

one that establishes links of collaboration, exchange and support between higher education and the world of work?

21. The field of communication also calls for anticipation and foresight. Our action in recent years has focused on two key areas: the promotion of freedom of expression and information, which is central to democratic life and to the emergence of a culture of peace; and the development of communication and information capacities, in terms of infrastructures and training. Yet the impact of communication on the Organization's other fields of competence and the ways it could support them do not seem to have received the attention they deserve. At a time when some are predicting the advent of a new 'civilization of the screen', particularly as a result of the growing convergence of audio-visual, telecommunication and computer technologies, should we not be seeking to derive advantage from the positive implications that these developments can have for forms of social organization, for ways of life and learning, for the creation of knowledge and its transfer, and for many aspects of cultural life? In the context of the growing globalization of communication processes, the maintenance of cultural and linguistic diversity is a major challenge. UNESCO can contribute by stimulating technological innovation and assimilation, and by encouraging the production, distribution and circulation of a diversity of cultural goods of high quality.

22. In the case of culture, should we not give to what might be called the 'memory of the future' the same importance as we have hitherto given to the memory of the past? Of course, the preservation and safeguarding of the cultural heritage are imperatives for UNESCO. Yet we should today take a closer look at the interface between the natural and the cultural heritage, the tangible and the intangible heritage, extend our understanding of the term to include those archives that constitute the 'Memory of the World' and the culture of everyday life (handicrafts, living environment, etc.), and above all link rescue operations more closely with development activities. In many countries the heritage is one of the main sources of economic development via cultural tourism and handicrafts - two fields which might in future be given greater attention in the Organization's programmes. Preserving the memory of the future also implies preparing young people to live in multicultural and multi-ethnic societies; encouraging diversity and interaction; and promoting the co-existence, within a democratic framework, of communities with multiple identities. Hence the new emphasis to be placed on questions concerning minorities and indigenous populations, on the culture of peace and democracy, and on the promotion of intercultural dialogue and tolerance.

23. Preserving the memory of the future also means preserving the rights of future generations. At a time when human rights are increasingly becoming universal standards of reference, it is important that UNESCO should provide a forum of reflection and dialogue for analyzing the ethical implications of scientific and technological progress. The action initiated in the field of bioethics is of great importance in this connection.

## B. Adaptation

24. The increasingly global nature and growing complexity of the problems in today's world make it ever more necessary to adopt - at UNESCO as elsewhere - a multidisciplinary or transdisciplinary approach. We still have a long way to go in this regard. The following are examples of some of the areas in which there is a particular need to develop such a transdisciplinary approach.

25. In the sciences is it not time to think about replacing the traditional discipline-based approach by a thematic approach drawing on various disciplines in order to provide practical solutions to development problems? This would not mean that UNESCO should abandon its role of promoting science education and training, which not only help to develop research capabilities but also serve to shape the faculty of judgement required to choose between different technological options; the natural, social and human sciences should find a special place in the Organization's programme as