

9. To enhance **interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary action**, \$12 million have been allocated in document 31 C/5 for projects related to the two cross-cutting themes identified in the Medium-Term Strategy. The selection of these cross-cutting projects, each involving three or more sectors/offices, was the result of an unprecedented competitive process carried out both at Headquarters and in the Field, and involving a great number of partners at national, regional and international levels. To be sure, the 34 **cross-cutting** projects contained in the Approved Programme and Budget for 2002-2003 (21 concerning poverty eradication and 13 related to the contribution of ICTs to the construction of knowledge societies) do not represent the full range of activities undertaken by the Organization in relation to these two cross-cutting themes. Rather, they are meant to be indicative to highlight what action could be undertaken in the various spheres through UNESCO's competences, which would need to be complemented by other intersectoral action. Overall, **intersectorality** is meant to demonstrate that UNESCO can provide a coordinated response and take advantage of synergies among its five sectors based on an interdisciplinary and holistic approach.

Are the strategies for the two cross-cutting themes sufficiently well reflected in the action envisaged in document 31 C/5 Approved? What other measures should be adopted, in your opinion, to ensure the effective integration of these themes/strategies into the Organization's programmes?

Did document 31 C/5 Approved reflect sufficiently other intersectoral activities and efforts?

Do you support maintaining the inclusion in document 32 C/5 of projects pertaining to the two cross-cutting themes? Do you favour the renewed allocation of a specified amount for projects related to the two cross-cutting themes of document 31 C/4?

10. The Medium-Term Strategy identifies five **main functions** corresponding to UNESCO's role as the international lead agency for education, sciences, culture and communication: a **laboratory of ideas**; a **standard-setter**; a **clearing house**; a **capacity-builder in Member States**; and a **catalyst for international cooperation**. Through these complementary functions, and within the full range of its programmes, the Organization has been addressing a number of topical issues which have contributed to enhance its role on the international scene.

11. With the adoption by the 31st session of the General Conference of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and approval of the two strategies regarding poverty eradication, and the contribution of ICTs in the construction of knowledge societies, the Organization is now well positioned to respond, through its specific fields of competence, to the attainment of the international development goals (IDGs) set by the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 and chosen by the Chief Executive Board (CEB – formerly ACC) as the principal focus for future inter-agency cooperation and action in the United Nations system.