Item 4.2 of the provisional agenda

Amendment to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5)

Submitted by: SWITZERLAND

Part II.A – Major Programmes, Projects relating to cross-cutting themes

Major Programme IV – Culture
Programme IV.1 – Protect and safeguard cultural heritage worldwide
Subprogramme IV.1.3 – Protecting and rehabilitating cultural heritage

Resolution (33 C/5 Para. No.): 04130

Budgetary implications indicated by the sponsor: $100,000 (regular budget $610 million) + $200,000 (if $25 million reinforcement)

Source of financing proposed by the sponsor: Regular budget under Major Programme IV – Culture, IV.1, IV.1.4, 04140

Proposed modification, deletion or addition:

The General Conference

Authorizes the Director-General:

(a) To implement the corresponding plan of action in order to:

* This proposal was received by the Secretariat on 18 August 2005.
(i) (...);

(ii) coordinate statutory meetings and intergovernmental committees, promote the existing standard-setting instruments by providing advice on becoming party to and implementing these instruments (1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols; 1970 Convention on Illicit Traffic; 1995 UNIDROIT Convention; 2001 Convention on the Underwater Cultural Heritage) and on elaborating national legislation, and by ensuring the maintenance and development of the electronic database of national cultural heritage laws;

(b) ...

Explanatory note:

UNESCO is the depositary of a large number of standard-setting instruments relating to the cultural heritage. Their implementation presupposes the availability of information on the laws and regulations adopted by the States Parties to the Convention for their application. UNESCO's electronic database of national cultural heritage laws has been launched in order to meet that requirement. This tool also responds to the expectations of Member States with regard to the Organization’s role in promoting international cooperation. The database enables the access to national legislation that is crucial to international cooperation between the States Parties to the agreements; it enhances transparency, and also facilitates collaboration aimed at improving the protection of cultural property. By virtue of being in electronic form it makes information readily and rapidly available when changes are made to legislative and administrative provisions in this field. Monitoring and constant updating are essential. To this end, the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation has requested the creation of a budgetary line for the development and maintenance of that database in the UNESCO regular budget for the Culture Sector. However, the 2006-2007 Draft Programme and Budget anticipates a significant reduction in the resources allocated to the budgetary line currently covering this activity. The necessary human and financial resources for gathering, translating and publishing texts, and for updating the database, must be secured and performance indicators developed.