

# UNESCO

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S.K.Kataria

# Introduction

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- UNESCO or 'United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization' is an international agency of the United Nations.
- It was established on Nov.4, 1946 and located at Paris.
- It aimed at contributing "to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.
- It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

# Mission and Mandate

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- The constitution of UNESCO says- “Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed”.
- Its mandate is -Political and economic arrangements of governments are not enough to secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples. Peace must be founded upon dialogue and mutual understanding. Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity.
- In this spirit, UNESCO develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance. UNESCO works so that each child and citizen has access to quality education.

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- By promoting cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, UNESCO strengthens bonds among nations. UNESCO fosters scientific programmes and policies as platforms for development and cooperation. UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression, as a fundamental right and a key condition for democracy and development. Serving as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO helps countries adopt international standards and manages programmes that foster the free flow of ideas and knowledge sharing.
- UNESCO's founding vision was born in response to a world war that was marked by racist and anti-Semitic violence. Seventy years on and many liberation struggles later, UNESCO's mandate is as relevant as ever. Cultural diversity is under attack and new forms of intolerance, rejection of scientific facts and threats to freedom of expression challenge peace and human rights. In response, UNESCO's duty remains to reaffirm the humanist missions of education, science and culture.

# Governance

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- UNESCO has three main parts in its internal working-

- The General Conference
- The Executive Board
- The Secretariat

- **A- The General Conference**

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- The General Conference determines the policies and the main lines of work of the Organization. Its duty is to set the programmes and the budget of UNESCO. It also elects the Members of the Executive Board and appoints, every four years, the Director-General. The working languages of the General Conference are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

- **B- The Executive Board**

- The Executive Board ensures the overall management of UNESCO. It prepares the work of the General Conference and sees that its decisions are properly carried out. The functions and responsibilities of the Executive Board are derived primarily from the Constitution and from rules or directives laid down by the General Conference.

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- Every two years the General Conference assigns specific tasks to the Board. Other functions stem from agreements concluded between UNESCO and the United Nations, the specialized UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations.
- The Executive Board's fifty-eight members are elected by the General Conference. The choice of these representatives is largely a matter of the diversity of the cultures they represent, as well as their geographic origin. Skillful negotiations may be needed before a balance is reached among the different regions of the world in a way that will reflect the universality of the Organization. The Executive Board meets twice a year.

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- **C- The Secretariat**

- The Secretariat is the Executive Branch of the organisation. It consists of the Director-General and the Staff appointed by him or her. The staff is divided into Professional and General Service categories. About 700 staff members work in UNESCO's 53 field offices around the world.
- The Organization has 193 Members and 11 Associate Members.
- Membership of UNESCO is governed by Articles II and XV of the Constitution and by rules 98 to 101 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. Membership of the United Nations carries with it the right to membership of UNESCO. States that are not members of United Nations may be admitted to UNESCO, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Conference.



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- Territories or groups of territories that are not responsible for the conduct of their international relations may be admitted as Associate Members. Their admission and their rights and obligations are determined by the General Conference (see 6C/Resolution 41.2 and Basic Texts).
- Most Member States have established Permanent Delegations to UNESCO which, headed by Ambassadors, undertake liaison between the Organization and their governments.
- All Member States have established a National Commission for UNESCO. The UNESCO National Commissions are national cooperating bodies set up by the Member States for the purpose of associating their governmental and non-governmental bodies with the work of the Organization.

# UNESCO's Institutes

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- UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning  
IIEP, Paris (France) and Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- UNESCO International Bureau of Education,  
IBE, Geneva, (Switzerland)
- UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning,  
UIL, Hamburg (Germany)
- UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education  
IITE, Moscow (Russian Federation)
- UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa  
IICBA, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
- Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, New Delhi (India)

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- UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, IESALC, Caracas (Venezuela).
- UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, UNEVOC, Bonn (Germany).
- Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, MGIEP, New Delhi (India).
- UNESCO- Institute for Water Education, Delft (Netherlands)
- International Centre for Theoretical Physics, ICTP, Trieste (Italy)

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- UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UIS, Montreal (Canada)
- UNESCO has also designated 81 International and Regional Institutes and Centres under its auspices.
- **UNESCO's New Delhi Office is mandated to cover six countries of South Asia -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. UNESCO's programmes in Bangladesh and Nepal are implemented by UNESCO Offices in Dhaka and Kathmandu.**