Director-General visited the UK World Press Freedom Day event at the House of Commons <p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat for the National Commission set up Participation at the UNESCO Director-General's Regional Consultation (Zurich). Submission made p.13 Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City inscribed on the World Heritage List 	<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNESCO AD-G for Natural Sciences, Walter Erdelen's 4-day mission to the UK p.16 Edinburgh designated first UNESCO City of Literature, and became a founding member of the Creative Cities Network p.25 <p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Committee constituted. First meeting attended by Lord Filkin p.14 UK National Commission Constitution finalised & approved p.8 and p.28 <p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission made to the Commission for Africa Public Consultation Chair of New Zealand National Commission visited the UK

2005	
<p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Sciences Committee constituted. First meeting attended by DFID Chief Scientific Adviser Gordon Conway p.16 UK National Commission supported the British Museum's Throne of War touring exhibition <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture Committee constituted. First meeting attended by Lord McIntosh p.20 University of Newcastle hosted the World Heritage Education Conference and 10th International Seminar of the Network of Universities Forum UNESCO p.21 <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danish National Commission's 2-day mission to the UK World Press Freedom Day event at the Frontline Club <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNESCO Chair at the University of Nottingham renewed p.10 Cannes Lions Young Creatives Competition on the topic of Literacy - collaboration between UK National Commission, UNESCO Basic Education Division and Cannes Lions Advertising Festival p.11 UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector follow-up mission to the UK led by Mustafa El Tayeb, Director of Science Policy <p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication & Information Committee constituted. First meeting attended by UNESCO AD-G for Communication & Information, Abdul Waheed Khan p.22 UNESCO Cymru-Wales formed, launched by Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills Jane Davidson at the National Eisteddfod held in Bangor p.24 UNESCO AD-G for Education Peter Smith's mission to the UK Imperial War Museum's Battle of the Somme became the first British film to be inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Registry p.22 Secretary-General of Jamaican National Commission visited the UK 	<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two British candidates nominated for the 2006 UNESCO-L'Oreal For Women in Science Fellowships p.17 Two British youth delegates participated in the 4th UNESCO Youth Forum (Paris) p.12 New UNESCO Chair created at the University of Oxford p.10 Second African Ministerial Council on Science & Technology in Dakar UK IGCP Committee input to UNESCO's IGCP programme & strategy <p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK re-joined UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) p.15 UK National Commission active participation at the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference. Party to initiating an overall review of the Natural Sciences and Social & Human Sciences p.12 First UK Centre of Excellence: UNESCO Centre of Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee p.25 Seminar on the 2001 UNESCO Convention on Underwater Cultural Heritage at the Society of Antiquaries of London p.20 <p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006 Education for All Global Monitoring Report launch at the Whitechapel Idea Store p.14 Conference at the Institute of Civil Engineering "Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals: Scaling-up Investment in Infrastructure" with special dedication to commemorate 60th Anniversary of UNESCO <p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International seminar "Literacy: Britain's Response to the Global Challenge" at the University of Oxford p.14 UK Launch Conference for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development at the Institute of Education p.15

2006	
<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Alec Boksenberg accepted on the UNESCO Review of the Sciences Expert Committee p.16 Literacy colloquium "Fresh Hope for Literacy?" in London Nicholas Burnett (Director of the GMR) discussed the 2006 EFA GMR at the House of Commons Andrew Bell (UK MAB Chair) & Professor Alec Boksenberg represented the UK at the ISP Conference organised by the German National Commission p.18 Submission to the DCMS' consultation on the proposed UK ratification of the 1954 'Hague' Convention p.21 Submission to the Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee's Inquiry on 'Protecting, preserving and making accessible our Nation's Heritage' p.21 <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK MAB hosted reception at the House of Lords p.17 	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission to the Highways Agency's consultation on the Stonehenge and the A303 Improvements p.21 Submission to the DFID White Paper "Eliminating World Poverty" p.10 Chair of Australian National Commission visited the UK <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Press Freedom Day debate at the House of Commons and four events in Wales p.22 and 24 <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugural Annual Conference of the UK National Commission (University of Nottingham) p.27 Participation at the UNESCO Director-General's Regional Consultation (Athens)



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