

**International Congress
Congrès international**

Education and Informatics

Strengthening International Co-operation

Éducation et informatique

Vers une coopération internationale renforcée

FINAL REPORT

**12-21 April/avril 1989
Unesco, Paris (France)**

NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

DECLARATION OF THE PARIS CONGRESS 1989

1. We, the more than 400 participants from ninety three countries and 29 international organizations who have assembled in the International Congress: "Education and Informatics: Strengthening International Co-operation", in Paris at Unesco House from 12 to 21 April 1989, on the basis of our frank exchange of ideas and experiences of the limited but significant applications of computers and other new information technologies in education in the recent years, express our firm conviction that information technology has come to stay as an effective instrument for the improvement of the internal and external efficiency of the systems of education.
2. However, we strongly feel that with the introduction of new information technologies in education, educational disparities may further grow within and between countries unless immediate and determined steps are taken to avoid such development by adopting corrective measures both nationally and internationally.
3. We draw attention to the important role that new information technologies play in certain key areas of socio-economic and cultural development and welcome the initiative of the Director-General of Unesco in inviting the Economic and Social Council to include in its next agenda the strengthening of co-operation between the developed and developing countries in new information technologies with the major objective of providing special support to the less developed countries to enable them to make the most appropriate use of the new information technologies in their respective contexts.
4. We declare that, by virtue of its important role in every society, new information technologies should form part of the culture available to the entire population.
5. We recognize the multiplicity of the roles new information technologies play not only as a tool in education but as a new approach and culture for effective transaction in teaching and learning, management of information, and accelerated development of society.
6. We recognize the urgent need for high level professional personnel in new information technologies who will be able to combine expertise in technology and cognitive science.
7. We stress the importance of progressively reorienting and training educators and other educational personnel for appropriate use of new information technologies.
8. We recognize positive indications of results that warrant continued support of research on the integration of new information technologies and other technologies as tools to improve the operation of the pedagogical process.
9. We note with satisfaction the positive contribution to the Congress of the hardware and software industry both in the private and public sectors for promotion of new information technologies in the field of education.

10. We agree to identify areas of education in which new information technologies have the greatest potential for improving efficiency and maximizing the benefit derived from learning.
11. We intend to strengthen international co-operation for the promotion of educational innovation, experimentation and research in the application of new technologies.
12. We feel that in order to give a boost to the integration of new information technologies in education, the information technology industry should have a long term perspective to identify areas of common interest with the education sector and to provide the necessary support for the development of these areas in order to translate into reality the goals of new information technologies.
13. We intend to contribute to correcting the existing inequalities in new information technologies development in education between countries by increasing international co-operation while:
 - conserving national identity, culture and language;
 - exchanging information through meetings, seminars, courses, visits, congresses and other means of face-to-face communication;
 - undertaking joint projects and research aimed at formulating strategies for the use of new information technologies in education and training for the benefit of all countries, carrying out studies needed to identify and develop ways and means of ensuring transferability, complementarity, modularity, and compatibility of software, hardware, data-communication systems and networks that can be used in education and training;
 - fostering an international flow of information through international computer networks and other means of communication;
 - helping the less privileged and developing countries to develop their expertise in the procurement, deployment and possible production of hardware and by facilitating availability of educational software through appropriate licensing arrangements, cooperative projects and development of national capabilities of designing educational software relevant to the local needs and culture.
14. We, the participants of the Congress, appeal to individuals and groups, business firms and governments, to give new impetus to the consultations that are so urgently needed in this field and to take steps to ensure that the international community gives sufficiently high priority to international plans and programmes aimed at co-operation on new information technologies in education to ensure that they cater for all countries expressing needs for assistance.
15. We appeal to the Director-General of Unesco, as well as to executive heads of agencies of the United Nations System, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the regional development banks, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend strong support to the judicious application of new information technologies in education so as to help bridge the gap in this domain between developing and industrialized nations.