



The Model Conference

Cross-Cultural Issues in the Global Context

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



Modelová konferencia

Interkultúrna problematika v globálnom kontexte

Fakulta medzinárodných vzťahov, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

European Union

Republic of India

Latin America

PeoplesPeople's Republic of China

Russian Federation

UNESCO

and

United States of America

within the frame of the **Forum for the 21st Century**, concerning their co-operation in common interest to create an international framework for establishing a global initiative where participating countries would actively promote: improvement of communication among nations, decreasing of intercultural tensions, including the effort to secularize international environment in order to eliminate potential interfaces for international conflicts.



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♦ Global English as Lingua Franca

The signatories of the memorandum do acknowledge the necessity of creation a common international language, accepted and vastly used in global communication area, with the aim to improve the quality of international communication. English language should serve as lingua franca for the global communication, mainly for the purposes of communication among the policy creators, negotiators, NGOs, providers of international services, representatives of international and global institutions, as well as among countries. In order to prevent fatal misunderstandings and misleading usage of homophones during multilateral negotiations on international level, the signatories have agreed:

- On developing a unitarian functional system of the English language, referred to as Global English, by achieving its unification and codification.
- that exact understanding of the „terminus-technicus“ for all participants in communication is the primary goal, which should be achieved by establishing an internationally comprehensive terminology, that would express the same meaning in all languages.
- that it is not the aim to set up the only obligatory official language. To the contrary, they support usage of locally established languages among the communicating partners, where there is no threat of creating confusion.
- to create a commission formed by native English speaking professionals from the academic field as the main platform, supported by authorized representatives of each country, in order to bring their perception and inputs for the terminology, along with the high representatives of governments.
- that the responsibilities of the commission are:
 - creating global awareness of establishing English as lingua franca and the necessity of its usage
 - education of authorized professionals
 - creation and spreading of materials for a system of teaching English in the signatory countries
 - training and coaching of the authorized representatives of the state, as well as the academic field responsible for further implementation of the language
- that UNESCO will serve as supervisor with a board made up of outstanding specialists coming from its Institute for Lifelong Learning, supplemented by a supervisor appointed by the Minister of Education in each participating country.
- that the commission will be able to use know-how, scientific and cultural research offered by the United States of America and UNESCO.



- that functioning of the commission would be financed on a national level, by devoting 0,5% of each country's national education budget for the favor of the commission's budget. The height of this contribution might be rediscussed in the future.
- that the question of developing a unitarian functional system of other languages, namely: Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, will be a subject of discussion in the future.

Secularization and Harmonization of Religious Differences

The signatories of the memorandum do acknowledge the need to accept the validity of all other beliefs to attain world peace, as religious differences are nowadays seen as the final barrier, separating various ethnics and populations. The signatories, with the exception of European Union, have agreed:

- on proposing the process of secularization, in order to guarantee that religions will not identify themselves with political, economic, or social powers, so as to remain free to work for justice and peace.
- on respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promoting dialogue and harmony between and within religions.
- minimize risks of clashes among people of different religions and avoid demonstrations of communal bigotry in the society. The Ministry of Culture of each signatory country should be responsible for endorsing this climate.
- on creating a system of optional contributions in secularized countries, that would allow citizens to devote a part of their taxes as a financial support to the church they belong to, reflected in the tax declaration. China is excluded from this point.
- that state interventions, based on the threat of national security, stemming from religious clashes or riots, are recommended.

Interculturalism and Importance of Common Values

The signatories of the memorandum do acknowledge the requirement of developing a common civic culture based on the values of freedom and liberty, and of human rights, while encouraging interaction between the communities living in the same country, which requires democracy and full respect for universal human rights. The signatories do realize, that no political ideology, as a form of organization of the state, is sustainable unless there are binding elements identified in supra-national, supra-ethnic, supra-cultural, supra-racial and supra-religious level. It is important, that the power of these elements surpasses the particular



interests of one group. For the purpose of creating and maintaining favorable conditions for sustainable interculturalism, the signatories have agreed:

- on accomplishing a list of common values, not only on the political field, but involving various groups of specialists or non-governmental organizations during the process as well
- on the necessity of a profound research on the cultural, historical, political, social, psychological, educational and economic factors, which facilitate the peaceful coexistence of different cultures, as migration brings new elements into a resident culture and these need to be taken into account
- on creating a special body, functioning under the Ministry of Culture, financed by the Ministry
- that responsibilities of the special body in every signatory country are:
 - the above mentioned research
 - development of a concept of so called „democratic interculturalism”, based on the research, outcomes of various surveys and presented experience of individuals. The concept of democratic interculturalism, should be based on the combination of cultural and political communitarianism and should recognize the importance of cultural identity
 - providing cultural programs for foreigners in order to help their better integration
 - increasing the awareness of population via close cooperation with mass media, in combination with spreading the idea of interculturalism by teaching in secondary schools and universities, aimed at rejecting prejudice.
 - appointing a commissioner responsible for dealing with complaints of minorities in the frame of the national legal system
- on holding a conference of representatives from special bodies on the international level every 9 months, for the purpose of sharing the experience among participating countries.
- that interventions in religious and cultural practices in order to banish any kind of demonstration of racism, xenophobia or affirmative actions are recommended, in case they become bold the probability of them jeopardizing the state security becomes extremely high. The United states of America are excluded from this point.

❖ Prevention of Intra-national Conflicts

The signatories of the memorandum do realize, that today's impact of massive globalization, migration and digital communication are changing the role of the state, as split identities are becoming more common, multiple identities are negotiated, dual citizenship proliferates and a global network of shared symbols render cultural exclusivity less tenable. Therefore the signatories of the memorandum do acknowledge the need of intercultural dialogue, which is



crucial in preventing and ending conflicts. It can promote reconciliation in the aftermath of conflict and can also introduce moderate voices into polarized debates.

In order to prevent ethnic conflicts and misuse of cultural differences, the signatories have agreed:

- that as the most powerful member states of UNSECO, they will strongly advocate increasing the intellectual engagement among scholars and nongovernmental organizations about possible approaches for preventing and resolving intra-national conflicts on the international level, within the frame of UNESCO.
- that UNESCO's International Institute of Educational Planning should serve as the platform for an active international network of experts from university, policy, NGO, and think-tank sectors, that can advance new thinking and policies about the self-determination-sovereignty-governance and cooperation conundrum.
- that this initiative should be financed by UNESCO
- that the principal objective of this initiative is to bridge the gap in knowledge about other cultures and to lay foundations for a debate based on universally shared values.
- to create a working group of experts from the above mentioned sectors, appointed by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, as well as voluntary and nongovernmental organizations.
- on the responsibilities of the working group, which are:
 - taking part on the initiative via participation of experts on the International Institute of Educational Planning summits
 - helping the governments undertake particular activities especially in the areas of education, cultural diversity, heritage and science, according to results coming from the International Institute of Educational Planning platform
 - Ensuring good communication of outcomes and achievements on the international level by using mass media to ensure general public awareness and acceptance, by using educational systems aimed at youth mainly in the primary and secondary schools.

The signatories of this memorandum have agreed upon all the discussed topics consensually and express their willingness to further discuss the presented issues in the frame of Forum for the 21st Century.

In Bratislava, 29th of November 2010



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