

**2012 WORLD OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) CONGRESS
UNESCO, PARIS, JUNE 20-22, 2012**

**DRAFT DECLARATION (VERSION 7A)
(PREPARED FOLLOWING THE 2ND MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY AND LIAISON GROUP
UNESCO PARIS, 11 MAY 2012)**

Preamble

We the participants in the World OER Congress held at UNESCO, Paris on 20-22 June 2012,

Mindful of relevant international statements including:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26.1), which states that: "Everyone has a right to education";

The 1971 Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and the 1996 WIPO Copyright Treaty;

The Millennium Declaration and the 2000 Dakar Framework for Action, which made global commitments to provide quality basic education for all children, youth and adults;

The 2003 World Summit on the Information Society and its declared commitment "to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge";

The 2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace;

The 2005 Convention on the Promotion of Cultural Diversity, which states that: "Equitable access to a rich and diversified range of cultural expressions from all over the world and access of cultures to the means of expressions and dissemination constitute important elements for enhancing cultural diversity and encouraging mutual understanding";

The declarations of the six CONFINTEA Conferences emphasising the fundamental role of Adult Learning and Education.

Noting that the term Open Educational Resources (OER) was coined at UNESCO's 2002 Forum on Open Courseware and designates teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions. Open licensing is built within the existing framework of intellectual property rights as defined by relevant international conventions and respects the authorship of the work;

Recalling existing Declarations and Guidelines on Open Educational Resources such as the 2007 Cape Town Open Education Declaration, the 2009 Dakar Declaration on Open Educational Resources and the 2011 Guidelines on Open Educational Resources in Higher Education;

Noting that Open Educational Resources (OER) promote the aims of the international statements quoted above;

Call on governments/competent authorities of UNESCO Member States to:

- a. *Foster awareness and use of OER.*
Promote and use OER to widen access to education at all levels, both formal and non-formal, in a perspective of lifelong learning, thus contributing to social inclusion, gender equity and special needs education. Improve both cost-efficiency and learning outcomes through greater use of OER.
- b. *Facilitate enabling environments for use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).*
Bridge the digital divide by developing adequate infrastructure, especially affordable broadband

connectivity, widespread mobile technology and reliable electrical power supply. Improve media and information literacy and encourage the development and use of OER in open standard digital formats.

- c. *Reinforce the development of strategies and policies on OER.*
Develop specific policies for the production and use of OER within wider strategies for advancing education.
- d. *Promote and adopt legal frameworks for open licensing.*
Facilitate the re-use, revision, remixing and redistribution of educational materials across the world through open licensing, which refers to a spectrum of legal frameworks that allow different kinds of uses.
- e. *Support capacity building for the sustainable development of quality learning materials.*
Support institutions, train and motivate teachers and other personnel to produce and share high-quality educational resources, taking into account local needs. Promote quality assurance of OER.
- f. *Foster strategic alliances for OER.*
Take advantage of evolving technology to create opportunities for sharing materials in diverse media and ensure sustainability through new strategic partnerships within and among the education, industry, media and telecommunications sectors.
- g. *Encourage the development and adaptation of OER in a variety of languages and cultural contexts.*
Favour the production and use of OER in local languages and diverse cultural contexts to ensure their relevance. Intergovernmental organisations should encourage the sharing of OER across languages and cultures, respecting indigenous knowledge and rights.
- h. *Encourage research on OER.*
Foster research on the development, use and re-contextualisation of OER and their impact on the quality and cost-efficiency of teaching and learning in order to strengthen the evidence base for public investment.
- i. *Facilitate finding, retrieving and sharing of OER.*
Encourage the development of user-friendly tools to locate and retrieve OER that are specific and relevant to particular needs. Adopt appropriate open standards to ensure interoperability and to facilitate the use of OER in diverse media.
- j. *Encourage the open licensing of educational materials produced with public funds.*
Governments/competent authorities may wish to ensure that educational materials developed with public funds be made available under open licenses (with any restrictions they deem necessary) in order to maximize the impact of the investment.

2012-05-11

Note on the drafting process

A first version of a Draft Declaration on OER for submission to the World OER Congress was prepared by the Project Secretariat following the first meeting of the International Advisory and Liaison Group (IALG) held at UNESCO, Paris on December 19, 2011. It has been presented for further comments and editorial suggestions at regional policy forums held in the Caribbean (January 2012), Africa (February 2012), Latin America (March 2012), Europe (April 2012), Asia-Pacific (April 2012) and the Arab States (May 2012). This seventh version was prepared following discussions at the second meeting of the International Advisory and Liaison Group on 11 May 2012. Successive drafts are being posted on the UNESCO (www.unesco.org/oercongress) and Commonwealth of Learning websites (<http://oercongress.weebly.com/paris-declaration.html>).*

**The IALG to the COL/UNESCO project Fostering Governmental Support for Open Educational Resources Internationally is composed of up to 15 members identified by UNESCO's regional electoral groups and includes representatives from NGOs and other IGOs (e.g. OECD, Creative Commons, OER Africa). It is co-chaired by UNESCO and COL.*