

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNECISO EDUCATION SECTOR MEETING WITH THE DIRECTORS OF THE FIVE CATEGORY II CENTRES

5 – 7 May 2009, Beijing, China

The Directors of the 5 Category II Centers attached to UNESCO Education Sector, namely the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) in the Republic of Korea, the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa of the African Union (AU/CIEFFA) in Burkina Faso, the Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA) in Malawi, the Regional Centre for Educational Planning (RCEP) in the United Arab Emirates, and the International Research and Training Center for Rural Education (INRULED) in China, assembled in Beijing, China, on 5 to 7 May 2009 to discuss the future collaboration strategy for the Category II Centers with the presence of the UNESCO ADG for Education,

Having deliberated on key issues aimed at strengthening and maximizing our output and contribution towards quality education:

The Category II institutes and centers state their common desire to strengthen our own capacity as members of UNESCO Family in achieving UNESCO's missions by means of strong partnership and joint collaboration activities. We will work with the Member States, the field offices, the international community, the civil society and the private sector to increase the visibility and impact of UNESCO in our respective countries and regions.

The participating centers agree that closer cooperation is needed among ourselves to utilize our resources more effectively to achieve successful alignment with UNESCO visions and Education Programme priorities for sustainable development.

Recalling the 33 C/5 Resolution 90, 34 C/5 Resolution 90,

Further recalling the Draft Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Institutes and Centers under the auspices of UNESCO (Category II) (181 EX/66. Add) adopted by the 181st Session of the Executive Board in 2009,

Recognizing that education plays an important role in achieving sustainable development worldwide and it can only be reached through various thematic approaches including rural education, international understanding, youth development, education for all especially for girls and women,

Participants in the meeting made unanimous recommendations to UNESCO, to the

hosting Member States and to the Centers themselves in the following lines:

1. A network of Category II Centers be created and continually strengthened through the support of UNESCO and the Member States, with 'Focal Points' for Category II institutes/centers appointed at UNESCO country/sub-regional offices, regional bureaus for education
2. Category II Centers designate the Centre that hosted the Meeting as a Focal Centre responsible for the follow up of the recommendations that will serve for two years term on a rotation basis to maintain the network and to share information till the next meeting;
3. Category II Centers better focus on areas of respective strengths and comparative advantages to contribute to UNESCO's programme priorities in light of UNESCO 35C/5 strategies and programme priorities;
4. The governments of respective hosting Member States further commit themselves to support Category II Centers in terms of established legal entity status, reasonable funding, infrastructure and staff development;
5. Programme actions and activities should be made for policy dialogue and experiences sharing and strategy development for education to respond to the global financial crisis especially for disadvantaged populations in Africa and Asia;
6. UNESCO consolidate and strengthen partnerships and build up closer connections with various stakeholders, the private sector and the media in order to strengthen activities of Category II Centers in their countries and region;
7. Category II Centers be enabled to develop partnership with UNESCO's global and regional and sub-regional networks such as UNEVOC, ASPnet, UNESCO Chair/UNITWIN programmes, APEID/APPEAL, APNIEVE, etc.
8. UNESCO Education Intranet be developed for linkages to all Category II Centers and related networks;
9. UNESCO develop specific sector strategy on engagement and interaction with Category II Centers and include this strategy in 35 C/5 to recognize the important contributions and partnership with its Category II Centers;
10. UNESCO promote accelerated guidance and solutions to problems with the provision of contact point in each programme sector and facilitate cooperation between Category II Centers and field offices, by appointing clear focal points for substantive content matters and technical support;
11. UNESCO should help with Category II Centers' fund-raising efforts by circulating the pertinent information and informing Category II Centers the financial procedure related;
12. UNESCO shall make efforts to create possible opportunities, during or before its General Conferences or other significant international gatherings, to organise, as a side event, a meeting of all Directors of Category II Centres.

7 May 2009

Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding
International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa of the African Union
Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa
International Research and Training Center for Rural Education
Regional Centre for Educational Planning