

1. The achievement of peace and security, including disarmament;
2. The realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
3. The achievement of justice and the rule of law at both national and international levels;
4. The achievement of human-centred development;
5. The advancement of humankind in Unesco's fields of competence;
6. The building of a new world order based on human solidarity, interdependence and mutual interests.

All of these problems already feature in Unesco's programme in one form or another. The third one, while clearly deriving from a purpose defined in the Constitution has not received prominent attention in the last two decades. One does not need to present a detailed analysis of the political and economic situation in the world today to suggest that it is one of the major problems humanity faces.

Referring to these as "world problems" is somewhat of a misnomer: The actual definitions do not define problems in the negative sense but rather challenges or goals in the positive sense. This has been true of problem definition in Unesco from the start. Whether it would be prudent to suggest a change in terminology from "problems" to "goals", "purposes", or "challenges" is somewhat doubtful.

QUESTION 2: To illustrate this analysis, please indicate how these problems affect your country or your region. What impact do they, or might they have on, for example, the various sectors of activity, the living conditions of the population or social and cultural values and behaviour?

Background:

This question is probably intended to gain some insights into how the relevance of world problems to particular countries and their impacts on these countries are perceived by the Member States. This concern with relevance to the interests, problems and goals of Member States has been a consistent element in the General Conference's conception of medium term planning, and the programme itself, from the beginning. There is, of course, wide divergences in relevance among countries with greater degrees of convergence among developed, developing and socialist countries as groupings, and also within the various regions.

Considerations:

A detailed response to this question could become quite complex and elaborate, especially if it was answered separately for each world problem suggested in question 1. In