

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Since its founding in 1945, its headquarter in Paris, UNESCO works to create the appropriate conditions to launch a dialogue between civilizations, cultures and peoples on the basis of respect for shared values.

It is through this dialogue, the world can come to develop a comprehensive vision for sustainable development, ensure observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all these located at the heart of the issues of UNESCO's mission and activities.

The overall objectives and concrete targets for the international community (as set out in the Development Goals Internationally agreed, including the Millennium Development Goals) constitute the premises of UNESCO strategies and activities. Thus UNESCO's unique competencies in the areas of its specialty, namely education, science, culture, communication and information, also contribute to the achievement of these goals.

It also works to achieve a number of overall objectives, they are:

- Ensuring good quality of education for all and lifelong learning.
- Harnessing knowledge and science policy for sustainable development.
- Encounter the new social and ethical challenges.
- Backing cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and culture of peace.
- Building societies of knowledge capacity through information and communication.

Number of members

UNESCO, after the accession of the Republic of Singapore in October 2007, includes 193 Member States and 7 affiliated countries.

International Heritage Sites Program

They are the landmarks the Committee of the World Heritage in the UNESCO candidates to be included in the program sites of International Heritage administered by UNESCO. These landmarks may be natural, like the forests and the mountains or may be manmade like buildings and cities.

This program was launched by the Convention for the Protection of the World natural and Cultural Heritage adopted during the UNESCO's General Conference, which was held on November 16, 1972. Since the signing, 180 States had ratified to this Convention. The program aims to classify, label and preserve sites of interest for the human race, whether cultural or natural. Through this agreement, sites included in this program get financial aid under certain conditions.

For a period of four years, the Committee of World Heritage is composed of (21) Member States, Iraq has become a member of the General Committee in 2009 in addition to the electing of (Cambodia, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Mali, Mexico, the European Union, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates..

UNESCO announced the addition of the Valley of Peace cemetery in Najaf to the preliminary list World Commission on the cultural and natural heritage, bringing the number of sites proposed to be added to the ten sites especially in Iraq. They are namely- :

- 1- Arbil.
- 2- Nimrod site.
- 3- The ancient city of Nineveh.

4- Babylon.

5- Alkifl site.

7-Ur.

7- Valley of Peace cemetery.

8- Ukhaydir.

9- Wasit.

10- The marshes.

Structure

1- The General Conference:

The General Conference consists of the representatives of the Member States of the Organization who are usually on the Ministerial level, and at each session of the General Conference, a number of Presidents or Heads of Governments make official visits to UNESCO.

The sessions of the General Conference held once every two years and attended also by representatives of associate members and observers from non-member countries. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental also attend.

The general conference determines the organization's policy lines and the general method it approaches especially through the study and the adoption of the program and budget for biennium, and putting of international normative documents and the adoption of a number of decisions on important topics related to their areas of competence of the Organization.

The General Conference elects the members of the Executive Board and regulates the election of members of the various subsidiary bodies.

It also elects Director-General of UNESCO every four years.

2-Executive Board:

The Executive Council is regarded as a board of UNESCO. It prepares for the General Conference and ensures the proper implementation of its decisions. The functions and responsibilities of the Executive Board derive mainly from the Constitutive Charter Act and the regulations and directives issued by the General Conference. Also, some decisions of the General Conference complete these rules. In every two-year period, the General Conference asks the Executive Board to do some specific tasks. Some other powers derive from the agreements concluded between UNESCO and the Organization of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations.

The General Conference elects the 58 members of the Executive Council. The selection of representatives of Member States depend mainly on the diversity of cultures they represent and their Geographic assets; A complex arbitrations conduct to reach a balance among the various regions of the world and this balance shows the global nature of the organization.

The Executive Board meets twice a year.

Term of membership: four years.

UNESCO and Iraq:

Iraq joined UNESCO on 21 / October 1948. There is currently a UNESCO office for Iraq in the Jordanian capital, Amman. The situation in Iraq and education on the top of the list of cooperating with UNESCO so that it is making significant efforts to support education in various parts of the country.

Iraq and one of the 35 countries participating in the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE). It is an international initiative strategy extends to 10 years to achieve the goals of the United Nations Decade for Literacy.

Regarding communication and media, UNESCO strongly supports Iraq in order to develop a national policy about the media and communication

based on the promotion of freedom of expression thanks to a series of programs to build capacity in the media sector.