

## **Panel Session: UNESCO's "Information for All Programme"**

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The Information for All Programme was established in 2001 to foster debate on the political, ethical and societal challenges of the emerging global knowledge society and to carry out projects promoting equitable access to information. It reflects the growing awareness that information is playing an increasing role in generating wealth and development, and that participation in the “global knowledge society” is essential for social and individual development.

Recognizing the need to promote access to public domain information, the Information for All Programme focuses on five major areas:

- Development of international regional and national information policies based, in particular, on the establishment of international consensus on the concept of universal and equitable access to information as a basic human right;
- Development of human resources and capabilities for the information age, focusing on training and the creation of training networks;
- Strengthening institutions as gateways for information access, especially developing a UNESCO portal to information institutions worldwide;

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The original version of this chapter was revised: The copyright line was incorrect. This has been corrected. The Erratum to this chapter is available at DOI: [10.1007/978-0-387-35609-9\\_29](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-35609-9_29)

- Development of information processing and management tools and systems, including the analysis of regional needs and policy planning;
- Information technology for education, science, culture and communication to assist all UNESCO's programmes in formulating and taking informed decisions.

The first meeting of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, which supervises the Programme, gathered experts from 26 countries from all regions from 15 to 17 April 2002 at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris. Graciela Rodriguez Baca of Peru chaired the three-day meeting. The Council that will meet every year studied measures aiming to bridge the digital divide and proposed activities for implementation under UNESCO's Information for All Programme.

Among other measures, the Council has studied possible steps to deal with the increasingly urgent question of digital heritage preservation, as vast quantities of information contained on Internet pages daily disappear without a trace.

## **REFERENCES:**

UNESCO "Information for All" Programme: <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap/>