



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Ref.: CL/3911

Subject: **International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2010)**

Sir/Madam,

Pursuant to circular letter CL/3880 which was sent to you on 15 May 2009, I should like to consult you further on the leading role that UNESCO will be required to play in the context of the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/22.

The General Conference, at its 35th session, approved the preliminary action plan for the International Year and invited the Director-General to finalize the Plan and "to pursue his efforts to build awareness among all partners and to mobilize extrabudgetary funding in order to attain the goals of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures".

The main objective of the Year, set out in the enclosed leaflet, is to celebrate the world's cultural diversity and help strengthen dialogue among cultures. As I stressed at the time of taking office as Director-General of UNESCO, the challenges posed by the unprecedented economic, social and environmental crises of recent years heighten the need for informed debate, dialogue and exchange among the peoples of our world. Such dialogue is key to the building and maintenance of peace inherent in my vision of a new humanism for the twenty-first century. I want to ensure that UNESCO's leadership of the Year facilitates an in-depth reflection on tolerance, reconciliation and balance in our societies.

I therefore very much welcome the suggestions for the Year that I have already received. They have been grouped into four major themes, contained in document 35 C/55 which is available on the UNESCO website. These themes are:

- (i) promoting reciprocal knowledge of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity;
- (ii) building a framework for commonly shared values;
- (iii) strengthening quality education and the building of intercultural competences;
- (iv) fostering dialogue for sustainable development.

We have also taken full cognizance of the activities that are planned by the Member States. These are of various kinds:

- (a) greater opportunities for research, meetings and public debates and broadening of the spaces for intercultural mediation, and making use of new technologies, in particular to foster linguistic diversity and translation;
- (b) promotion of the role of creativity in cultural diversity and enhancement of both the specific characteristics of cultures and their similarities;
- (c) strengthening of the role of formal and non-formal education, research, the media and new information technologies so as to disseminate diversified educational, cultural and scientific contents more widely, thereby correcting erroneous cultural representations, values and stereotypes.

I also welcome the large number of practical actions that have already been planned by Member States and by various partners, including the Alliance of Civilizations, and would like to take this opportunity to call upon National Commissions for UNESCO, agencies of the United Nations system, governmental and non-governmental organizations, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs and Associated Schools, Goodwill Ambassadors, Artists for Peace, UNESCO Clubs and Centres, as well as parliamentarians, locally elected officials, the world of culture, the sciences, education and the media and youth organizations to participate actively in this Year.

I should be grateful if you would give high visibility to the activities that will be carried out as part of the celebration of this Year so as to ensure the greatest possible impact at the local, national and regional levels. In this respect, I am pleased to inform you that the logo for the Year 2010 is available upon request from the Secretariat.

All replies received and the new proposals submitted throughout the Year will be available on UNESCO's website ([www.unesco.org/culture/dialogue](http://www.unesco.org/culture/dialogue)), set up specifically for this occasion. All new initiatives will be gradually used to create a database of good practices for intercultural dialogue. To that end, I would ask that you kindly send them to Ms Katérina Stenou, Director of the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue (email: [s.rubel@unesco.org](mailto:s.rubel@unesco.org); tel. 00 33 1 45 68 43 03, with a copy to Ms Klara Issak, Programme Specialist, email: [k.issak@unesco.org](mailto:k.issak@unesco.org); tel. 00 33 1 45 68 47 62) by completing the attached form, which is posted on the Year's website.

I am sure that your Government will associate itself fully with the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova  
Director-General

Enclosures: Form  
Leaflet

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO  
UNESCO Field Offices



# 2010, International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures

## Project / Database Form

Project title:

Name of organization / Person in charge :

Name

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Website

Thematic Framework:

(Please see [Annex II of the document 182EX/16](#) as a guideline to classify your project proposal)

- Promoting reciprocal knowledge of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity
- Building a framework for commonly shared values
- Strengthening quality education and the building of intercultural competences
- Fostering dialogue for sustainable development

**Summary of the project and activities (150 words):**

Project starting date:

Expected ending date:

**Geographical scope**

(You may tick more than one box)

Local

Subregional

Global

National

Regional

Beneficiary countries/target groups such as youth, women, minorities, indigenous people, etc.:

**Main partners :**

(Please list the main partners involved in the project, including UN agencies or other international organizations/NGO, if any):

Name of organization/person in charge:

*E-mail address*

Website

Please share with us your comments on the 2010 International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures (optional)

**Please don't forget to attach image(s) (if any) related to the project before sending your e-mail**