

**UNESCO's statement to the 40th Session of the Commission on
Population and Development**

(11 April 2007)

Thank-you very much Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman and Distinguished Delegates:

I'm pleased to read the following brief statement prepared for this occasion by UNESCO Paris Headquarters under the item: "the changing

In fact, my Headquarters has taken particular note of the chapter on
“Population Ageing”

a clearer synergy between the research agendas and the policy-making process. The UNESCO MOST Programme has been well-suited to contribute to these.

For instance, MOST has organized with E U N I C Brussels -which is a network of European Cultural Institutes - A G E – the European Elder People’s Platform - and the European Economic and Social Committee a conference on “Multi-age Society: The Cultural Dimension of Age Policies” held in November 2006 in Brussels. The conference speakers included high-level representatives from the European Commission, UN-DESA, ILO, the Minister of Social Development for South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Zola Skweyiya -who is President of the UNESCO MOST Programme – along with top researchers in the field, and representatives from NGOs.

The research policy network that has been launched through this initiative will eventually work in close relationship with the UNESCO regional Ministerial fora on Social Development, a fora which has been institutionalized in several regions of the world. These Social Development fora of Ministers address, directly or indirectly, the issues pertaining to better social inclusion of populations groups, including the aged and youth. These fora will eventually work more directly with researchers, as we move still closer to research and evidence-based policy making.

As a closing observation, I would like to inform you that a forthcoming issue of UNESCO’s International Social Science Journal, which is a journal produced in six languages, and which disseminates social science

research results to academic and non-academic communities worldwide, will be devoted to the issue of “Ageing in Western Europe”, including an excellent contribution from our UN-DESA colleagues.

Mr Chairman and Distinguished Delegates, thank-you again for your kind attention.