



**2009 World Conference on Higher Education:
The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research
for Societal Change and Development**

(UNESCO, Paris, 5 – 8 July 2009)

Provisional Information Paper on Working Modalities

***This provisional Information Paper outlines the modalities in which
the work of the meeting will be conducted.***

INTRODUCTION

This Information Paper is intended to assist participants in planning and conducting the work of the Conference and to facilitate the adoption of a written report embodying such statements as may emerge from the deliberations.

I. NATURE OF THE MEETING

Article 1. Classification of the Conference

According to the 'Regulations for the general classification of the various categories of meetings convened by UNESCO', adopted by the General Conference at its fourteenth session (14 C/ Resolution 23) and amended at its eighteenth, twenty-fifth and thirty-third sessions (hereinafter called the 'Regulations'), the Conference is designated to be a "Category IV" meeting i.e. 'International Congress'.

Article 2. Provisional Agenda

A Provisional Agenda ED.2009/Conf.402/1 will be submitted to the Conference for adoption. The Conference may amend the provisional agenda.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Article 3. Categories of Participants

The World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE) 2009 is by invitation only. Being a Category IV, it is not an intergovernmental conference but a multi-stakeholder event. The following are the categories of participants invited:

- 3.1. Representatives appointed by UNESCO Member States,
- 3.2. Representatives appointed by Associate Members and Non- Member States,
- 3.3. Representatives of IGOs and NGOs, in particular representatives of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Higher Education,
- 3.4. Representatives of students' NGOs,
- 3.5. Representatives of UNITWIN (UNESCO chairs and networks), and other specialist higher education networks,
- 3.6. The private and corporate sector,
- 3.7. Special invitees to the Conference.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

Article 4. Activities of the Conference

The conference will be divided into five (5) plenary sessions, twenty-eight (28) parallel sessions, four (4) roundtable and special events and three (3) parallel stakeholder panels for

ministers, institutions as well as civil society and the private sector. The parallel sessions will be organized in collaboration with IGOs and NGO partners of UNESCO in the field of Higher Education.

Meetings of the plenary sessions, the parallel sessions, the roundtable and special events and parallel stakeholder panels will be open to all conference participants, unless otherwise decided by the conference, and with the exception of the Parallel Stakeholders' Panel 1 which is open only to Ministers or Heads of delegations, accompanied by one person.

Article 5 - Organizational Structure

- 5.1. A Steering Committee will be established by the Director-General.
- 5.2. The two General Rapporteurs of the Conference (one with responsibility for the overall conference discussions; one with responsibility for the African track of the Conference) are responsible for reporting on conference results in the Closing plenary session. The General Rapporteur responsible for the Conference Report will receive inputs from the respective rapporteurs of plenary sessions, of the three thematic tracks, of the roundtable and special events and of the three stakeholder panels. The three thematic tracks' rapporteurs will receive inputs from the rapporteurs of the parallel sessions. All rapporteurs should structure their report using the reporting template provided by the Conference Secretariat.
- 5.3. The parallel sessions, the special events and the parallel stakeholder panels will appoint their own chairpersons and rapporteurs.

Article 6 - Conduct of Business

The chairpersons of the Conference plenary and parallel sessions, roundtable and special events and stakeholders' panels will take up the following functions: they will declare all sessions to be officially opened and closed; they will grant the speakers the right to speak; they will be the moderators of the debates where necessary; and, if needed, they will summarize debates and recommendations. They will ensure the smooth functioning of the conference deliberations.

Article 7 - Drafting Group

- 7.1. A Drafting Group will be established in close cooperation with the Executive Secretariat (referred to in Article 10.2) for the drafting of the Communiqué of the World Conference on Higher Education. It will consist of the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, the two Conference General Rapporteurs, 18 representatives of Member States (3 designated representatives from each Electoral Group), a senior representative of UNESCO's Education Sector and higher education experts (3) and experienced drafters (3).
- 7.2. The Drafting Group will be responsible for the final draft text of the Communiqué to be adopted by the Conference. A first draft of the Communiqué will be available before the conference. A second draft, enriched with the outcomes of the plenary and parallel sessions, and taking into account proposed amendments received by Tuesday 6 p.m., will be distributed on Wednesday morning, 8 July. The final deadline for presenting written amendments to the Communiqué for consideration by the

Drafting Group is Wednesday, 8 July 2009 at 2 p.m.

Article 8 - Working Languages

The working languages of the opening and closing sessions and of all plenary sessions, roundtable and special events and parallel stakeholder panels will be English, French, Arabic and Spanish. To the extent possible, simultaneous interpretation in four languages will also be made available in the parallel sessions. In addition, Russian and Chinese interpretation will be available during the opening and closing sessions and all plenary sessions, the roundtable and the Ministers' parallel stakeholder panel.

Article 9 – Reports

- 9.1. The major outcomes of the deliberations of the conference (plenary sessions, parallel sessions, roundtable and special events and parallel stakeholder panels) will be embodied in a document entitled the Communiqué of the World Conference on Higher Education 2009 which is to be adopted by the Conference at its final plenary session. Furthermore, the Report of the World Conference on Higher Education 2009 will be made available after the completion of the Conference.
- 9.2. To this end, the work and recommendations of the plenary and parallel sessions, the roundtable and special events and the stakeholder panels will result in reports which will serve as inputs for the preparation of the Report of World Conference on Higher Education 2009.
- 9.3. The Chairperson of the Drafting Group will present, for approval by the conference at the final plenary, the Draft Communiqué of the World Conference on Higher Education 2009. This text will be available to participants in English and French. The Rapporteurs will also present an oral summary of the main conclusions of the plenary sessions, roundtable and parallel sessions, special events and parallel stakeholder panels.
- 9.4. The adopted Communiqué of the World Conference on Higher Education 2009 will be submitted by the Director-General to the Executive Board and to the General Conference of UNESCO in 2009 for follow up actions.
- 9.5. The UNESCO Secretariat will issue the Report of the World Conference on Higher Education 2009 referred to in Article 9.1 after the conference in four working languages of the Conference (Arabic, English, French, Spanish).

III - SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Article 10 - Secretariat of the Conference

- 10.1. The Director-General of UNESCO and the Assistant Director-General for Education or Director of the Division of Higher Education as his representative, will participate in the work of the conference and may, at any time, make either oral or written statements to the conference or to its subsidiary bodies on any question under consideration.
- 10.2. The Director-General of UNESCO will appoint the Executive Secretary to the conference, and UNESCO staff to act as secretaries of the plenary sessions, the

roundtable and parallel working sessions and parallel stakeholder panels of the conference as well as other officials who shall together constitute the secretariat of the conference.

- 10.3. The secretariat will distribute all official documents of the conference. It will also assist in drawing up the final documents and the reports of the conference and perform all other duties necessary for the work of the conference.

IV - MATTERS NOT FORESEEN

Any matter not foreseen in the present Information Paper will be submitted for the consideration of the Steering Committee and the Executive Secretary.