

In process: a founding declaration for the open education movement

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Mark Surman, [Cape Town Declaration, coming soon to an inbox near you](#), CommonSpace, September 17, 2007. Surman is Director of [telecentre.org](#) and a Fellow of the [Shuttleworth Foundation](#). Excerpt:

With my plane now somewhere over Eastern Ontario, I've little time to write about last week's amazing meetings in Cape Town. Let me just report this: 30 amazing brains from universities, government ministries and foundations gathered to come up with a statement to rally and accelerate the open education movement. Drawing on a tremendous amount of laughter, kindness and wisdom, we came up with the raw material for a declaration that we hope many hundreds (thousands?) of other people and organizations will sign. I will be crafting this with the help of people from the New South Wales Dept of Education, [Creative Commons](#), [Macquarie University](#) and Utah's [Centre for Open and Sustainable Learning](#) over the coming weeks.

The idea of a 'declaration' stems from the experience of the [Budapest Initiative](#), which used a similar [document](#) to build huge momentum for the open access movement. The Budapest document was a mix of vision, values, definitions and strategies supported by the people who drafted and signed it. We're looking at a similar mix of ideas in the Cape Town Declaration....