

Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Co-operation

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, met in Paris for its fourteenth session, this fourth day of November 1966, being the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the Organization,

RECALLING that the Constitution of the Organization declares that 'since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace be constructed' and that the peace must be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind,

RECALLING that the Constitution also states that the wide diffusion of culture and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace which all nations must fulfil in the spirit of mutual assistance and concern,

CONSIDERING that the Organization's Member States, believing in the pursuit of truth and the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, have agreed and determined to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples,

CONSIDERING that, despite the technical advances which facilitate the development and dissemination of knowledge and ideas, ignorance of the way of life and customs of peoples still presents an obstacle to friendship among nations, to peaceful co-operation and to the progress of mankind,

TAKING ACCOUNT of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between peoples, and the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty, proclaimed successively by the General Assembly of the United Nations,

CONVINCED by the experience of the Organization's first twenty years that, if international cultural cooperation is to be strengthened, its principles require to be affirmed,

PROCLAIMS this declaration of the principles of international cultural co-operation to the end that governments, authorities, organizations, associations and institutions responsible for cultural activities may constantly be guided by these principles; and for the purpose, as set out in the Constitution of the Organization, of advancing, through the educational, scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of peace and welfare that are defined in the Charter of the United Nations:

Article I

1. Each culture has a dignity and value which must be respected and preserved.
2. Every people has the right and the duty to develop its culture.
3. In their rich variety and diversity, and in the reciprocal influences they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all mankind.