



## 63. Hauptversammlung der Deutschen UNESCO-Kommission Hamburg, 10. und 11. Juli 2003

### 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the German Commission for UNESCO Hamburg, July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003

#### The Learning of Sustainability: Hamburg Declaration of the German Commission for UNESCO on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)

- Excerpts -

In autumn 2003 the General Conference of UNESCO is going to decide on the implementation of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Therefore the General Assembly of the German Commission for UNESCO has adopted the "Hamburg Declaration" (Hamburger Erklärung). Part I of this declaration addresses the stakeholders in Germany and defines concrete steps for a national plan of action to integrate the concept of ESD in all fields of education. Part II addresses UNESCO and contains 10 suggestions on annual themes for the decade.

The German Commission for UNESCO welcomes the decision of the UN General Assembly to declare a decade on education for sustainable development. Education and lifelong learning are essential for the implementation of a comprehensive policy for sustainable development.

#### I.

The German Commission for UNESCO recommends the following elements for a national plan of action:

- Existing networks should be extended and their best practices should be transferred into educational practice.
- Curricula, textbooks, examinations, and the training of educators, teachers, trainers and instructors should be reformed according to the principles of the Agenda 21.
- Non-formal education of youths and adults should be developed along the ESD agenda, and the networking of these institutions with NGOs active in the fields of global learning and environmental education has to be improved.
- The cooperation of education institutions with the private sector is crucial for a successful implementation of ESD.
- Technical and vocational education and training has to be reformed according to the Agenda 21, and the UNEVOC Centre in Bonn should act as the focal point for the international discussion in this regard, building upon the results and decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education in Seoul 1999.
- The German higher education institutions should commit themselves to the ESD principles.
- Education institutions should be encouraged to reorient their own management according to the ESD principles.
- In Germany, structures and working conditions must be established for the implementation of an "**alliance for the learning of sustainability**" (which, among others, affords a national committee with a secretariat, a monitoring and evaluation system, awareness raising activities, a web portal for the exchange of experiences).

- State-funded research must also support the ESD agenda. Research on ESD must be intensified.

The German Commission for UNESCO will actively take part in this common task. It is going to introduce the German experiences into the international framework of UNESCO.

## II.

By defining annual themes, UNESCO should provide an incentive for governments and civil societies of all member states to promote a global reorientation of education aiming at the learning of sustainability. The German Commission for UNESCO suggests the following ten themes as possible annual themes of the decade:

- behaviour of consumption and sustainable production
- cultural diversity
- health and the quality of life
- water and energy supply
- biosphere reserves as places of learning
- world heritage sites as places of learning
- the learning of sustainability in the knowledge society
- citizens' participation and good governance
- poverty alleviation through sustainable development projects
- justice between generations: human rights and ethical orientation

Referring to the resolution "The Results of the World Summit for Sustainable Development" of its 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002), the German Commission for UNESCO asks the German Federal Government to work in the intergovernmental bodies of UNESCO in order to integrate aspects of sustainable development in all programmes of UNESCO and to implement the results of the Johannesburg summit. Innovative and interdisciplinary projects in education, science, culture and communication should be developed. The German Commission for UNESCO asks the Federal Government to prepare German contributions for the upcoming UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. UNESCO should be given the mandate to develop an international recommendation on "the learning of sustainable development".

*(translation by the secretariat of the German Commission for UNESCO, Bonn)*

*full version in German: [http://www.unesco.de/hv/63hv\\_erklaerung.pdf](http://www.unesco.de/hv/63hv_erklaerung.pdf)*