

International Catholic Centre for Cooperation with UNESCO-CCIC
Address at UNESCO 40th General Conference, General policy debate, November
16, 2019

Mr. President of the General Conference,
Mr. Chairman of the Executive Board,
Mrs. Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished representatives of National Commissions,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

UNESCO was founded on a common ideal of justice, fraternity, solidarity, all three being conditions for peace. It is a home for people who are all different but nevertheless united to listen to the call of the world, united as well in their pursuit of the common good, the good for humanity, and united in their concerted actions.

The CCIC has its place in this home.

The CCIC, a platform of about forty NGOs, is present in 140 countries. Its actors are motivated by the desire to add a contribution to peace-building. Its diverse domains of action all fall within UNESCO's fields of competence.

It is this richness that we share with UNESCO :

There are the Mexican children who write the word peace with their open hands.
There are the young African adults going out on the streets to pick up homeless children, teaching them to take care of their body, helping them to enrol in school and bringing them up to civility.

There are the daily actions that restore confidence and dignity to the person.

There is the protection of families, children, promises for the future.

There is the training of hydrologist technicians in Africa.

There is the educational emergency to build a just and inclusive society.

There is the trust in the wisdom of man confronted to technological innovations.....

The CCIC heard UNESCO's invitation to strengthen dialogue with States (ref. document 207 EX/33). It has responded by participating in the work of the dedicated group under the direction of the Liaison Committee, a document presented to the last PNG Committee.

Dialogue is an encounter, it is people who are open and listen to each other in trust, it is the experience of fundamental human confrontation to accomplish a common goal.

The CCIC hopes that this enhanced dialogue will provide an opportunity to meet representatives of States and their National Commissions, to work together on their priorities and to participate together in the elaboration of programmes.

On the occasion of UNESCO General Conferences we have heard enthusiastic or poignant words, inspired words, or sublime voices of artists. These words diagnose the diseases of our globalized society and offer us remedies. All of them question our conscience and our hope.

They will be vain if we fail to act together in emergency for the medium and the long term, and if, in a

spirit of consultation and complementarity, we do not engage our responsibility with determination and flexibility, with reactivity and patience.

I let the philosopher Jacques Maritain conclude with the words of his address to UNESCO Second General Conference in 1947: *"UNESCO's mission is to contribute*

to international security and to peace. The organization has not been established to ensure the theoretical progress of education, science and culture, but to harness them for the concrete and positive work of peace among peoples." This is what the NGOs are dedicated to partipate into.

Thank you very much.
Christine Roche
CCIC President
November 16, 2019