

Voluntary Commitment of the German UNESCO Chairs

(adopted at the UNESCO Chair meeting at Leuphana University Lüneburg on September 30th, 2016)

Worldwide more than 700 UNESCO Chairs promote the principles of UNESCO in science and education and support an international university cooperation.

In Germany, 12 UNESCO Chairs in various academic fields currently acknowledge these principles – human rights, sustainable development, cultural diversity – in research and teaching.

Networking and interuniversity cooperation at an international level, in particular with countries of the global South, are an important feature of the work of UNESCO Chairs. They strive for an inter- and transdisciplinary profile and cooperate closely with other societal actors.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a fundamental framework for orientation. They emphasize the particular importance of science, education, culture and communication for a sustainable development in order to achieve the sustainability goals of the Agenda 2030.

Recognizing our social responsibility, we, the German UNESCO Chairs, emphasize our individual and collective commitment to supporting the objectives of the UNESCO Chair program, in particular with regard to cooperation in Germany, with the following measures:

- o to initiate joint projects that unite our particular scientific excellence with the interdisciplinary perspective specific to UNESCO Chairs,
- o to contribute to the discourse in our academic fields in the light of the SDGs,
- o to develop an Open Educational Resource (OER) for a UNESCO module that can be implemented by all UNESCO Chairs in Germany at university level,
- o to foster the exchange of experience and know-how online and in annual meetings,
- o to provide the particular expertise of UNESCO Chairs to UNESCO, in the collaboration with the German Commission for UNESCO and with other UNESCO Chairs all around the world,
- o to make visible this special expertise to relevant institutions and organizations in Germany,
- o to enhance the support for UNESCO Chairs and disposal of resources at our respective Universities in cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO (e.g. with regard to legal frameworks),
- o actively seek collaborations with other UNESCO networks and with UNESCO Chairs in other countries.

The German UNESCO Chairs jointly agreed upon this voluntary commitment on September 30th, 2016 at their meeting in Lüneburg.