THE HANOI DECLARATION

adopted at the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations for Peace and Sustainable Development Hanoi, Vietnam – 20 and 21 December 2004

We, Ministers, representatives of governments, scholars, experts and cultural practitioners from more than 30 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, participating in the Asia-Pacific Conference on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations for Peace and Sustainable Development, held in Hanoi, a recipient of UNESCO's City for Peace Prize, on 20 and 21 December 2004, hereby adopt the following Hanoi Declaration on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations for Peace and Sustainable Development:

1. Convinced that peace in the twenty-first century is inextricably linked with sustainable and inclusive development, human security and a dialogue based on shared human values,

2. Celebrating the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region in terms of cultures, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, artistic expression and creativity, religions and languages which makes it one of the most dynamic and diverse areas of the world,

3. Highlighting that diverse and abundant natural resources, eco-systems and biodiversity complement the rich cultural diversity of the region,

4. Aware that throughout history a dialogue among cultures and civilizations in various forms has enriched the diversity of each culture, and strengthened cultural diversity overall;

5. Stressing that all cultures and civilizations are equal and that dialogue should be based on commonly shared values and ethical principles, such as tolerance, respect for Others, mutual

understanding, respect for cultural diversity, and adherence to non-violence and the principles of peaceful co-existence,

6. Conscious that dialogue needs to be rooted in democratic practices, the rule of law, respect for human rights and the dignity of the individual as well as in justice and equity,

7. Emphasizing that a commitment to dialogue among cultures and civilizations is also a commitment to fight terrorism, as terror rests always and everywhere upon prejudices, intolerance, exclusion and, above all, on the rejection of any dialogue,

8. Recognizing that, especially in the context of globalization, dialogue has the potential to become an engine for bolstering peace and security, reconciling conflicts, reinforcing cultural diversity and advancing sustainable development;

9. Inspired by the Global Agenda on the Dialogue among Civilizations - adopted by United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/6 of 21 November 2001 – which states, inter alia, that dialogue among cultures and civilizations is a process aimed at attaining justice, equality and tolerance in people-to-people relationships,

10. Guided by resolution of the UNESCO General Conference on "New perspectives in UNESCO's activities pertaining to the dialogue among civilizations and cultures, including in particular follow-up to the New Delhi Ministerial Conference", adopted at the 32nd session in October 2003 (resolution 32 C/47), which calls for a translation of global approaches into regionally relevant recommendations and concrete initiatives,

11. Commending UNESCO for its pioneering role in promoting a broad range of discussions on the subject of dialogue at global, regional and sub-regional levels,

12. Welcoming the Declaration on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations, adopted by the fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in October 2004 in Hanoi,

13. Stressing the need for people everywhere to acquire a basic level of knowledge and understanding of other civilizations, cultures and religions as the best way to overcome lingering ignorances,

14. Underlining the important role policy-makers, governments, parliamentarians, actors of civil society, the academic and scientific communities, the private sector and professional associations, the media, religious and faith-based communities can play in initiating and conducting effective dialogue both within each country and within the region,

15. Determined to make dialogue a central feature of interaction in all walks of life, we resolve to adhere to the following set of specific commitments:

16. To enhance human security in the region by tackling with a sense of urgency – and in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - the challenges of poverty, trade and economic development, hunger, education and gender equality, child health and diseases, agricultural development, water and sanitation, urban development and environmental degradation,

17. To promote and to practice a culture of dialogue among nations and peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, thus increasing knowledge, appreciation, respect and compassion for "Others" and different cultures,

18. To accord a pivotal role to education in general and to the six Education for All (EFA) objectives in particular, which in the pursuit of quality education will entail renewal of school curricula, improvement and revision of textbooks and educational materials as well as re-orientation of the training of teachers,

19. To promote inter-cultural understanding, through both formal and non-formal education and through other means, such as the media and faith-based organizations,

20. To propose the selection of "dialogue among cultures and civilizations" as one of the major themes of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and inviting UNESCO, as the lead agency for this Decade, to design and implement specific activities in that regard,

21. To intensify our joint efforts in support of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), for which UNESCO also serves as lead agency, by undertaking more effective and visible dialogue-focused initiatives, especially at the community level, during the second half of the Decade,

22. To highlight the role of cultural diversity and heritage – in both tangible and intangible forms – as vectors of identities and as tools for reconciliation, and to emphasize the need for the protection of heritage and its preservation, presentation and transmission to future generations;

23. To record intangible heritage, whenever possible, in various forms to prevent its destruction or loss;

24. To strengthen the role of museums and other cultural institutions in fostering inter-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

25. To introduce an explicit gender perspective into activities promoting the dialogue and a culture of peace as well as empowering women fully, beginning with an expansion of universal basic education for girls and working for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) calling for gender equality at all levels of education by 2015,

26. To promote broad-based networking in support of dialogue for peace and poverty alleviation, involving the sharing of

knowledge and best practices and providing a source for learning and teaching at all levels,

27. To make full use of the various global networks under UNESCO auspices, such as the National Commissions for UNESCO, the Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), and the University Twinning and Networking Scheme (UNITWIN)/UNESCO Chairs Programme, as well as the regional networks like the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID), the Asia-Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU) and the Asia-Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education (APNIEVE) for the purpose of strengthening dialogue in the region,

28. To utilise information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bring together diverse communities, cultures, civilizations and different faiths, to advance freedom of expression and freedom of the press, and to broaden the outreach and quality of education,

29. To strengthen policies and mechanisms for regional co-operation as the natural way to tackle shared problems and to achieve sustainable development;

30. We, therefore, call, as part of the dialogue agenda, for concrete and tangible actions steeped in regional, national and local realities:

> a. To intensify people-to-people cultural and scientific exchanges and partnerships in the region, involving scholars, teachers, people in religious authority, students and media practitioners;
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> b. as part of national education reforms to adapt educational programmes to the exigencies of quality education, in line with the precept of "learning to live together" and, to that end, to review and renew curricula,

textbooks and educational materials;

c. to develop a comprehensive statement on values education for the interrelated areas of peace, human rights and sustainable development which shall include provisions for integrating values in curricula, developing appropriate teaching resource materials and providing teacher support and training;

d. to integrate intercultural components and approaches into teacher training;

e. to strengthen the Associated School Network (ASPnet) with a view to developing more educational modules supporting dialogue, such as "Heritage in Young Hands", and concrete intercultural exchanges on a sustained basis, such as the Mondialogo Partnership;

f. to develop jointly other teaching and learning modules, in particular for education for sustainable development (ESD), education for international and intercultural understanding (EID) and human rights education, which should also be made available on-line;

g. to promote interconnectedness through education for global citizenship and civic responsibility, particularly by imparting values and peace education;

h. to encourage regular exchanges on curriculum development among universities and institutions of higher education in the region;

i. to introduce ICTs at all educational levels and in all communities for information exchange, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and dialogue on educational challenges in the region and to provide content in multilingual form;

j. to use ICTs for dialogue by students both within universities and across different cultural areas, especially with a view to enhancing appreciation of the contributions by indigenous and traditional cultures to scientific and technological progress;

k. to establish a variety of new channels and modalities for intercultural dialogue and partnerships, especially among youth, to enhance mutual understanding, to share ideas and knowledge, to support creativity and to exchange scientific and technological information;

l. to that end, to intensify all types of networking, especially among the National Commissions for UNESCO in the region;

m. to promote the designation of new cultural routes and other mechanisms - such as an "earthenware and ceramics route" in the region - so as to highlight the value of cultural diversity, interaction and exchange;

n. to foster dialogue along recognized cultural routes, such as the Silk Road or the Slave Route, thereby universalising the inherent unity in human diversity;

o. to develop responsible cultural and eco-tourism, which may contribute to the sustainable development of local areas and economies while fostering dialogue and respect for cultural diversity and heritage;

p. to set up regional and interregional networking mechanisms linking museums as repositories of cultural heritage and to organize traveling exhibitions, artistic performances and professional exchanges;

q. to explore the feasibility of and modalities for creating a "Regional Forum for Dialogue" bringing together all stakeholders, including representatives of women's and youth organizations, and for organizing festivals of local

and traditional performing arts throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

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31. We call on all governments of the region, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and intergovernmental and international organizations to contribute to the implementation of the Hanoi Declaration;

32. We invite in particular UNESCO to assist - in its areas of competence - in the pursuit and realization of the various proposals made at the Hanoi conference, thereby creating the conditions for an effective dialogue among cultures and civilizations in the Asia-Pacific region and for interaction with other parts of the world;

33. We enjoin all countries of the region to ensure an early ratification of the Convention on the Protection of Intangible Heritage, which is an indivisible part of cultural heritage as a whole, and we support the early finalization of new standard-setting instruments, such as the Convention on Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions;

34. We are thankful to the Government of Japan, to UNESCO, the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO and to L'Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie for having contributed to the arrangements for the Hanoi Conference;

35. We express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and to the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, for having organized the important Hanoi conference and we thank profoundly the government and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Hanoi People's Committee for their gracious hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made.