

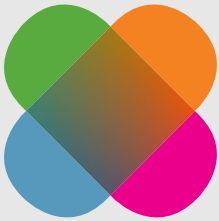


INTERNATIONAL AWARD
UCLG - MEXICO CITY - CULTURE 21

WINNER

3 EDITION

PATRICE MEYER-BISCH



Patrice Meyer-Bisch holds a PhD in Philosophy, and is a professor-researcher. Until 2016, he was coordinator of the **Interdisciplinary Institute of Ethics and Human Rights** (IIEDH) at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), where he taught Human Rights and Democracy, with a focus on Cultural Rights and ethics of economy. He is the president of the **Observatory on Diversity and Cultural Rights** (an IIEDH programme established in 2004) and of the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Democracy at the same university.

Within the broad scope of his research, Patrice Meyer-Bisch is particularly known for his work in the field of cultural rights at an international scale, as one of the main promoters of the **Fribourg Declaration on Cultural Rights** (2007), which promotes the protection of cultural diversity and rights within the human rights system and is the result of twenty years of work by an international group of experts, the “Fribourg Group”.

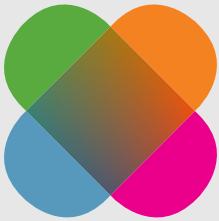
He has conducted research in several European and African countries. His academic research covers, in addition to cultural rights, the indivisibility of human rights, especially in relation to economic ethics, democracy, social sciences and interdisciplinary research methodologies.

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As for his work related to the United Nations, Patrice Meyer-Bisch has followed the transition from the Commission on Human Rights to the new Human Rights Council through his academic work. He is familiar with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as with some thematic mandates on extreme poverty, indigenous peoples, right to education, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of religion or belief.

His contribution to the rights-based approach lays the foundation for current cultural policies as guarantors of citizens' exercise of their right to participate in cultural life, while placing cultural rights as the foundation of sustainability and human development. This dimension brings a new global perspective to local conflicts and enables the dynamics of international interaction which generate the foundation documents for the promotion of shared values related to cultural policies at a global level.

As he states in **“Cultural Rights within the Development Grammar”**: *“The aim is not to define a development that respects human rights but rather policies that take into account each human right as a development factor, both as a means and an end. The end is not to define a sustainable development*



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that leaves room for diversity and cultural rights but rather a development based on them as fundamental resources to exercise freedoms and responsibilities in a sustainable way.”

Patrice Meyer-Bisch has had an important influence on the concept of cultural diversity and cultural rights as a means of achieving sustainable development, democracy and respect for human rights, and culture has thus assumed a predominant role in the matrix of the socio-economic development of communities throughout the world.