

Conference: 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations  
“Science and Technology for Education”  
Speaker: Maestra Sandra M.B. Rivero Borrell  
Fundación Cultural Baur - NGO

## **POLICIES NEEDED TO PROTECT LOCAL CULTURES AND TO FOSTER PRINCIPLES OF GLOBAL EDUCATION AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN YOUNGER GENERATIONS**

I want to express my gratefulness to the Public Information Department of the United Nations and the audience for letting me participate in the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Non Governmental Organizations.

Human thinking gets illuminated with the beginning of a new era, where the empire of telecommunications is transforming qualitatively the new generations.

In the majority of the world regions, utopia of universal space prevails, based upon cultural identities, similarities in the way of appreciating life, and of a common civilization. Because of this, we could now share affinities that would not attempt against either the sovereignty or the original profile of every local culture.

Due to the current and drastic structural changes in the family, today, more than ever, there must be a true commitment with profundity in teaching, which will lead the student to a greater interest and responsibility. This demands from teachers to become, once and for all, advisors who work with the United Nations human rights principles

We, progressive teachers, are aware of the demands from the men of today. We also know how important it is to preserve our planet, to form youngsters that love life, providing them with a variety of didactic experiences, which indelible imprint sets the difference. Likewise, we do have a greater responsibility, because our history demands from us reflection concerning our national identity and guarding our sovereignty in order to keep growing with dignity within globalization, going back to our origins to make a wise use of our knowledge at the service of man, using justice with courage and reason with truth.

Today, more than ever before, the educational environment must optimize its objectives in order to be ahead in science, technology and human development, which advance at a hasty pace. This requires from us, educators, a quality and harmonious time and space, instead of a mere informative bombardment without orientation or human touch, which sadly causes confusion in regards to what we are and what we should be.

“Educating is not providing a profession to live from, but preparing the spirit to face the difficulties of life” Furthermore, education must be blanketed by the values of justice, respect, equity and cooperation.

Access to information influences educative communities directly, and for the first time in history, through collective communication media, existence visions and models are universally projected.

Science has polished the technological system and has considerably increased the quality of life. It has also made globalization a feasible issue. The consumption oriented society has generated an immense amount of repercussions and changes in our lifestyles. Nevertheless, as we live in a multimedia era, means of communication abound, and we can not forget that younger children lack the ability to discriminate right from wrong, so that whatever they see or hear might be a true danger for their emotional formation. If this is not detected and channeled in time, it might result in a well informed teenager, but without axiological references and without fully developing his/her capacity of abstraction.

We are also living times in which quantum physics and nanotechnology – as concepts of relativity and singularity – are way too complex for many of us to understand, and make us wonder about the magnitude of science and technology, being necessary to work in teams with specialists on each subject.

Within the great challenges faced by humankind nowadays, we must consider the following aspects of education.

- a) The cognitive education as foundation of intelligence development., where words must be the magical and irreplaceable tools, being the ones that translate thinking into action.
- b) The emotional-ethical-social education, which originates from self-esteem as a basic principle which conducts us to respect life, in order to know what to do with science and technology aimed towards the human rights of every local culture.
- c) Mental and physical health education.- It uses the technological and scientific advances, making life easier and enriching it, by achieving a bio-psychic balance, so that the students' behaviors be in accordance to the needs of man.

However, even if this all appears magnificent, a worry rises. The educator must not confuse technological development with educative evolution, because technology, which was created to solve survival issues, could become a threat to human kind and nature itself

New generations encourage us to build a better world, because we, as humanists, must assume this responsibility.

The role of communication media in the development of local populations, globalization and its risks, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, present to us a challenge within our social organization, becoming another challenge to the NGO's and to civil society itself, as an opportunity and duty to act, making their vote worthy, through feasible projects towards common welfare.

Freedom is a gift, a privilege..... a word which has inspired philosophers and writers .  
Quoting our Literature Nobel Prize Octavio Paz :

The merging of freedom and democracy has been a great achievement of modern societies, but a precarious one, fragile and defaced by injustice; extraordinary achievement that not every civilization has conceded. The

first right of man is freedom, precious like water, and, like water, if we do not take good care of it, it will spill and vanish... For all the countries of the world, there are uses and customs, and institutions which are fountains of liberty, sometimes buried, but still alive.

For freedom to root in our lands, we must reconcile these ancient traditions with modern philosophy. Despite a few faint intents, we have done nothing! What a pity!, this is not a historical piety issue but one of imagination...

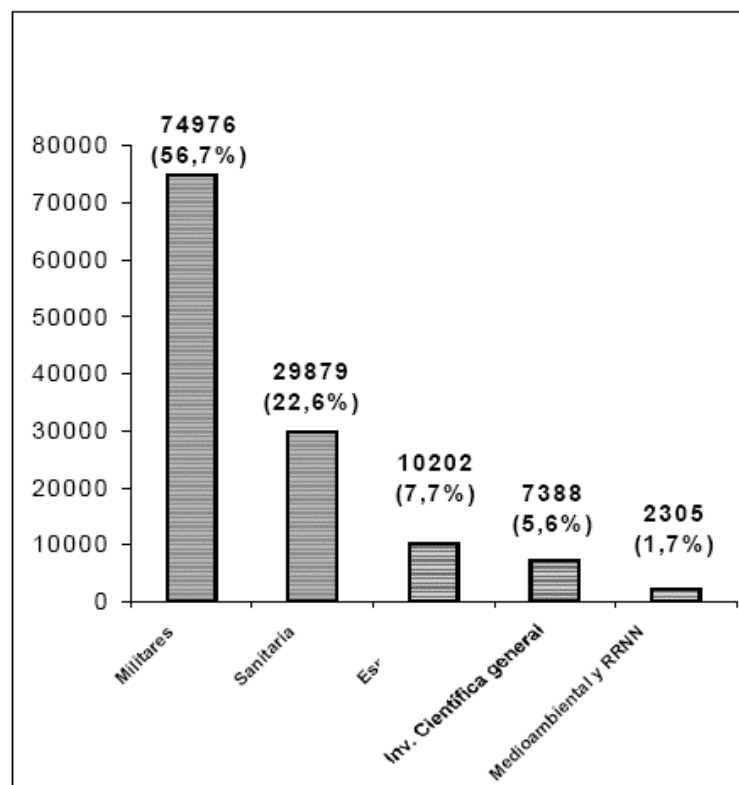
We must set as a goal to fulfill a mission of life and transcend .

Youngsters of today, flooded with subliminal information – based on a principle of economical power – have deviated their thoughts and actions, sacrificing their spiritual growth for an instant of pleasure, which prevents them from the opportunity to live a “full life”. These profound social transformations will bring to life a new sort of generations, with a urban and rural personality that will lead us to a significant increase in the standards of life, paradigm of modernization.

Educating for peace is accepting the challenge of life, compromising our reason and ethics to the service of humankind, living with tolerance within a frame of plurality in our cultures, and always aiming towards the construction of a Culture of Peace

## PRESUPPOSED 2005

It is a fact that this graphic shows us the tendency of the main economies in 2005.



## **PROPOSAL**

The simple, viable but significant proposal that I am presenting to you today is for the teachers, parents and students to perceive the irreparable damage that war-like toys cause; the mistaken use of technology, for instance, that leads us to violent TV programs, pornography and whatever else attempting against human dignity. Let us teach our children to discern right from wrong, so that they know what can either dignify or destroy them.

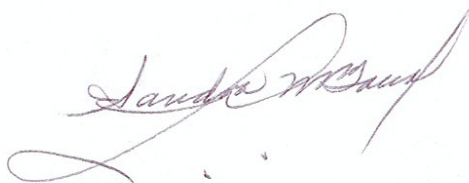
Let us turn our schools into gathering places to collect every damaging toy and cybernetic material.

Let us ask children and parents to get rid of all those things at home that resemble destruction, and, with these pieces, let us make a sculpture carrying the name: "Imagine and Live"

### **"IMAGINE AND LIVE"**

I invite all NGO's and civil society to recognize and award the better sculpture as a motivation to the students who work towards a Culture of Peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sandra M.B. Rivero Borrell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Mtra. Sandra M.B. Rivero Borrell  
President