

UNESCO's Joint Programmatic Communication Commission

Meeting 2nd April 2008, room XVI

1/ The first 2008 Joint Programmatic Commission (JPC) on Communication meeting was held on the 2nd of April 2008. The participants discussed the **2008-2009 working program** and agreed to focus on the following items:

1. Contributing to UNESCO's post-WSIS follow-up actions in order to give its full dimension to UNESCO's multi-stakeholder approach as it implements action lines C7 ("ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life"), C8 ("Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content") and C10 ("Ethical dimension of the information society")
2. Following UNESCO's Information For All Program (IFAP) and International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC)
3. Contributing to UNESCO's draft Code of ethics in the information society and develop a written contribution (see draft) on Ethics in the information society.
4. Analyzing the evolution of new media and multi-media platforms and their impact (economic, social and legal).

2/ Regarding the third item of the working program, the issue of **ethics and the information society**, the objective is to work closely with the entities working directly on the topic (relevant UNESCO department, NGOs, UNESCO JPC on Human rights, etc.) and to address the following questions: :

1. As the Internet expands, what are the core principles (freedom of expression, access, diversity, etc.) that must be respected?
2. What are the fundamental values upon which these principles are based (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, etc)?

3/ Finally, the participants discussed of two workshop proposals that would be submitted to UNESCO's SC for the upcoming **commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (September 2008)**. It was agreed to submit the following proposals:

1. Internet and human rights
 - Ethics and the information society
 - o What are ethics in the information society?
 - o What are their basis (human rights, common values, etc.)
 - o Do they imply rights? Duties?
 - The impact of the international development and use of the Internet
 - o The ethical issues of empowering Internet users and the emergence of new social relationships
 - o Does this reassert and/or reinvent ethical issues and does it lead to new rules?
2. Media and freedom of expression
 - The impact of sound and image
 - o Should everything be diffused?

- Peaceful or violent impact?
- The limits of the freedom of expression
- Education to media
 - Can images ever be neutral?
 - The codes
 - How to organize education to media ?
 - According to which program?