

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO **STRATEGIC PLAN** 2017-2021



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**New Zealand National
Commission for UNESCO**

Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO

Vision

**Toitū te māramatanga,
Toitū te ora,
Toitū te whenua**

Mission

**Connecting Aotearoa-New Zealand to UNESCO and the world by the fostering and sharing of ideas; and
Contributing to building the knowledge and capabilities needed to ensure a better future for all.**

Mandate

The National Commission ensures the permanent presence of UNESCO in New Zealand. As a country founded on the Treaty of Waitangi and as a foundation member of UNESCO the Commission represents and promotes New Zealand's interests while contributing to the development of UNESCO strategic priorities and programmes. The National Commission contributes to the building of peace, equitable and sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue, paying particular attention to the needs and interests of the Asia and Pacific region.



BACKGROUND AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the specialised agency of the United Nations system with responsibility for promoting co-operative action amongst Member States in the areas of education, the natural and social sciences, culture and communication and information.

UNESCO's five core functions, carried out in its designated fields of competence (education, the natural and social sciences, culture and communication and information) are:

- » serving as a laboratory of ideas and generating innovative proposals and policy advice in its fields of competence
- » developing and reinforcing the global agenda in its fields of competence through policy analysis, monitoring and benchmarking
- » setting norms and standards in its fields of competence and supporting and monitoring their implementation
- » strengthening international and regional cooperation in its fields of competence, and fostering alliances, intellectual cooperation, knowledge-sharing and operational partnerships
- » providing advice for policy development and implementation, and developing institutional and human capacities.

Across these functions, UNESCO has adopted an 8 year Medium Term Strategy for the period 2014-21 (37C/4). This identifies two overarching objectives, two global priorities and nine strategic

programmes¹. Together, these objectives provide a framework for UNESCO's international programme for the four years to 2017 (37C/5) and for the National Commission's work during this period. The programme and budget for 2018-2021 (39C/5) will be adopted by the General Conference in November 2017.

Like other agencies of the United Nations system, UNESCO is vested with responsibilities in pursuit of internationally agreed development goals. The successors to the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals, are a particular focus of UNESCO, which helped to frame the Education 2030 agenda which is encapsulated in SDG 4, Education. The Incheon Declaration, adopted at the World Education Forum in Korea in May 2015, entrusted UNESCO to lead and coordinate Education 2030 through guidance and technical support within the overall SDG agenda.

UNESCO is the UN focal point for the:

- » Education 2030 Agenda
- » International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures
- » Advancement of Science

UNESCO observes a range of International Days, Years and Decades related to its fields of competence.

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO (hereafter referred to as the "National Commission") is the "face" of UNESCO in New Zealand. The National Commission links its twelve Associate Members with UNESCO, connecting New Zealand government priorities with UNESCO's planning process and programmes.

¹ Refer Appendix 1: Overview of UNESCO's Medium-term Strategy 2014-2021

NATIONAL COMMISSION STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Providing a catalyst for New Zealanders to engage in life-long learning and to be innovative and responsible global citizens
2. Protecting and celebrating New Zealand's taonga past, present and future by connecting our unique indigenous culture, natural heritage and communities with national and international communities
3. Nurturing and connecting diverse forms of knowledge based on scientific evidence, traditional knowledge and intercultural dialogue to enhance decision making and foster mutual understanding
4. Promoting access to information and knowledge that contributes to building respect for justice, law, human rights and fundamental freedoms
5. Furthering and enhancing the scope of UNESCO's work by strengthening relationships and engaging with UNESCO at the national, regional and international level through its work programme and by collaboration with stakeholders

KEY ACTIONS

The following four areas of action underpin the delivery of the 2017-2018 strategic priorities.

1. Supporting activities that align with the National Commission's strategic priorities
2. Contributing to the international community
3. Strengthening stakeholder relationships
4. Building the profile of the work of the National Commission and UNESCO

ACTION 1: SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES THAT ALIGN WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The National Commission will undertake activities that support its national strategic priorities. Particular attention will be given to innovative ideas and approaches and projects that have the potential to inform policy and practice in our areas of responsibility. The activities supported each year will include a number of funding relationships in areas of agreed significance to the Commission. In the 2017-18 period the focus will be:

- » supporting one or two targeted projects and a number of smaller scale projects/activities that have the potential to contribute across our strategic priorities
- » allocating funds of \$5,000 or less for activities that promote and enable the sharing and building of ideas nationally and internationally
- » seeking co-funding opportunities with partners whose interests align with the Commission.

ACTION 2: CONTRIBUTING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The National Commission will continue to manage New Zealand's relationship with the international organisation in co-operation with New Zealand's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO based at the New Zealand Embassy in Paris. In the 2017-2018 period the focus will be:

- » influencing the content of UNESCO's programme and budget for 2018-21 in line with the interests of New Zealand and the Pacific sub-region through the consultation process, culminating in the adoption of this document at the UNESCO General Conference in November 2017
- » collaborating with the National Commissions in the Pacific sub-region, in areas of agreed importance to the Pacific
- » engaging with other National Commissions, directly or through participation in Interregional meetings and regional and sub-regional events
- » facilitating the engagement of New Zealanders in UNESCO's international programme including through fellowships, meetings, networks and UNESCO chairs.

ACTION 3: STRENGTHENING STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

The National Commission engages with a range of stakeholders – organisations or individuals who engage with UNESCO or have formal interests in UNESCO matters – including its Associate Members, Co-operating Agencies, academia, civil society and the private sector.

In the 2017-2018 period the focus will be:

- » strengthening relationships and establishing new ones, including through a review of existing relationships
- » reviewing the nature and quality of our relationships with Associate Members and Co-operating Agencies
- » adopting a purposeful and planned approach to the way the National Commission sustains its key relationships
- » engaging with youth, including consolidating the work of the Youth Reference Group and negotiating ways for the group and young people to be consulted and engaged in all relevant National Commission programmes.

ACTION 4: BUILDING THE PROFILE OF THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION AND UNESCO

The National Commission will seek to maximise the visibility of UNESCO's mandate and its activities through a comprehensive communications strategy, with the aim of promoting UNESCO and the National Commission's key messages and work programmes.

In the 2017-2018 period the focus will be:

- » using a range of approaches to communications including the Commission's website, regular electronic newsletters, social media and the publication of an annual review document
- » developing a communications plan for all major events.

OVERVIEW OF FRAMEWORK 2017-18

VISION	Toitū te māramatanga, Toitū te ora, Toitū te whenua
MISSION	Connecting Aotearoa-New Zealand to UNESCO and the world by the fostering and sharing of ideas; and Contributing to building the knowledge and capabilities needed to ensure a better future for all.

FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

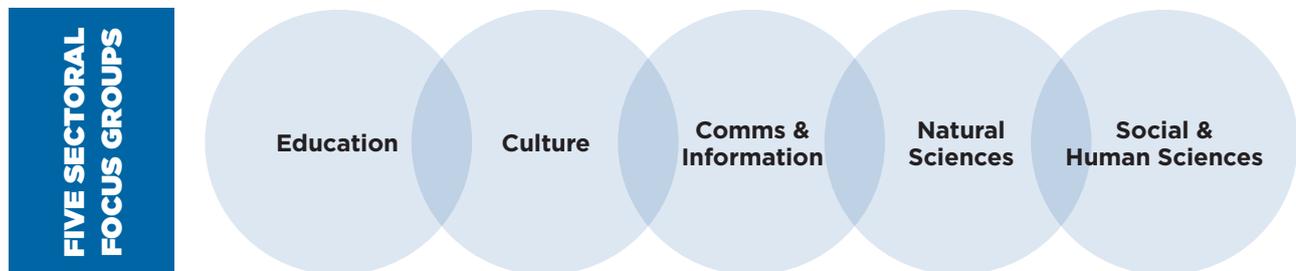
Providing a catalyst for New Zealanders to engage in life-long learning and to be innovative and responsible global citizens

Protecting and celebrating New Zealand’s taonga past, present and future by connecting our unique indigenous culture, natural heritage and communities with national and international communities

Nurturing and connecting diverse forms of knowledge based on scientific evidence, traditional knowledge and intercultural dialogue to enhance decision making and foster mutual understanding

Promoting access to information and knowledge that contributes to building respect for justice, law, human rights and fundamental freedoms

Furthering and enhancing the scope of UNESCO’s work by strengthening relationships, engaging with UNESCO at the national, regional and international level through its work programme and collaboration with stakeholders



- KEY ACTIONS

1. Supporting activities that align with the National Commission’s strategic priorities
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STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

The National Commission's Constitution states that the National Commission consists of a Chair and five specialist Commissioners, one in each area of UNESCO's mandate (Education, Natural Science, Social and Human Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information).

A Special Advisor (Youth) is appointed by the Chair of the National Commission to sit on the National Commission without voting rights.

SECRETARIAT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

The National Commission is supported by a Secretariat within the International Engagement Team of the International Division of the Ministry of Education.

The Secretary General leads the work of the Secretariat, with two Advisors available to support the National Commission's work programme.

In addition to strategic leadership, management support and some administrative support is provided by the Ministry's International Division, connecting the National Commission with New Zealand education policy leaders, policy priorities and the strategic intentions of the Ministry.

Within the Secretariat one staff member is allocated principal responsibility for each programme area and for youth activities.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Ministry of Education, subject to appropriation, provides funding through Vote: Education to meet the costs of:

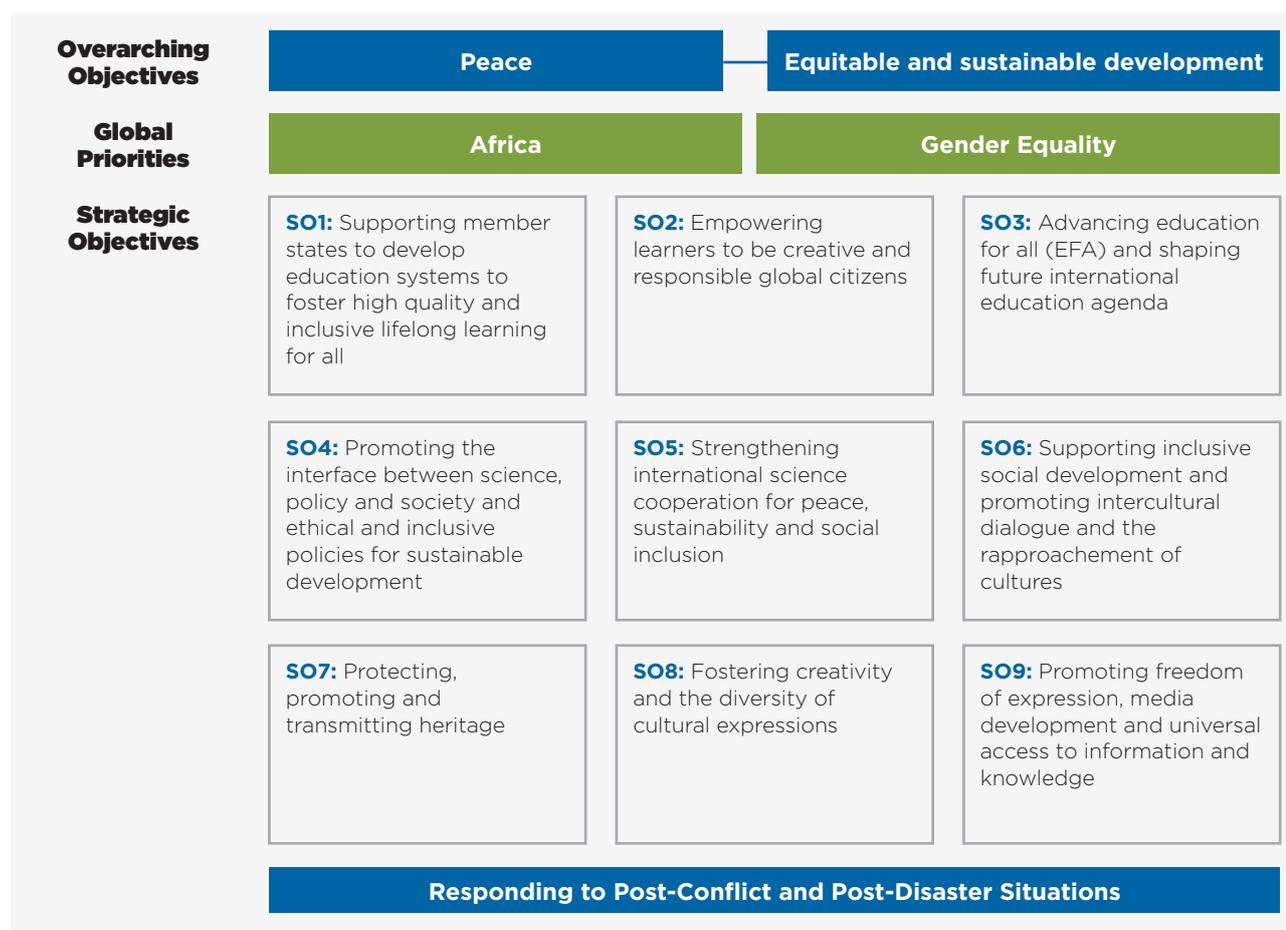
- » New Zealand's annual subscription to UNESCO
- » The National Commission's programme activities
- » The National Commission's operating costs including its participation in UNESCO's biennial General Conference and other UNESCO meetings. (Article 7 of the Constitution).

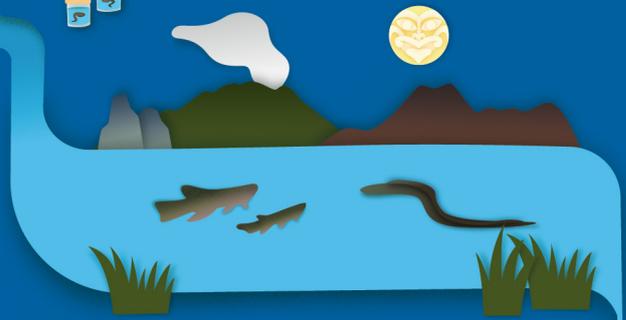
OVERVIEW OF UNESCO'S MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2014-2021

Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4)

Mission Statement

“As a specialised agency of the United Nations, UNESCO - pursuant to its Constitution - contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information”





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