

**STATEMENT
OF PRINCIPLES
AND VALUES**

**UNIVERSAL
FORUM
OF CULTURES**

Barcelona 2004

SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The Universal Forum of Cultures, jointly organized by the Barcelona City Council, the Catalan Autonomous Government and the Spanish Government, will be held in Barcelona in the year 2004. At Unesco's 29th General Conference, the 186 member-states unanimously pledged their support to the Forum project.

At the threshold of the 21st Century, Unesco and the three aforementioned government administrations have made a firm commitment to fostering an international event designed to promote communication among cultures and international debate on questions, opportunities and challenges we face within the current context of globalization.

The Forum is also meant to be a great celebration, a place for creative expression and fun. The key players are those people and organizations committed to the way we live now and to the future we can build together: citizens from around the world; civic and social groups; educational, cultural business and professional organizations; religious communities and public institutions.

Forum Barcelona 2004 will be held from May 9 through September 26, 2004. During the course of the 141 days there will be debates, performances, festivals, exhibitions, cultural events and activities geared to a broad public. The main Forum venue is set in an area of metropolitan Barcelona undergoing some of the most advanced urban regeneration in Europe. The city's museums and auditoriums, too, will offer exhibitions, concerts and performances linked with the Forum. In addition, those interested may participate in, and follow the development of, the Forum project through the Forum website.

Forum Barcelona 2004 will serve, then, as a framework for joint reflection on issues which affect the development of societies and which are shaped by new forms of relationships, communication and interchange on a worldwide scale. The Forum will focus its debates and activities around three main themes, all of which are of current interest and future importance: cultural diversity, sustainable development and conditions for peace.

The issues which fall within these three arenas are not necessarily uncontroversial and will, without a doubt, stimulate discussion reflecting opposing views. The Forum is designed to be an open space where different opinions may be heard, because without those differences there would be no debate and also because a positive exchange of ideas can lead to creative solutions.

Overarching the differences, however, are universal values which merit great consideration. The Forum activities are based on none other than values such as the respect for freedom and for diversity of languages, religions and cultures. The *Statement of Principles and Values* is meant to serve as a set of guidelines for the Forum activities and to provide a context within which they take place.

The *Statement of Principles and Values* was developed with the unanimous approval of the Executive Board, comprising the three administrations behind the Forum. It is inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of the United Nations, both of which represent universally-accepted values, and demonstrate the will of the Forum to have the UN's –and, therefore, Unesco's– ideology reflected in all of its activities.

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■ THE MISSION OF THE FORUM

The mission of the Universal Forum of Cultures – Barcelona 2004 could be stated in the following way:

- To promote study, reflection and innovation through intercultural dialogue, in order to make a substantial contribution to a «culture of peace» and an «ethic of globality», with the aim of helping the globalisation process develop in accordance with specific ethical values.
- To transmit, and to set out as widely as possible and in innovative ways, the values and principles stated in this document, together with the concepts derived from them, thus contributing to the dissemination of the set of ideas proposed by Unesco.

■ OPPORTUNITY

The priorities defined by international co-operation strategies have gradually evolved from an initial focus on economic growth, and today include values and objectives that encourage «sustainable human development», or, expressed in more recent terminology, «sustainable lifestyles».

This broader scope encompasses values and principles on the one hand centred on relations between people –democracy, participation, good government, equity, solidarity– and on the other on the relations between humanity and the universe of which we are a part –sustainability and the defence of biodiversity.

While the definition of economic growth is based on the universal validity of statistics and the concepts of national accounting, the new elements on this new agenda for world-wide co-operation are highly sensitive to cultural diversity. In fact the only universally accepted values are those contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the programmatical principles of the United Nations system.

For this reason, the contribution of the Universal Forum of Cultures to the international co-operation agenda consists in promoting study, reflection and innovation, by means of a dialogue between cultures, in order to make a substantial contribution to the construction an «ethic of globality» and a «culture of peace». One of the most crucial values will be respect –respect for religious, ideological, ethnic, linguistic and historical differences.

The following quotes illustrate this point:

Faced with the present crisis, it is a matter of urgency to take stock of the situation, to re-establish the ideals that made the creation of the United Nations and Unesco possible, and to do so with the same intensity, and the same compassion as in 1945. This is essential in order to be able to humanise our conduct, reduce inequalities, respect diversity –which is our wealth– and work for unity –which is our strength– within the framework of the inescapable obligations presented by the new century. This conscious and decisive turn towards ethical values is the only sure way of forging a culture of peace, of exchanging arms for tools.

FEDERICO MAYOR ZARAGOZA,
ex-Director General of Unesco

We have to confront the greatest challenge facing humanity as we move ahead into the 21st century: we have to find a fair balance between market forces and the needs of people who believe that some unpredictable event, totally beyond their control, could devastate their lives. [...] We do need globalisation, but globalisation with a human face, responsible globalisation. [...] We need a new ethic of globality centred primarily on a sense of responsibility and concern for others, concern for our neighbours in the global village, and for our ecological integrity. The most important value in a globalised world is respect for, and acceptance of, religious, ideological, ethnic and historical differences.

PROFESSOR KLAUS SCHWAB,
Founder and President of the Davos Forum

The Universal Forum of Cultures therefore offers an opportunity:

- To explore how the values recently incorporated into the international co-operation agenda are today being institutionalised and prioritised within the context of cultural diversity.
- To define a new conceptual framework that will make effective intercultural dialogue possible, and profit from the wealth that cultural diversity represents, in terms of religion, language, lifestyle, etc.

- To establish a hierarchy of the principles and values underlying the concept of «sustainable human development» from an intercultural viewpoint.

■ PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

An integrated way of approaching the concept of «sustainable human development» from the angle of intercultural dialogue is proposed by advocating:

1. Respect for values and for democratic institutions, paying particular attention to the promotion of civic participation.

2. Promotion of the conditions necessary for peace, support and encouragement for the defence of individual rights and civil liberties, particularly in the area of culture. Maximum attention must be paid to the most vulnerable, to the defence of the values of equity and solidarity, to the right to information, and to the acceptance of responsibility with regard to the future.

3. Respect for each and every ethnic group, with particular emphasis on the protection of ethnic minorities, and support and encouragement in the struggle against all forms of exclusion.

4. Respect for each and every cultural identity, with particular emphasis on the protection of minority cultures within a framework of the consolidation of open, pluralistic societies.

5. Respect for religions, and the promotion of dialogue between religions.

6. Recognition and respect for each and every language, with particular emphasis on linguistic diversity understood as a universal heritage that needs to be protected and encouraged, without producing a negative effect on the learning of common languages, or of foreign languages that provide an important medium for communication, which should also be promoted.

7. Promotion of creativity, a boost to education and the democratisation of knowledge, as lines of communication through which to transmit values and attitudes favouring a culture of peace. In this way encouragement is offered to the different cultural sectors that stimulate the creativity of individuals, and of cultural groups, and a contribution is made to the transmission and conservation of material and spiritual culture.

8. Defence of biodiversity by means of the protection and improvement of environmental quality, together with the conservation and rational use of natural resources.

9. The need for a social, economic and institutional network that is socially responsible and committed to equitable, ecologically sustainable economic growth.

10. Particular attention to sustainable development in urban areas from an environmental, social, cultural and economic standpoint, taking the city to be the principal human habitat of the 21st century, and a fundamental space for creative expression and technological innovation.

■ CODES OF CONDUCT

In the organisation of the Universal Forum of Cultures – Barcelona 2004, and at the event itself, the following criteria will be respected:

1. The production of a multicultural event in which a majority of existing cultures will be able to participate, with particular attention being paid to minority cultures, as an expression of the Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

2. The production of a multilingual event, one that will pull down linguistic barriers, and therefore be accessible to as many people as possible, thanks in particular to the advantageous use of the latest available technology.

3. Paying special attention to the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups and in the preparation and presentation of the Forum. In order to achieve this, a big effort will be made to make participation possible for those groups who come up against barriers created by economic difficulties or the lack of human rights, particularly civil and political rights.

4. Compliance with the principles of sustainability in all design, organisation and presentation activities.

5. To seek advances in both intellectual and practical terms in the topics addressed, and at the same time to bring home the fundamental concepts and principles to the general public by:

- . Creativity in general and a creative treatment of the topics addressed.
- . A multidisciplinary approach: the examination of topics from different angles, to make for ease of understanding, and in order to explain how they are interrelated.
- . The use of new technologies in order to reach a broader public.

6. Promotion of new alliances between different sectors (public administrative bodies, companies and NGOs) in order to confront complex common challenges such as the conservation of the environment, the building of peace or intercultural dialogue. In this sense, priority must be given to those initiatives that are a result of collaboration efforts between sectors, particularly amongst those participating in the Forum.

7. All the institutions collaborating with the Forum must agree to a declaration of ethical, social and environmental principles based on certain international standards.