



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**Division of Social sciences , Research and Policy
Social and Human Sciences Sector**

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To whom it may concern

Herewith, I would like to confirm the interest in cooperation with the *International Network on Religions and Mediation in Urban Areas* within the framework of the programme on International Migration and Multicultural Policies of the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO.

The Network originates from the International Congress on Religions and Cultural Diversity: Mediation towards Social Cohesion in Urban Areas, co-organized by the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and UNESCO in December 2006 in Barcelona. It was launched in Lleida in 2007 to promote social integration and protection of cultural diversity in cities, addressing all inhabitants including migrants. The initiative responds to the need to bring together experts and key actors in the field of urban social development, and it seeks to share good practices from all over the world regarding the contribution of religions and convictions, alone and especially in dialogue, toward favouring the development of effective methods to strengthen social cohesion in multicultural and multi-ethnic urban settings.

With the forthcoming launch of the Network's new website the aim is to strengthen its support to research specialists, UNESCO Chairs on migration and urbanization and practitioners, by providing a tool for frequent collaboration in between face-to-face general or regional meetings.

The Network and its website will be coordinated by the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, a very active partner organization of UNESCO, well known for its expertise in intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Its programmes on diversity of beliefs and convictions, based on the recognition of human rights and respectful of different cultural and religious identities, contribute strongly to a culture of peace and to social cohesion in the places where they have been implemented.

For more information concerning UNESCO's involvement with the International Network on Religions and Mediation in Urban Areas, kindly write to Ms. Brigitte Colin (b.colin@unesco.org), Programme Specialist on International Migration and Multicultural Policies.

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters,
24 May 2010

Paul de Guchteneire
Chief of International Migration
Section