as per Resolution 40 of the 31ˢᵗ General Conference (see comment above). Other priorities for the Natural Sciences should include increased collaboration between the Social and Natural Sciences, and the establishment of more links between traditional knowledge, scientific research and socio-economic policies when addressing important issues. The participation of vulnerable groups in science and technology should be expanded. The importance of a transdisciplinary approach and training to develop skills to promote sustainable development in local communities should also be enhanced. Finally, UNESCO must ensure that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has the necessary resources in future years to enable it to continue to fulfill its role as a specialized mechanism for coordinating ocean issues within UNESCO.

We also strongly support the proposed follow-up to the World Conference on Science contained in paragraph 02110 of the 31 C/5 Approved, including the amendments of the Executive Board in document 31 C/6 that pertain to the contribution of local and traditional knowledge to science.

Major Programme III: The questionnaire does not mention the current Major Line of Action 1 in Programme III.1, "Ethics of Science and Technology" in the list of priorities and we strongly recommend that this priority be maintained. We also recommend that clear linkages be established between ethics in science and technology and human rights and peace, as it is essential that scientists and people who "use" science understand the societal consequences of their actions. In this context, the commitments made by UNESCO following the Millennium Assembly to work closely with international organizations on these issues must be pursued. Finally, we encourage a broad interpretation of what is meant by "capacity building" so that it includes critical thinking about science as well as infrastructure development.

Major Programme IV: The questionnaire does not mention cultural diversity as a priority, and we strongly recommend that both cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue be maintained as key priorities. We also wish to recall the need to implement the Action Plan contained within the *Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity* and to ensure that it is implemented in all areas of UNESCO's activities.

We support the reinforcement of normative action in the field of culture, but would suggest that emphasis in the 32 C/5 be placed on finding the means to increase the number of signatories to existing normative instruments.

Finally, we do not believe that the cross-cutting themes of the 31 C/4 Approved were sufficiently reflected in the 31 C/5 Approved for Major Programme IV. We encourage UNESCO to address this in the 32 C/5, particularly with respect to the cross-cutting theme *The contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and **culture** and the construction of a knowledge society* (emphasis added).

Major Programme V: The guiding principle of Programme V.1, that of promoting equitable access to information and knowledge, does not appear in the list of programme priorities contained in the questionnaire. We believe that it should be specifically addressed, and should be maintained as a priority for the 32 C/5. The 32 C/5 must also be structured in such a way that it can take account of,