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Secrétaire général  
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Maison de l'UNESCO

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## Bureau de la planification stratégique

Réf. : BSP/DPA/CSP/21/25

Monsieur le Secrétaire général,

Au nom de la Directrice générale, j'ai le plaisir de vous informer que, à sa 212<sup>e</sup> session en octobre 2021, le Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO a décidé de renouveler le partenariat en statut d'association du Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH) pour une nouvelle période de huit ans renouvelable jusqu'en 2029, sur recommandation de la Directrice générale (décision 212 EX/36).

Je tiens à vous rappeler les avantages et les obligations qu'impliquent le renouvellement de ces relations, comme énoncés dans les Sections V et VI des Directives concernant le partenariat de l'UNESCO avec les organisations non gouvernementales, constituent un engagement formel de la part des deux parties. Je vous adresse copie de ces Directives, adoptées par la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence générale en 2011.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous rappeler que les termes « ONG en partenariat officiel avec l'UNESCO (statut d'association) » peuvent être utilisés pour décrire les relations de coopération de votre organisation avec l'UNESCO aux fins d'information et de promotion.

Le Bureau de la planification stratégique (Mme Sabina Colombo, Chef de l'Unité chargée des partenariats avec la société civile ; tél. : +33 1 45 68 17 78 ; courriel : ngo@unesco.org) est votre point focal concernant ce partenariat officiel et reste à votre disposition pour vous fournir toute information complémentaire.

L'UNESCO se félicite de ce renouvellement qui est le résultat d'une collaboration fructueuse établie entre nos Organisations. Je suis convaincu que cette étape permettra d'améliorer et de renforcer encore plus l'impact de nos activités conjointes.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.Y. Le Saux". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Jean-Yves Le Saux  
Directeur

P.J. : 1

<b>INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PHILOSOPHY AND HUMAN SCIENCES (CIPSH) CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE LA PHILOSOPHIE ET DES SCIENCES HUMAINES (CIPSH)</b>		
<i>Established in:</i>	1949	<i>Headquarters:</i> UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
<i>Official relations with UNESCO:</i>	1950	
<i>Aims and mission:</i>	The CIPSH confederates international scholarly unions, federations and associations, representing hundreds of different learned societies in the field of philosophy, human sciences and related subjects. It coordinates the international work and research projects carried out by many centres and networks of scholars.	
<i>Geographical representation of its members</i>	International	
<i>Cooperation with UNESCO:</i>	<p><b><i>To be completed by the NGO</i></b> (extensively describe your cooperation with UNESCO during the period under consideration [2012-2020], including information on agreements, joint projects, contributions to UNESCO's programme, etc., as well as future perspectives for cooperation.)</p> <p>(Preliminary note: since 2017, although keeping its naming in two main languages, French and English, CIPSH decided to use just one acronym – CIPSH – thus abandoning the former abbreviation ICPHS).</p> <p><b><u>Overview of the cooperation with UNESCO (2012-2020)</u></b></p> <p>The International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences was founded in 1949, under the auspices of UNESCO, to explore the uniqueness of the Humanities for understanding the great challenges of Humanity: peace, conviviality, purpose, what it means to be Human, what conditions Human agency, how to articulate cultural diversity and the unity of the species, while rejecting any forms of racism, xenophobia or other prejudice. Philosophy, History, Literature, Anthropology, Geography, all their sub-disciplines, but also the fundamental principles of meaning and ethics in other sciences, are at the core of the work of CIPSH.</p> <p>Currently involving 21 world scholarly federations, themselves engaging thousands of structures in all countries, CIPSH and its members, with UNESCO, have been working to set agreed priorities and agendas for the new challenges ahead.</p> <p>The challenges facing Humanity, also relating to sustainability of human societies and their environment, are numerous and diverse. However, they cluster into three main areas: replacing the anxiety of short-term problems by a convergent understanding of dilemma (since no reflective and sustainable strategy may ever emerge from the panic of emergency); countering cognitive alienation through the socializing of knowledge (since the resilience of societies does not depend on the technical</p>	

accumulation of competences but on adaptive dissemination) and, moreover, moving beyond divides, preserving diversity but learning about becoming human (since all main challenges are global, and require world convergences).

The first major strategic agreement with UNESCO, for the period 2012-2020, has been the preparation of a World Humanities Conference (WHC). This proposal had been first proposed by Adama Samassékou, then President of CIPSH, and favourably welcomed by UNESCO. Initial structure drafts had been discussed as of 2010, when the CIPSH General Assembly met in Nagoya, and was favoured by the resolution of UNESCO in 2011, concerning the Humanities.

Following a reflection initiated in 2008, the General Assembly of CIPSH was hosted by UNESCO in Paris in 2014 and decided to engage an ambitious agenda, aiming at resuming the role of the Humanities in contemporary society, after decades of undervaluation of their relevance. On that occasion, the Council had an in-depth discussion concerning the current state of international research and the need to re-think the scope and role of human sciences in contemporary society, for two main reasons: on the one hand, there has been no global re-thinking of the role and scope of the humanities following major global changes that accelerated in the past few decades; on the other hand, there is a growing need to re-introduce in the daily concerns of society a mid- and long-term perspective, that is required in face of future uncertainty and which finds no answer within the limits of a purely immediate problem-solving approach.

This moment became a turning point, accelerating the preparation of the WHC and triggering a new framework for the cooperation between CIPSH and UNESCO, involving other projects (UNESCO Chairs and MOST programmes, launching of a project on Arts & Society, cooperation in the domain of sustainability science, several other meetings and conferences at a regional level, the World Humanities Report in preparation, etc.).

In this context, CIPSH has reinforced its close collaboration with UNESCO and its Social Sciences and Humanities sector, but has also engaged in activities in the wider context of **Science** (namely the *International Year of Global Understanding*, proclaimed in partnership with the then ISSC and ICSU, after a resolution of UNESCO in 2013; and the project on *Broadening the Concept of Sustainability Science*), **Education** (having engaged in a process of helping to establish new UNESCO-Humanities chairs, with 12 new chairs having been established, involving over 150 universities and related partners, along with supporting efforts to expand the UNESCO Global Learning cities and the ASP-Net programmes) and **Culture** (namely engaging in the launching of the Arts & Society project, including the new magazine *Humanities, Arts and Society*).

CIPSH will soon convene its General Assembly in December 2020. It will be the moment to prepare a new set of strategic goals, since all of the objectives defined in 2014 were accomplished. UNESCO has been a core partner for CIPSH and it is time to also prepare a new framework agreement (the current one covering the period 2014-2021, in relation to the mid-term strategy of UNESCO). CIPSH pursues discussions with UNESCO, namely with the SSH sector, and also considers it is time to further formalise cooperation with the other sectors of UNESCO.

Below we indicate major agreements, main events and projects, as well as contributions to the UNESCO programme over the last eight years. We also reflect on future perspectives and include some useful links.

### **Agreements**

1. [Framework Agreement](#) – this was signed in 2016, but covering the whole period of the mid-term strategy of UNESCO. It establishes procedures of consultation and cooperation and focuses on the MOST programme, the WHC and several other initiatives in progress (seminars, publications, UNESCO chairs).
2. [WHC Outcome Document](#) – this was approved in the WHC in Liège, co-organized by UNESCO and CIPSH, and it was validated by the General Conference of UNESCO after that. Subsequent ongoing projects, such as the expansion of the Chairs network, the World Humanities Report, the Global History of Humanity of the magazine *Humanities, Arts and Society*, build from this document.
3. [Humanities, Arts & Society](#) – an agreement was signed, in 2016, to establish an Arts & Society project, with the premise that transformations of societies and of nature are based on human actions, and human actions are based on cultural, social, and ethical schemes of knowledge, interpretation, and awareness. As a first relevant result, over 120 artists from all over the world jointly prepared a video installation for the WHC. Following this, the project expanded, including the edition of a magazine (published in French, English and Chinese).
4. [World Logic Day](#) – UNESCO’s General Conference, at its 40th session, proclaimed the 14 January “World Logic Day”, in association with the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH), *recalling* that logic, as a discipline that encourages rational and critical thinking, is of paramount importance for the development of human knowledge, science and technology. CIPSH has established a special coordination project and will foster the WLD as a major outreach moment for the Humanities in general.

### **Main events, Projects and Contributions to UNESCO**

5. [GA 2014 and new strategy](#) – A new course for CIPSH, strengthening and expanding the cooperation with UNESCO, is approved at its General Assembly, held in the UNESCO buildings (Bonvin), in Paris.
6. [GA 2015. New statutes and members](#) – An extraordinary General Assembly of CIPSH was conveyed in Beijing, welcoming an address by ADJ Nada Al-Nashif. It approved new statutes and the admission of three more members (expanding from 12 to 15 members).
7. [2015 Apheleia network](#) – A European Commission sponsored new international network, on Humanities and Cultural Landscape Management, was established in 2014. Following this, a cooperation with UNESCO-MOST was established, and yearly seminars and publications have been organized.
8. [2016 IYGU](#) – 2016 was proclaimed as the International Year of Global Understanding. Although UNESCO was not a formal partner, it was closely associated to its various preparation steps and was present at its proclamation ceremony, in Durban, and two of the new UNESCO chairs created in 2018 emerge from this programme.
9. [2016 SAHC](#) – In preparation of the WHC, a South-America Conference on Territorialities and Humanities was conveyed, in partnership with UNESCO, becoming the first step of a ongoing reorganization of the Humanities in the sub-continent.
10. [2017 SuS](#) – The project *Broadening the Application of Sustainability Science*, organized by UNESCO and engaging CIPSH, produced a first relevant document which encompasses, for the first time, the perspectives of the Humanities concerning sustainability, alongside the contributions of social and natural sciences. This became very relevant for subsequent initiatives, leading to a new UNESCO project, with CIPSH: BRIDGES (see 18., below).
11. [2017 WHC](#) – The World Humanities Conference is the key structuring moment of the 2012-2020 UNESCO-CIPSH cooperation. It provided a first overview of the current Humanities research and their societal

impact, and it started structuring an agenda in this field, engaging CIPSH and UNESCO but, also, many other organizations.

12. 2018 Chairs programme – Although initiated in 2016, it is from 2018 that several new UNESCO chairs have been proposed and approved, in the domain of the Humanities. These include proposals from all continents, on various domains, such as [Global Understanding](#), [Cultural Landscape Management](#), [Multilingualism policies](#) or [Borders and Migrations](#), among others.
13. [2018 WHR](#) - One of the outcomes of the 2017 World Humanities Conference, organized by CIPSH and UNESCO, was recognition of a need for deeper understanding of the humanities in all world regions. Based on this recommendation, CIPSH decided to undertake a World Humanities Report. The goal of the report will be to establish areas of value from within the humanities and to show how the humanities define areas of urgency and attention. From within this context, the report will demonstrate the effect of supporting the humanities. At the same time, the report aims to establish a deeper understanding of where and how the humanities are threatened. The Report will present its preliminary recommendations very soon, based on regional reports prepared by regional hubs (East Asia, Indian Peninsula, Africa, South America, Arab Region, Europe and North America) and a central synthesis report.
14. [2019 SAHC](#) – As a follow-up of the WHC, a second South-America Conference was conveyed in Brazil. This became particularly important to establish a partnership with the Association of Universities Group Montevideo, for the World Humanities Report.
15. [2020 HAS](#) – A first issue of the new Magazine *Humanities, Arts and Society*, on the theme “Big Data and Singularities”, has been published in June 2020. A second issue will be published soon.
16. [2020 Silk Roads](#) – CIPSH is also collaborating with the UNESCO Silk Roads Programme and its various initiatives.
17. [2020 Partnership with the UNESCO Byblos Centre](#) – The International Center for Human Sciences (CISH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CIPSH, to establish a mutually beneficial relationship built on academic, scientific and cultural cooperation.
18. [2020 BRIDGES](#) - Since December 2017, exploratory discussions have taken place between UNESCO, CIPSH and various institutional and organizational partners internationally active in the sustainability domain (in particular the Humanities for the Environment

Circumpolar Observatory) concerning a proposal to establish a global coalition on sustainability science. This initiative builds upon the refined sustainability science paradigm inaugurated in 2017 with the launch of [UNESCO's Guidelines for Sustainability Science in Research and Education](#), and aims specifically to operationalize them. Starting in 2020, BRIDGES is developing an action framework by bringing together a range of partners, to design and implement, in a co-owned manner, pilot territory-based projects, combining different knowledge sources and traditions.

19. [Humanities & Social Sciences for Sustainability](#) – Organized by the UNESCO Chair on Global Understanding for Sustainability, at the University of Jena, this Conference occurs the 21 and 22 October, with the collaboration of CIPSH and engaging a large number of leading scholars, artists and policy makers, building from the awareness that the needed societal transformations cannot be achieved without Human and Social Sciences, discussing how can they effectively intervene.
  
20. [2021 EHC](#) – Following the WHC, the European Conference takes on the field of Humanities (including its various traditions, notably under the designations of Humanities, Geisteswissenschaften and Sciences Humaines) as a set of specific methodologies and perspectives. These, however, are not limited to traditional disciplinary issues and, within the conference, should focus on cross-cutting themes of society, highlighting the specific contribution of the Humanities to our world. Such contribution is made in close cooperation with researchers from other disciplines such as the natural, social, engineering, and medical sciences, to discuss educational and scientific policy as well as processes of knowledge dissemination. The European Conference will occur from May 5-7, 2021, but it is already being prepared as a significant event of collaborative effort

### **Future perspectives**

In 2017, together with UNESCO, CIPSH organized the World Humanities Conference, whose final document recommendations have been endorsed by the General Conference of UNESCO two years ago, then becoming a core component of a collaborative workplan, which is now being implemented.

Since then, four major international projects have been established.

The *Global History of Humanity* directly addresses the need to understand a common past of our species, with all its diversity, starting with a dozen debates that can now be considered important to show the role of the humanities in responding to the challenges of a world that becomes at the same time more integrated and more fragmented. These debates, ranging

from the origins of humankind and technological adaptations to patterns of consumption, will be published--addressing a wider community of readers and supported by material for schools.

The *World Humanities Report* aims at offering a portrait of the Humanities worldwide, considering regions, disciplines and themes, and identifying positive changes which are underway (concerning methods, institutions, networking or themes), which are the main risks (concerning archives, disciplines, methods, languages, platforms, heritage sites, research programs, and institutions) and which is the current institutional framework of the Humanities in different regions and countries.

A third main project has been to identify strong international universities' networks dealing with key topics of societal interest, and fostering their structuring as *UNESCO or CIPSH chairs*. So far, 10 chairs have been established, involving over 150 very strong institutions, covering themes such as borders and migrations, language diversity, global understanding, new humanities or landscape management.

The understanding of the need to foster a close collaboration between the Humanities and the Arts led to the establishment, in partnership with UNESCO-MOST and Mémoire de l'Avenir, of the *Arts and Society* project, first presented at the World Humanities Conference and now experiencing a consolidation and expansion, also in partnership with the Global Chinese Arts and Culture Society.

All the aforementioned programmes are undertaken by CIPSH, but in close collaboration with UNESCO and with the support of several international and national institutions. This is also the case of the ongoing efforts to establish an international coalition as a means to complete and thereby strengthen the sustainability science domain, building from the Humanities, encompassing the Arts, the Social and Natural Sciences, as well as other knowledge communities and traditions, aiming to be formalized within UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme. This will help articulate ongoing successful territories-based experiences, further expanding them and improving on methodologies.

It is also in this context that CIPSH welcomed the proclamation by UNESCO of the 14<sup>th</sup> of January as the World Day of Logic. CIPSH will be fully committed to organizing, encouraging and disseminating initiatives worldwide, namely involving its member organizations and the UNESCO and CIPSH Humanities chairs, in close collaboration with the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science / Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, itself a member of CIPSH.

CIPSH is now committed to discussing with UNESCO the details of the next framework agreement and in contribution for its mid-term strategy. The inputs of the World Humanities Report are leading to a first set of recommendations, which feed that discussion. We are all aware of the growing difficulties in the world, aggravated by regional and global tensions, the pandemic and the economic crisis. In this regard, the



Humanities face particular threats, but are also fundamental for social debate and strategic action.

In this context, apart from the projects already agreed upon with UNESCO in the past, and ongoing, CIPSH is preparing three new programs, in which the partnership with UNESCO will be very important: a project of Humanities and Health (building from several initiatives undertaken since 2018), a project on Humanities and Technology (following important international seminars in 2019 and regional ongoing projects) and a Humanities Sustainability strategy (to be debated in the context of the preparation of the European Humanities Conference, and engaging several foundations and other Humanities funding mechanisms).

In this endeavor, CIPSH will partner with UNESCO, also involving its 21 international Unions and Federations: UAI – International Academic Union, ANHN – Asian New Humanities Network, APHELEIA – Humanities International Association for Culturally Integrated Landscape Management, CASS – Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, CHCI – Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, CIPL – Permanent International Committee of Linguists, CISH – International Committee of Historical Sciences, ECHIC – European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres, FIEC – International Federation of Associations of Classical Studies, FILLM – International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures, FISP – International Federation of Philosophical Societies, IAA – International Association for Aesthetics, IAHR – International Association for the History of Religions, IAPG – International Association for Promoting Geoethics, IGU – International Geographic Union, IPPA – International Positive Psychology Association, IUAES-WAU – Intern. Union of Anthropological and Ethnological – World Anthropology Union, IUHPST/DHST – International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology/Division of History of Science and Technology, IUHPST/DLMPST – Intern. Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology- Division of Logics, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology, MAAYA – World Network For Linguistic Diversity and UISPP – International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences.