



Challenging Inequality to Leave no One Behind A Global Agenda

Inequality is a major challenge
and a paradox of our times.

Innovation has exploded in recent decades, poverty has gone down in every region and emerging markets are booming all around the world. On a global scale, according to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), we live longer, study longer and enjoy higher revenues. The average lifespan has increased by seven years since 1990, and more than 130 countries have reached universal primary school enrollment. Yet despite these advances inequalities persist and grow, intersecting and reinforcing each other, perpetuating poverty and exclusion.

Memory & Future Club

The Memory & Future Club of the Association of Former UNESCO staff strives to collect and transmit testimonies of former officials and confront them with current issues in international cooperation. Building on their shared memory, members of this group meet informally with colleagues in charge to exchange freely and find through past experience a better path for the future.

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ROOM IX



These multidimensional inequalities have become a source of uncertainty and vulnerability. They are seen as a hindrance to achieving the goals of Agenda 2030, the United Nations Plan of Action that aims at paving the way for a sustainable future. Not only do they jeopardize social cohesion and undermine democracy, they are also considered as a "threat to world order, political systems, human rights, peace and security and the sustainable future that we all wish for."

According to the World Social Science Report jointly published in 2016 by UNESCO and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) "inequalities should not just be understood and tackled in terms of income and wealth: they are economic, political, social, cultural, environmental, spatial and knowledge-based". These interactions must be better understood to open the way for better and just societies. These views are echoed by UNDP, whose forthcoming Human Development Report due in late 2019 "will go beyond the dominant discourse focused on income disparities to also consider inequalities in other dimensions such as health, education, access to technologies, and exposure to economic and climate-related shocks".



Through its multifaceted actions in favor of education and against gender inequalities, geographical or territorial disparities, cultural divides, climate crises and environmental degradation, UNESCO is well placed to inspire public policies that can overcome handicaps and reduce discriminatory practices so as not to "leave no one behind" and guarantee equality of opportunity for everyone.



As a contribution to policy discussions across program sectors on this major issue, the Memory & Future Club invited Sir John Daniel, former Assistant Director-General for Education (2001-2004), Pierre Sané, former Secretary General of Amnesty International and Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences (2001-2010), John Crowley, Chief of the Research, Policy and Foresight Section of the Social and Human Science Sector (SHS) and Georges Kutukdjian, former Director of the Division of Human Sciences, Philosophy and Ethics of Science and Technology (SHS) and President of the Association of Former UNESCO Officials.

NOTES BIOGRAPHIQUES DES INTERVENANTS



Sir John Daniel joined UNESCO as Assistant Director-General for education in 2001. He had served before as a university

president for 17 years in Canada (Laurentian University/Université Laurentienne) and the UK (The Open University). He arrived at UNESCO just after the Dakar Forum of 2000 had charged UNESCO with global leadership of the EFA campaign. After leaving UNESCO he was president of the Commonwealth of Learning for eight years, where he was closely involved in the organisation of UNESCO's 2012 World Congress on Open Educational Resources. The three countries in which he has worked have each recognised his contributions with

national honours: France - Chevalier & Officier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques; United Kingdom - Knight Bachelor; and Canada - Officer of the Order of Canada. Sir John remains professionally active as Chancellor of the Acsenda School of Management in Vancouver, Canada.



Pierre Sané was UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human

Sciences from 2001 to 2010. Prior to this, from October 1992, he was the Secretary-General of Amnesty International. Before joining Amnesty, he worked for 15 years with the International Development Research Centre, a Canadian development aid organization. He is since 2011 founder and President of Imagine Africa, a think tank dedicated to the strengthening of research policy linkages in Africa and on Africa in order to improve the quality of public policies. He is

also Member of the Board and Chair of the Human Rights Working Group of the United Nations Global Compact, Member of the Advisory Committee of United Nations University, Founder and Member of the Board of the West Africa Institute (Praia, Cape Verde), and Member of the Adviser Board on Integrity and Corporate Responsibility of Daimler-(Mercedes-Benz). He has published extensively on development and human rights issues.



John Crowley is Chief of Section for Research, Policy and Foresight in the Social and Human Science Sector. Since joining UNESCO in 2003, he has also been a programme specialist in social science (2003-05) and head of the communication, information and publications unit (2005-07), chief of section for ethics of science and technology (2008-11) and team leader for global environmental change (2011-14). Before joining UNESCO, he worked as an economist in the oil industry (1988-95) and as a research fellow at the French National Political Science Foundation (1995-2002). From 2002 to 2015, he was editor of the UNESCO-published International Social Science Journal. He is the author of numerous essays, including Rethinking Human Security (Paris/Oxford: UNESCO / Wiley-Blackwell, 2008, with Moufida

Goucha), and has published a further 100 academic articles and book chapters, mainly on political theory and comparative politics.



Georges Kutukdjian, anthropologist and philosopher, is since 2004

President of the Association of Former UNESCO Staff Members (AFUS) and since 2005 Senior Mediator of UNESCO. He joined UNESCO in 1972 where he was successively in charge of the Coordination and Evaluation Unit of the Social and

Human Sciences Sector (1975-1982) and of the programme on human rights and peace education (1983). In 1992, he directed the Bioethics Programme as Secretary-General of the International Bioethics Committee (CIB). In 1995, he was Executive

Secretary of the World Commission of the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) and retired as Director (D-2) of the Division of Human Sciences, Philosophy and the Ethics of Science and Technology. From 2002 to 2003,

he was the Rapporteur of the Working Group on the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data and became Co-Chair of the Ethics Committee of the World Academy of Biotechnologies and a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Bioethics Society (SIBI, until 2018). From 2006 to 2008, he was the General Editor of the UNESCO World Report Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue. In 2012 he also became a member of the French National Commission for Human Rights (CNCDH) and a reference in fighting trafficking in human beings.

He is the author of essays and publications on anthropology, literature, human rights, bioethics, ethics of science and technology, mediation and cultural diversity..

