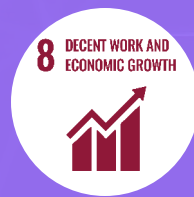




UNITED NATIONS
JORDAN



Jordan's Engagement with UNESCO Mechanisms

INTRODUCTION

UNESCO is a specialized agency of the United Nations established on 16 November 1945. Its aims are to promote world peace and security through international cooperation in education, sciences and culture. There are 11 associate members and 193 members states. Jordan joined UNESCO on 14 June 1950. UNESCO's mission and work are guided by its [Constitution](#), [Rules of Procedure of the General Conference](#), and [Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board](#).

UNESCO's areas of expertise are closely linked to human rights in many ways. Echoing the 1948 [Universal Declaration on Human Rights](#), the [Constitution](#) states in its Article I that "respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms" is one of the Organization's purposes and functions. Moreover, some specific rights mentioned in the 1948 Declaration are under the direct competence of UNESCO: Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (Article 19), Right to education (Article 26), Right to take part in cultural life (Article 27), and Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress (Article 27). Several initiatives of the Organization are embedded in this human rights approach, for instance, [the 2003 UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights and the Integrated Strategy to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance](#). All UNESCO's global priorities reflect the mainstreaming of human rights principles, such as [Priority Gender Equality](#), along with [Priority Africa](#).

In order to ensure that these core rights are protected, UNESCO has a number of different types of normative instruments - [Conventions](#), [recommendations](#),¹ as well as [declarations](#). All these instruments are incentive-based, since UNESCO does not have the means to sanction. However, different mechanisms have been put in place to encourage states to implement the instruments.

The procedure laid down in [104 EX/Decision 3.3](#) about individual complaints is of paramount importance. This is UNESCO's main [procedure for dealing with alleged violations of human rights](#). According to this procedure, individuals, groups and NGOs can submit individual complaints to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of UNESCO if they are direct victims or if they have a sufficient connection to the claimed violation. From 1978 to 2019, [609 communications](#) were considered by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations. This is a confidential procedure and, therefore, this background paper will not assess Jordan's engagement regarding individual complaints.

Additionally, according to Article VIII of the [Constitution](#), each Member State shall submit reports to the Organization on the action taken upon the Recommendations and Conventions. Moreover, [Article IV. B. 6](#) provides that the General Conference will receive and consider these reports or, if it so decides, analytical summaries of these reports. In other words, the monitoring of the implementation of instruments is done through the reports that States must periodically send to UNESCO and are made public before the international community. [UNESCO's procedures](#) require Member States to submit these reports every four years through regular consultations initiated by the Organization.

Finally, the importance of implementation has led to the setting up of the following :

Committees created specifically in charge of monitoring the implementation of the related Convention. For instance, the [Expert Facility](#) may be solicited to support the implementation of [the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#). There is also a World Heritage Committee, as well as an Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Permanent subsidiary bodies of the Executive Board, for example the [Committee on Conventions and Recommendations](#) (CR) which is in charge of the above-mentioned [104 EX/Decision 3.3 Procedure](#). It also considers the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments, especially through the examination of reports received from Member States.

[A framework guidelines](#), adopted for the preparation of reports on the implementation of conventions.

¹ Some recommendations do have important implications for human rights : for instance, the 1974 [Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms](#) or the 1960 [Recommendation against Discrimination in Education](#).

This background paper outlines past and forthcoming opportunities for engagement by all stakeholders in Jordan with UNESCO's supervisory mechanisms to implement human rights obligations in Jordan- realizing human rights for all, Jordanians and non-Jordanians alike.

OVERVIEW

This document is an ideal opportunity to take stock as Jordan is not exempted from the world-wide erosion of the core principles of human rights.

UNESCO's mandate addresses Jordanian human rights in many ways, but three, in particular, deserve to be highlighted:

Firstly, respect for civil liberties including freedom of expression. As the United Nations agency with a specific mandate to promote “the free flow of ideas by word and image”, UNESCO works to foster free, independent and pluralistic media in print, broadcast and online. Freedom of expression in Jordan is restricted by a number of pieces of legislation including the Penal Code, the Anti-Terrorism Law, the Press and Publication Law, and the Cybercrime Law, several gag orders have been imposed during the past two years, the space for journalists to work independently has been restricted at times, and Jordan has been experiencing an increase in spyware, hacking, difficulties in preserving data and cyberbullying.

Secondly, education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights. As an empowerment right, education is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and obtain the means to participate fully in their communities. Jordan has made great strides in realizing the right to education.²

Lastly, the protection and promotion of culture is a human rights imperative. The right to take part in cultural life guarantees the right of everyone to access, participate in and enjoy culture, cultural heritage and cultural expressions. A human-centered approach to development based on mutual respect and open dialogue among cultures is key to safeguarding heritage, strengthening creative industries, and encouraging cultural pluralism. The full realization of this right depends on concrete steps for the conservation, development, and diffusion of culture.

While Jordan has ratified treaties and made international commitments, these need to be upheld and implemented by Jordan as part of its duty to ensure that human rights are enjoyed by all.³

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



² See [SDG4-Jordan Voluntary National Review | UNESCO](#)

³ For more details on Jordan's engagement with UN human rights mechanisms, see [United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms Jordan's Engagement | United Nations in Jordan](#).

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

For human rights treaties and mechanisms which seek the protection of [the right to freedom of expression](#) and [access to information](#), like [the Universal Declaration for Human Rights](#) and [the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) please see [here](#).

Education

Instrument	Date of the instrument	Date of entry into force in Jordan
Convention against Discrimination in Education	14 December 1960	Group V (b) (06 April 1976 - Acceptance)
Protocol Instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be Responsible for Seeking the Settlement of any Disputes which may Arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education	10 December 1962	Group V (b) (18 December 1995 - Acceptance)
Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab States	22 December 1978	Group V (b) (31 March 1982 - Ratification)
Convention on Technical and Vocational Education	10 November 1989	Group V (b) (03 September 1992 - Accession)

Additionally, though not legally binding, the below recommendations and declarations play a crucial role in promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of human rights in Jordan.

Instrument	Date of the instrument
Recommendation against Discrimination in Education	1960
Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers	1966
Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	1974
Recommendation on the Legal Protection of Translators and Translations and the Practical Means to improve the Status of Translators	1976

EDUCATION

Instrument	Date of the instrument
<u>Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education</u>	1976
<u>Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist</u>	1980
<u>Recommendation on the Recognition of Studies and Qualifications in Higher Education</u>	1993
<u>Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel</u>	1997
<u>Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education</u>	2015
<u>Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence</u>	2021
<u>Declaration of Principles of International Cultural Co-operation</u>	1966
<u>Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice</u>	1978
<u>Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War</u>	1978
<u>Declaration of Principles on Tolerance</u>	1995
<u>Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights</u>	1997
<u>Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations</u>	1997
<u>UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity</u>	2001
<u>Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights</u>	2005
<u>Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change</u>	2017

CULTURE

Instrument	Date of the instrument	Date of entry into force in Jordan
<u>Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural character with Protocol of Signature and model form of certificate provided for in Article IV</u>	10 December 1948	Group V (b) (12 May 1971 - Acceptance)
<u>Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, with Annexes A to E and Protocol annexed</u>	17 June 1950	Group V (b) (31 December 1958 - Accession)
<u>Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention</u>	14 May 1954	Group V (b) (02 October 1957 - Ratification)
<u>First Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict</u>	14 May 1954	Group V (b) (02 October 1957 - Ratification)
<u>Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property</u>	14 November 1970	Group V (b) (15 March 1974 - Ratification)
<u>Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</u>	16 November 1972	Group V (b) (05 May 1975 - Ratification)
<u>Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict</u>	26 March 1999	Group V (b) (05 May 2009 - Accession)
<u>Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms</u>	19 November 1974	NA
<u>Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage</u>	02 November 2001	Group V (b) (02 December 2009 - Ratification)
<u>Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage</u>	17 October 2003	Group V (b) (24 March 2006 - Ratification)
<u>Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions</u>	20 October 2005	Group V (b) (16 February 2007 - Ratification)

TIMELINE - Past

The below timeline provides a historical overview of Jordan's engagement with UNESCO mechanisms.

Education

- ▶ **1968** : [1st periodic report](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education
- ▶ **1972** : [2nd periodic report](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education
- ▶ **1978** : [3rd periodic report](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education
- ▶ **1985** : [4th periodic report](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education
- ▶ **1991** : [5th Consultation](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education
- ▶ **1999** : [6th Consultation](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education.
- ▶ **2007** : [National report](#), as part of the [7th Consultation](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education.
- ▶ **2009** : [National report](#), as part of the 4th Consultation of Member States on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- ▶ **2013** : [National report](#), as part of the [8th Consultation](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education.
- ▶ **2013** : National report was not submitted as part of the [5th Consultation](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- ▶ **2017** : National report was not submitted as part of the [9th Consultation](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education and its [Results](#).
- ▶ **2017** : National report was not submitted as part of the [6th Consultation](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- ▶ **2019** : [National report](#), as part of the 10th Consultation of Member States, its [Guidelines](#) , Report of the [Committee on Conventions and Recommendations](#) and [Results](#).
- ▶ **2021** : National report was not submitted as part of the [7th Consultation](#) of Member States on the implementation of the Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms.



TIMELINE - Past

The below timeline provides a historical overview of Jordan's engagement with UNESCO mechanisms.

Culture

- ▶ **June 1979** : [National report](#) on the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention.
- ▶ **December 1984** : [National report](#) on the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention.
- ▶ **1989** : [National report](#) on the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention.
- ▶ **November 2000** : 1st periodic reporting exercise, as part of the Arab States [1st Cycle Periodic Reporting on Convention](#) concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- ▶ **June 2010** : Arab States [2nd Cycle Periodic Reporting](#) on Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- ▶ **October 2010** : [National Report](#) on Underwater Cultural Heritage.
- ▶ **2011** : [National report](#) on the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention.
- ▶ **2011** : [1st national report](#) on the application of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.
- ▶ **2012** : [1st Periodic report](#) on the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
- ▶ **December 2012 (submitted in 2014)** : [1st Periodic report](#) on the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- ▶ **2013** : [National report](#) on the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols.
- ▶ **2015** : [2nd national report](#) on the application of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.
- ▶ **2020** : [2nd Periodic report](#) on the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
- ▶ **2021** : [National report](#) on the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols.
- ▶ **2021** : Arab States [3rd Cycle Periodic Reporting](#) on Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.



TIMELINE - Future

The below timeline provides an overview for future engagement by all stakeholders in Jordan with UNESCO mechanisms.

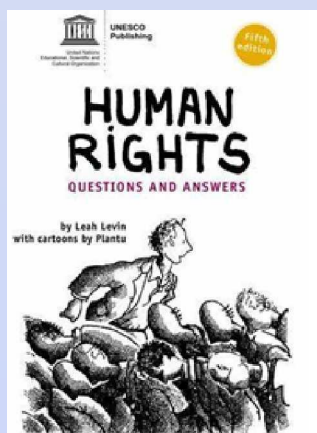
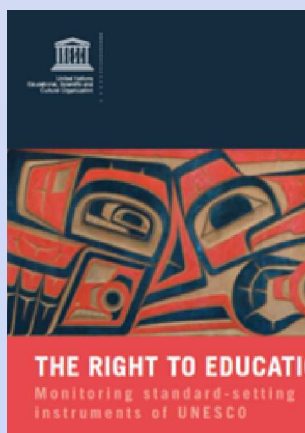
Education

- ▶ **2024** : Jordan must submit its 11th periodic report on the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education

Culture

- ▶ **December 2022** : Jordan must submit its 3rd Periodic report on the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The 2nd periodic report, due in December 2018, has not been submitted to date.
- ▶ **2024** : Jordan must submit its 3rd Periodic report on the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

RESOURCES



Other resources to report around the human rights instruments are available on [UNESCO's website](#) and others are also under development.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This background paper is part of a series of “norms and standards papers” developed by the United Nations in Jordan under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator’s Office to highlight Jordan’s commitments under international treaties or other commitments made and to inform ongoing national initiatives and reform processes. The series also aims to familiarize a wider audience with international norms and standards and the work of the United Nations in Jordan.



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