



# Cooperation Agreement

*between*



**The United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization**

*and*

**Microsoft**

**Microsoft Corporation**

UNESCO Headquarters  
Paris, 17 November 2004



## Cooperation Agreement

*between*

**The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,**

7, place de Fontenoy

75352 Paris 07 SP

France

(referred to as "UNESCO"),

represented by its Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura

*and*

**Microsoft Corporation,**

One Microsoft Way

Washington 98052-6399

USA

(referred to as "Microsoft"),

represented by its Chairman and Chief Software Architect, Bill Gates.

UNESCO and the Microsoft each referred to as the "Party" or collectively as "the Parties"

**Whereas** The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes international co-operation among its Member States in the fields of education, sciences, culture and communication. As a specialized UN agency, it has a mission to mobilize resources, review approaches and build up multilateral action in order to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture, and communication;

**Whereas** Microsoft Corporation is a company whose mission is to enable people and businesses throughout the world to realize their full potential through the use of innovative information technology. As an international corporate citizen of conscience, it is committed to initiatives throughout the world that seek to create social change and to expand opportunities through greater access to technology;

**Whereas** UNESCO is participating in the building of an international strategic partnership to bridge the digital divide and establish open and inclusive knowledge societies. It seeks to use Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and information to accelerate social and economic development, acting through the collaboration of a range of stakeholders;

**Whereas** In this context, UNESCO recognises the significant contribution that can be made by the private sector to these strategic objectives and is therefore actively promoting and building relationships with a variety of private sector stakeholders, including various companies in the ICT industries. UNESCO's intention is to mobilise partners from civil society and, in particular, from the private sector to achieve its strategic goals and programme priorities;

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**Whereas** Microsoft supports the objectives of UNESCO as stipulated in UNESCO's Constitution and intends to contribute to UNESCO's programme priorities;

**Whereas** The Parties entered into, on 25 January 2004, a Letter of Intent stating their intention to collaborate on a variety of activities in support of the common objectives of UNESCO's and Microsoft's government, education and community programmes. This Agreement seeks to build on that Letter of Intent and provide a framework to achieve the objectives expressed by the Parties;

**Whereas** UNESCO and Microsoft entered into a regional agreement on 18 May 2004 for Latin America and the Caribbean to provide a framework under which UNESCO may access the Microsoft Partners in Learning Programme in that region (known as the "OREALC Agreement");

**Whereas** UNESCO and Microsoft wish to explore possibilities for collaboration in several areas, including education and learning, community access and development and facilitating software application sharing, cultural and linguistic diversity, digital inclusion and capacity building, as well as the exchange of best practices in the area of mainstreaming ICT into socio-economic development programmes;

***UNESCO and Microsoft hereby agree as follows:***

**Article 1 – Objectives**

UNESCO and Microsoft recognise the importance of harnessing the use of ICT for education and community development programmes as a means of improving sustainable livelihoods in developing countries. As part of this common understanding, both Parties recognise that analyzing possibilities to align global and regional initiatives, as well as programmes, can enhance mutual efforts to build capacities, foster the diversity of ideas and empower people through participation in web communities and through their ability to access information and ICT.

**Article 2 – Scope of Agreement**

This Agreement establishes a strategic framework within which the Parties agree to cooperate to achieve the stated objectives. Further information on the strategic background is contained in Appendix 1. The Agreement defines: the institutional aspects of the partnership; the details of current projects and special initiatives that are already underway, about to begin or are being contemplated by the Parties (referred to collectively as "Projects"); a structure for future cooperation; and, general conditions that will govern the Projects.

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WHPJ