

BOGOTÁ DECLARATION ON ARTS EDUCATION

The participants at the Latin American and Latin Caribbean Regional Conference, “Towards Quality Arts Education: Challenges and Opportunities”, organized in Bogotá, Colombia, from 28 to 30 November 2005 by the Ministries of Education and Culture of Colombia and the Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean (ORCALC), with the support of the Regional Office for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC), UNESCO and the Regional Centre for Book Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC);

Having the following purpose:

That Member States of the Region promote a quality arts education for all that encourages and develops sensitivity and creativity in their peoples and is aimed at building a future based on the appreciation and protection of the natural and cultural heritage, as well as on solidarity and respect for cultural diversity;

And that national, regional, Latin American, and Caribbean exchanges and cooperation be encouraged;

On the basis of:

The principles contained in the Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies (Mexico City, 1982), the World Congress on the Status of the Artist (Paris, 1997), the Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, 1998), the International Appeal for the Promotion of Arts Education and Creativity at School made by the Director-General of UNESCO during the 30th session of the UNESCO General Conference (Paris, 1999), the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (Paris, 2001), the strategic objectives of the Regional Educational Project for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) (Havana, 2002) and the UNESCO Conventions concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972), on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris 2003), and on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris, 2005);

The concepts and prospects contained in “Learning: the treasure within”, the report of the International Task Force on Education for the Twenty-First Century chaired by Jacques Delors.

Noting that:

1. The development, through arts education, of an aesthetic sense and creativity, and of creative, critical thinking and reflection as inherent to the human condition, is the right of every child and young person;
2. The Member States of the Region possess a rich natural and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, which is under threat from multiple complex, sociocultural and environmental changes;

3. Attention must be paid to the requirements and demands arising from artistic and cultural changes;
4. Greater awareness must be created among children and young people of themselves and of their natural and cultural environment;
5. Access for all to cultural goods must be among the objectives of education and cultural systems;
6. Current living conditions require education to provide new visions and strategies for meeting the challenges of the present and building the future;
7. Arts education, as a form of political and civic construction, constitutes a basic tool for social inclusion;
8. Arts education makes a fundamental contribution towards achieving the above-listed objectives and capacities;
9. Arts education plays a strategic role in safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Considering that:

1. In most States in the Region, education policies place little value on arts education, and this is reflected in the isolation and devaluation of this area of knowledge.
2. In the Region, it is observed that the cultural and educational areas are dissociated, with two separate agendas often moving in parallel or in opposite directions.
3. In the pedagogical policies, strategies and practices of its arts education, the Region's cultural diversity fails to achieve that level of intense, full expression required for the affirmation and development of local and regional identities;
4. The very limited relation observed between the different levels and modalities of arts education hinders articulation between significant experiences and developments;
5. Countries recognize that there are insufficient teacher training programmes specializing in arts education;
6. There exist significant experiences in arts education, undertaken spontaneously, that are neither researched nor systematized.
7. Budgets for arts education are either inexistent or insufficient to cover its development needs.
8. Recognition of artists and their participation in the processes of arts education is insufficient;

9. The competencies and mechanisms for articulating formal and non-formal arts education between institutions of the educational and cultural sectors are undefined.
10. Continuity of commitment and activities influencing the constitution of and support for the State's public policies on arts education is affected by changes of government;

Adopt the following Bogotá Declaration on Arts Education within the framework of the preparation of the World Conference on Arts Education to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, in March 2006;

Undertake to:

Provide follow-up to the Appeal to Member States launched by the Director-General of UNESCO for the Promotion of Arts Education and Creativity at School by taking administrative, financial and legal measures to make this education compulsory in schools from preschool education up to the last year of secondary education.

In close cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Offices for Education and Culture and other intergovernmental bodies, promote arts education by practising the following:

1. Recognizing the special nature of the pedagogical training and practice that sustains the identity of the arts educator;
2. Training teachers in the theory and practice of arts education;
3. Developing and implementing arts education at the different levels and in the different modalities of education programmes from an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspective, the purpose being to open up new aesthetic channels;
4. Encouraging the participation in primary and secondary education of artists, tradition-bearers and cultural promoters in order to enrich pupils' creative use of the different forms of artistic expression.
5. Facilitating coordination between cultural and educational institutions in each country so that they can agree upon and implement policies and activities for the development of arts education;
6. Creating cooperative networks between Member States in the Region and within their respective education and cultural systems, including NGOs, civil society and international organizations, so as to base the successful development of arts education on cooperative activities and alliances;
7. Encouraging the participation and organization of arts education teachers, both nationally and internationally, so that they acquire greater social representativity and professional capacity;
8. Promoting knowledge of sociocultural and environmental problems in arts education programmes so that pupils develop values concerning their environment, a sense of belonging to their cultural reality and of commitment to the search for sustainable development;

9. Designing policies for national and regional research in the area of arts education, taking into account the specificities of ancestral cultures as well as vulnerable population groups;
10. Preparing and implementing regional and international training and research projects;
11. Systematizing significant experiences that can serve in preparing quality indicators for arts education, and promoting the exchange of experiences;
12. Recording and evaluating bibliographical resources and other sources of information on arts education existing in the Region, with a view to their republication and dissemination.
13. Promoting the allocation of space/time in the communication media to support the objectives of arts education and help develop aesthetic sensitivity and foster human values;
14. Incorporating the new information and communication technologies in teacher training programmes and in formal and non-formal education processes, as means of creation, artistic expression, reflection and critical thinking.
15. Encouraging the creation of texts, materials, methodologies and teaching/learning guides;
16. Encouraging investments that provide arts education with the cultural goods, material resources and funding to:
 - create specialized areas in schools and cultural spaces that offer any form of arts education;
 - provide specialized didactic materials, including publications in native languages;
 - ensure the development of arts education and promote fair pay and working conditions for teaching professionals who are developing this area of knowledge.
17. Encouraging the definition of abilities and mechanisms for articulating formal and non-formal arts education between educational and cultural institutions;
18. Guaranteeing continuity that transcends governmental programmes in the State's public policies on arts education;
19. Recognizing the role of arts education in preparing audiences and different sectors of the public to appreciate artistic manifestations;
20. Ensuring dissemination, implementation and follow-up by Ministries of Education and Culture in the Region of the measures mentioned in the present Declaration;

Recommend that the UNESCO Offices for Culture and Education in Latin America and the Caribbean:

1. Encourage the creation of regional programmes for research and lifelong training for professionals (artists, teachers, managers, planners, etc.) connected with arts education;

2. Promote a regional system to gather and disseminate information on arts education;
3. Encourage the creation of collections and inventories of Latin American and Caribbean works that enrich arts education in the visual, musical and theatre arts;

The participants at the Regional Conference of Latin America and the Latin Caribbean, “Towards Quality Arts Education: Challenges and Opportunities”, thank the Government of Colombia for the excellent organization of the conference and the hospitality given to the country representatives.

They invite OEI, CAB, CERLALC and other intergovernmental bodies to follow up on the measures agreed upon at this Conference.

Bogotá, Colombia, 30 November 2005