



Excerpt from the Records of the General Conference

31st Session

Paris 15 October to 3 November 2001

Resolutions

39 Call for international cooperation to prevent and eradicate acts of terrorism¹

The General Conference

1. *Expresses its sorrow and indignation* at the tragic events of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America and the enormous loss of human life, destruction and damage affecting world peace and security;
2. *Recalling* resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001) of the United Nations Security Council as well as resolution 56/1 of the United Nations General Assembly, which *inter alia* strongly condemns the heinous acts of terrorism and “also urgently calls for international cooperation to prevent and eradicate acts of terrorism, and stresses that those responsible for aiding, supporting or harbouring the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of such acts will be held accountable”;
3. *Considers* that all acts of terrorism are a denial of the principles and values of the United Nations Charter, the UNESCO Constitution and the UNESCO Declaration on Principles of Tolerance (1995) and represent an attack against humanity as a whole;
4. *Considers* that the present challenges require a coherent and coordinated response by the organizations of the United Nations system as a whole;
5. *Rejects* the association of terrorism with any particular religion, religious belief or nationality;
6. *Affirms* that the values of tolerance, universality, mutual understanding, respect for cultural diversity and the promotion of a culture of peace, which are central to UNESCO’s mission, have acquired new relevance for inspiring action by international organizations, States, civil society and individual citizens;
7. *Recalling* in particular that the year 2001 is being observed as United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and *bearing in mind* the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, *affirms* that such dialogue constitutes a fundamental challenge based on the unity of humankind and commonly shared values, the recognition of its cultural diversity and the equal dignity of each civilization and each culture;
8. *Noting* that intolerance, discrimination, inequality, ignorance, poverty and exclusion, among others, provide fertile ground for terrorism, *affirms* that while acts of terrorism can never be justified whatever the motives, the world community requires a global and inclusive vision of development based on the observance of human rights, mutual respect, intercultural dialogue and the alleviation of poverty, founded on justice, equity and solidarity, to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations and segments of society;
9. *Expresses its firm conviction* that, based upon its mandate and within its areas of competence – education, science, culture and communication – UNESCO has a duty to contribute to the eradication of terrorism, drawing on its character as an intellectual and ethical organization, and *invites* the Director-General to take appropriate action through UNESCO programmes and studies.

¹. Resolution adopted at the 11th plenary meeting, on 20 October 2001.