

# UNESCO RECOMMENDATION ON SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS

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[© UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development 10 Nov. 2018: Science, a Human Right](#)

## THE RECOMMENDATION 2017

On November 2017, UNESCO adopted the “Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers” that is wider than the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers and considers Science as a Common Good for Humanity.

In addition, recognizing Science as a common good, and, by the way, as a Human Right, the Recommendation considers the implication of Science in civic and ethical dimensions, which is addressing all Human Beings.

Besides, the Recommendation affirms that scientific research is a part of “Lifelong Learning Education” and that every scientific researcher has, all around the world, the right to up to date her/his own research, but also to train in other fields of research thanks to “attendance at conferences, free access to international databases and journals, libraries and other sources of information”, what supposes free mobility that must be facilitated by Member States.

The Recommendation encourages the partnerships with all organizations such as NGOs to succeed in the implementation of that vision. And the last part of the Recommendation gives all the basic texts on the matter.

Furthermore, we can also read, relating to the aims of the **Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights**, adopted on 19 October 2005, Article 2 (d), the advise “to recognize the importance of freedom of **scientific research** and the benefits derived from scientific and technological developments, while stressing the need for such research and developments **to occur within the framework of ethical principles set out in this Declaration and to respect human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms**”.

## THE 2018 WORLD SCIENCE DAY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

The 2018 World Science Day for Peace and Development will be devoted in 2018 to Science as a Common Good, what means that Science must be considered as a Human Right (cf. UDHR, Art. 27) saying that *“Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits”*.

The World Science Day 2018 will focus on a special aim in close relation with the UDHR and the Sustainable Development Goals: *“Everyone has a right to participate in and benefit from science, it will serve to spark a global discussion on ways to improve access to science and to the benefits of science for sustainable development”*.

**In her statement on the topic, the Director General of UNESCO says:** *“Together, we should strive for greater access to science education - particularly for girls – as well as support Open Science and innovative ways for advancing research”*.

**And the Assistant Director General affirms that** *“Everyone has a right to participate in and benefit from science, and science centres and museums play an important role in making science accessible to all. They share UNESCO’s objectives of linking science more closely with society, sharing scientific knowledge and fostering the engagement of young people in science, technology and innovation”*.

**Every association, such as Non-Governmental Organizations are warmly encouraged to celebrate the 2018 World Science Day FOR Peace and Development.**

The General Assembly following the 2018 ISOCARP Congress could be a good opportunity to eventually adopt a kind of statement on the matter, since the official events will be one month after.

## PREPARATION OF THE 10<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL NGO-UNESCO FORUM

Based on the UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers, the project of a 10<sup>th</sup> International NGO-UNESCO Forum is foreseen to be held at the end of November, between the World Science Day 2018 and the celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70.

The Forum aims to sensitizing the civil society on the universality of Science for the benefit of all.

**A provisional title was proposed by the Preparatory Group:**

**“Science, Common Good for Human Kind”**

“Science in our Heads, Science in the Century”

Since UNESCO considers Science as “a common good” what means a Human Right, the title could integrate something like “around the Human Rights”.

The Preparatory Group of the Forum set up a lot of perspectives between which will be selected around 3 panels and some workshops on the topic, provided they are in the framework of the priorities and programs of UNESCO.

On the one hand, it appears that the conditions for a dialogue have to be set up at different levels. But, on the other hand, at the evidence, Natural Sciences cannot be considered separated from Social and Human Sciences and Ethics.

**The online Questionnaire proposed to NGOs.**

Focussing on a dozen of questions relating to aims, objectives and activities of the NGOs in the field of science and scientific researchers, the answers provided a synthesis that could be the introduction to the forum by an expert and launch a debate with the audience before the different panels and workshops.

The main points of the synthesis were delivered on 31st May, during a plenary session of the Preparatory Group of the Forum.

**A Concept Note** is in preparation to present the Forum.

A Steering Committee was set up to prepare the Concept Note. ISOCARP was elected as a member of this Committee.

The different approaches will put into light the essential cooperation with the UNESCO Sectors according to their fields of competence, taking into account as well the transdisciplinary programs of the Organization, such as ethics, gender equality or indigenous people.

A project is to be set up and will be proposed to the Preparatory Group during a coming meeting.

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