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BREMEN**

## **Resolution on children's and youth choirs for the THIRD CHOIR OLYMPICS 2004 in BREMEN to the International Music Council at UNESCO**

Since UNESCO was created in 1945, its most ambitious goal has been to build peace in the hearts of mankind and define global visions of sustainable development based on human rights and mutual respect. In no other field of human endeavour can these goals be more accurately achieved than through the hearts and minds of children – children throughout the world singing together in choirs that achieve the highest possible artistic standard.

Singing is the most natural form of self-expression and one that all children can develop and enjoy. The life-long benefits of singing in a choir are enormous: a child develops a great love and understanding of poetry, learns to work with others to achieve a common goal, develops self-confidence and self-esteem, and learns to appreciate foreign languages and other cultures.

One of the Millennium Development Goals of UNESCO is to achieve universal primary education in all countries by 2015. The development of children's choirs in every country can assist in achieving this goal. No child should be left out because adequate resources and teachers could not be found. Funds need to be made available to help countries with few resources.

During the past thirty years, outstanding children's and youth choirs have developed at an unprecedented rate. Many have travelled to share their experiences and songs with children throughout the world. No greater bonding between children can take place than when they sing their songs together.

At no other time in the history of mankind has there been a greater need to create mutual respect, love, and concern between nations; it must begin in the hearts of children. This can be done through international singing projects that bring together children from every country, enriching their contribution with musical instruments, dance, and drama. Despite limited resources, UNESCO's International Music Council continues to be extraordinarily supportive of choral music and can assist us greatly with our future goals.