****

**UNESCO Sponsored Traineeship Programme**

**Terms of Reference**

**(Social and Human Sciences)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Duration:** 1 year

**Location:** Yaoundé

**Organizational Unit**: Social and Human Sciences

**Supervisor (name, title):** Mrs. MATUTURU Yvonne, SHS Programme Specialist

**DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAINEESHIP**

The UNESCO Yaoundé Regional Office through its Social and Human Sciences (SHS) Sector is seeking to recruit an intern to assist SHS Yaoundé operations. This will provide an opportunity for the selected candidate to build practical skills and develop experience working in an international organization; gain exposure to the international development field; and deepen the understanding of UNESCO development priorities and challenges. The mission of the SHS sector is to develop and promote policies and strategies that will induce social transformations in the 10 countries of the Central-Africa Region.

Working under the supervision of a Programme Specialist, the intern will provide unit-wide support on the sector priorities domains in the region, with a focus on the following three ones:

**I. Youth Development and Empowerment**

Young people make up more than 65% of the African population. The problems that affect them reflect the humanitarian situation and the level of socio-economic development of the continent. The exceptional socio-demographic dynamics that characterize the continent are frightening to some and give hope to those who consider that, thanks to its youth, Africa is left with an unprecedented opportunity. In any case, it undeniably calls for reflection and the involvement of young people themselves in all stages and actions that will build the ***"Future and the Africa We Want***". Today, the role of young people in promoting democracy, peace and security remains a major aspect of the African and global agendas. Young people have always been the main drivers of political, economic and social change. We must strive to make human rights more relevant and useful to them, in the search for dignity for themselves and their communities.

If Africa wants to achieve the UN 2030 and AU 2063 Agendas, it remains essential to promote the rights of young people including children, especially young women and girls in development processes. This work strands on youth development and empowerment to be guided by UNESCO’s Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021) , emphasizing all three axes, namely; policy development and review; capacity building; and civic engagement and participation, informed by the African Youth Charter, with a view to placing youth at the center of implanting the UN 2030 and AU 2063 Agendas, among others. The strategic approach to achieving the goals will be action-oriented on developing participatory policies with stakeholders in the field of youth and sports; promoting the role of youth and equipping them to become true ambassadors of peace and key actors of socio-political and economic changes and transformations and finally civic engagement through a human rights-based approach in all UNESCO's programs.

Few examples to illustrate Youth engagement: (1) Youth forums as part of the program during the Biennale for a Culture of Peace in Luanda in September 2019: one session on ***Peace & Security*** and another session on ***Youth Empowerment-Entrepreneurship-Innovation-Artificial intelligence***. (2) Banjul Youth Forum in October 2019 on **"Engaging Young African Leaders in Achieving the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. Accelerating Positive Social Transformations for a Democratic, Prosperous, Inclusive and Peaceful** Africa. (3) ContinuousCapacity building of youth continental networks as the PAYNCoP (Panafrican Youth Network for a Culture of Peace), National Youth Councils and others) through support for their participation in forums and meetings organized for their interest.

**II. Knowledge Generation, Creation and Dissemination for Social Transformations in Africa (MOST COMPONENT)**

MOST is an intergovernmental program which supports Member States in grappling with the social transformation challenges by enhancing the connection between research and policy nexus. Research should help us understand the background causes, processes and social implications of any societal dilemmas and challenges. The outcomes should feed into the development of coherent public policies, based on evidence and knowledge, at the national level. The MOST program aims at addressing the crises of social science knowledge production in Africa, in the service of social transformations, hence the urgency to rethink social sciences against this backdrop. The emphasis is placed on promoting the nexus between research and public policy by studying the existing (empirical research in human and social sciences) or research-Action. In other words: Call and reinforce cutting-edge research in the social sciences and humanities with a view to supporting social transformations, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. Those works would build and strengthen the capacities of young and upcoming social scientists in Africa, which ensures that social science knowledge generation and production informs, enlightens and responds to policy needs of social transformations in the region. Few illustrations: MOST ministerial forums or MOST Schools in Cameroon, Gabon and Republic of Congo.

**III. Intercultural Dialogue and Culture of Peace**

Intercultural Dialogue and Culture of Peace are essential for achieving the SDGs and are guaranteed when communities benefit and enjoy development dividends. The work under this thematic area broadly not only focuses on supporting social transformations, living together and tolerance, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue, but also on contributing to historical knowledge and memories in order to contribute to peace, to intercultural, inter-religious and intergenerational dialogue. Those goals would bring conceptual clarity to intercultural dialogue and culture of peace, and ensuring that a practical approach to understanding both concepts is promoted, to bring benefit to discourse both at the regional and national levels. In doing so, full advantage will be taken of recent scholarly works produced on these subjects by UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair on Intercultural Dialogue for Interreligious Understanding, and other experts, some of which were presented at the Fourth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku, Azerbaijan, in May, 2017. Few illustrations: research paper on ***"Cultural diversity and living together in the four geographical areas of Cameroon***"; or the ***“Youth Space for an Intercultural, Inter Religious, Inter-generational and gender Equality Dialogue***”.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

**Education:** Master Degree in Social Sciences; Economics; any other Degree in Education or Human Sciences related fields.

**Subjects:** Social and Human Sciences

**Language skills:** Fluency in French and English. Knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese is an asset.

**Competencies and skills:**

• Integrity and professionalism: demonstrated expertise or knowledge of the thematic areas listed above and ability to formulate sound judgment; very high level of autonomy, sense of personal initiative and ability to take responsibility and/or willingness to accept responsibility and ability to work independently in accordance with established procedures in a politically sensitive environment, while exercising judgment, impartiality and neutrality; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsiveness and sense of service.

• Commitment to continuous learning: initiative and willingness to learn new skills and keep abreast of new developments in one's area of expertise; ability to adapt to changes in the work environment.

• Planning and organization: organizational effectiveness and ability to solve proven problems, ability to manage a large volume of work in an efficient and timely manner; ability to prioritize and plan, coordinate and monitor (own) work; ability to work under pressure, with binding deadlines, and to manage several projects / activities in parallel.

• Teamwork and respect for diversity: ability to work effectively with other sectors / units within the organization; demonstrated ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and harmonious working relationships in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity and equality.

• Communication: confirmed interpersonal skills; good oral and written communication skills (including the ability to write clear and concise reports); ability to make presentations, to formulate clearly and accurately different options; ability to make recommendations and defend them; ability to communicate and empathize with staff (including national staff), military personnel, volunteers, counterparts and local counterparts from a wide variety of backgrounds; ability to keep cool and to be helpful with staff while being objective, without showing personal interest; ability to transfer information and knowledge to a wide range of target groups.

• Flexibility, adaptability, ability and willingness to work in difficult circumstances in Africa.

• Demonstrated adherence to the principles of voluntary engagement, including solidarity, compassion, reciprocity and autonomy; as well as the core values of the United Nations.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Enhance the educational experience of graduate students through practical and guided hands-on exposure and involvement in UNESCO’s development projects within the central Africa Region.
2. Provide graduate students with an exposure to the working environment of a multilateral organization and a better understanding of UNESCO mission statement concerning the region contingency.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Expenses/Cost**

All cost such as living expenses travel, visa application fees and any other cost relate to the internship MUST be borne by the intern unless provided for a sponsoring institution.

UNESCO Yaoundé Regional Office for Central Africa will incur NO cost except for travel that is related to the implementation of projects in Cameroon for which the intern is assigned.

**Status in the UN**

Gratis personnel are not considered as staff members.