

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ADULT EDUCATION**

Elsinore, Denmark 19-25 June 1949

UNESCO

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COMMISSION 4

In presenting this summary it should be made clear that many recommendations in the body of the report are made to the organization and agencies engaged in adult education. Since time for discussion is limited, we have excluded these from the summary and have confined ourselves to such recommendations as involve action on the part of Unesco.

The contribution of adult education to the development of better international understanding.

1. The adult education movement needs to be better informed on the work of the United Nations Organizations and its special agencies and to be able to draw on the resources of the United Nations and Unesco for background material and expert information and advice.
2. If the adult education movement is to play its part in international understanding Unesco must ensure the widest recognition of the role which voluntary bodies can play.
3. In view of the long isolation of the German people from contact with democratic cultural organizations in other countries, Unesco should, as an international organ, pay special attention to assisting adult education in Germany and to the interchange of German adult educators and students with those abroad.

Special problems requiring international co-operation for their solution

1. Unesco or a suitable agency of the United Nations might study the question of freeing communications in such a way as to facilitate the interchange of persons and groups of persons travelling abroad for educational purposes.
2. We are making no recommendation on the question of language difficulties involving Unesco as we were given to understand that this matter is in hand.

Securing permanent contacts and exchanges between adult education leaders and others working in this field.

1. We attach great importance to conferences which bring together representatives of organizations and administrators actively engaged in adult education, and Unesco should give this activity high priority.
2. To encourage the growth of adult education in areas where it is less developed Unesco should assist in sending missions from countries with a richer experience.
3. Unesco should assist in sending persons from the less developed countries to countries with a longer tradition and experience in adult education.
4. Unesco should give such support and assistance as may be within its power to adult educational organizations arranging international summer schools.
5. The setting up of seminars on subjects of special interest in adult education is an important function of Unesco and we strongly recommend that Unesco organize a seminar forthwith to be held if possible in 1950.
6. Unesco should contribute to international understanding by arranging facilities for suitable persons to carry out research into problems of adult education on an international basis.
7. In all these exchanges attention should be paid to the desirability of encouraging working class students to take part.

Dissemination of information and materials on the various aspects of adult education

1. To facilitate the circulation of material between one country and another Unesco should act as a focal point in receiving publication and providing regular abstracting service, condensing, translating and disseminating the information.
2. The dissemination of news about fresh developments in adult education could best be undertaken by the periodical issue of a bulletin which should be issued by Unesco.
3. Unesco should prepare an international exhibition on adult education.
4. As a project requiring long-term planning Unesco should seek to serve adult education by the translation and production of existing significant materials in various languages.
5. Unesco should made widely known the results of research experiments and should call on the experience of national bodies to contribute further specific problems which have a mutual interest.

International machinery to secure continued co-operation

In view of the importance of this section of the Commission's report we are not including in this summary but refer delegates to the full text of the report on page 32.