



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

20/12/2013

Ref.: CL/4040

Subject: **Programme of Participation in the activities of Member States for 2014-2015**

Sir/Madam,

UNESCO's Participation Programme provides a means of supporting the national, subregional or regional activities of Member States that are in line with the Organization's Regular Programme priorities. As you know, at its 37th session, the General Conference adopted 37 C/Resolution 72 (attached hereto in Annex IV), which includes new terms and conditions for the Participation Programme in the light of recent recommendations by the External Auditor, and aimed at optimizing this important Programme further.

For the next biennium and in accordance with the Approved Programme and Budget for 2014-2017 (37 C/5 Approved), we should like you, when preparing your projects, to take particular account of the priority programmes of the Organization, in particular the Major Programmes, interdisciplinary projects and activities in favour of Africa, youth and gender equality, as well as the activities of National Commissions for UNESCO, with specific reference to the paragraph of document 37 C/5 corresponding to the activity concerned. You may wish, in this regard, to consult the attached Guidelines (see Annex V), which have been updated and that should guide the preparation of your projects. It is understood that no financing will be provided for supplies and equipment that are not directly linked to operational works within the framework of these projects, or for the recurrent costs of the beneficiary organizations.

You also may wish to note that, to the extent possible, your requests should be submitted in electronic form, it being understood that the Sector for External Relations and Public Information (ERI) will indicate to you the procedure for this first electronic submission. The paper version of the form attached hereto (Annex I) may be used by National Commissions that are not, at this stage, in a position to submit their request online.

I should like to remind you that the funds approved for the Participation Programme in 2014-2015 will be used essentially for the priority groups indicated in 37 C/Resolution 72 and, in particular, for least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries, post-conflict and post-disaster countries, small island developing states (SIDS), countries in transition and middle-income countries. Member States with high annual GDP *per capita*, as established by the World Bank, are invited to refrain from submitting requests.

The **deadlines set for the submission of requests** are **28 February 2014** for African countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), and **31 August 2014** for all other eligible countries and non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO. The Participation Programme Section stands ready to provide you with any further information you may require in this regard (tel.: +33 1 45 68 13 75; e-mail: ppe@unesco.org).

Given the need for proper accountability, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that Member States and non-governmental organizations that received financial assistance under the Participation Programme in previous biennia (up to and including 2012-2013) undertook to forward the following to the Secretariat upon completion of each project:

- **a financial report** expressed in United States dollars and containing a detailed and accurate statement of expenditure, duly certifying that the funds allocated have been used for the implementation of the project, together with an annex in the currency used for the implementation of activities. The financial report should use the same elements as those of the approved budget; and,
- **a project evaluation report**, which should describe in full the implementation of the project and the results obtained.

In concluding, I should like to recall that, as stipulated by the abovementioned Resolution, no further financial contributions will be forthcoming in 2014-2015 until the Secretariat has received, **by 30 April 2014 at the latest**, all the financial and evaluation reports on requests and emergency assistance paid before 31 December 2013. Projects approved in the form of financial contributions for the next biennium must be implemented by **31 December 2015, and the financial reports submitted by 30 March 2016 at the latest.**

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Enclosures: 5 annexes

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

ANNEX I

FORM FOR SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST

UNDER THE 2014-2015 PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

to be filled in by African countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and small-island developing states (SIDS) by 28 February 2014 at the latest

and by 31 August 2014 at the latest for all other eligible countries and NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO

The applicant should ensure that all of the information required below is accurately entered

1. Request submitted by:

Name of country: _____

Name of NGO in official partnership with UNESCO (full name and acronym) _____

2. Title of project and place of implementation:

Title of project: _____

Place of implementation: _____

Commencement date: _____

Termination date: _____

Priority number (from 1 to 7)

Please take account of the fact that the first approvals will not be granted before May 2014 for Africa, LDCs and SIDS, and October 2014 for all other eligible countries, including NGO in official partnership with UNESCO

3. Type of assistance requested:

Indicate only the financial contribution requested from UNESCO

Type of request

Financial contribution implementation by the beneficiary

Implementation by UNESCO field offices

Type of assistance	In US\$
Conferences, meetings, translation and interpretation services, participants' travel costs and any other services deemed necessary by common accord (not including those of UNESCO staff members)	
Seminars and training courses	
Supplies and equipment	
Study grants and fellowships	
Specialists and consultants – not including staff costs	
Publications, periodicals, documentation, translation, reproduction	
	Total

Provide the following information according to the proposed activity:

Conferences/ meetings: _____

Place (selection criteria): _____

Duration: _____

Conference agenda: _____

Proposed topics: _____

Proposed round tables: _____

Working Language(s): _____

Number of participants:

Participants' travel cost:

Participants' daily subsistence allowance:

Speakers (enclose *curriculum vitae* if available)

Intended audience (men, women, young girls/boys, students, outstanding personalities, others)

Expected results: _____

(continue on a separate page, if necessary)

Seminars and training courses:

Proposed workshops: _____

Number of beneficiaries:

Intended audience: _____

Proposed work plan: _____

Purpose of the Seminars/training: _____

Moderators (selection criteria): _____

Expected results:

(continue on a separate page, if necessary)

Supplies and equipment:

Please refer particularly to the list of benchmarks annexed to the Participation Programme Circular Letter of the Director-General)

Description of the material: _____

Name of the supplier or manufacturer: _____

Submission of three competitive (pro-forma) invoices for the purchase of professional goods and services for an amount equal to or greater than US\$ 5,000

Pro forma invoice 1

Pro forma invoice 2

Pro forma invoice 3

Study grants and fellowships:

Discipline taught/offered: _____

Date and duration: _____

Number of beneficiaries:

Selection criteria of the fellows (women, men, girls/boys, students): _____

Study plan: _____

Name(s) of the selected candidates: _____

Specialists and consultants:

Tasks and assignments of the specialists or consultants

Name (enclose *curriculum vitae* where possible): _____

Specialists/consultants selection criteria: _____

Duration of the mission: _____

Honorarium (honorarium should not exceeded 30% from the total amount requested from UNESCO): _____

Publications:

Nature of publication and/or reproduction: _____

Estimated cost of the reproduction or translation: _____

Quantity, number of copies to be printed: _____

Name of the publisher, as well as the date foreseen for translation and /or publication:

4.. (a) Description of the **project**:

Give a detailed description of the project, indicating clearly the objectives and expected results (minimum of one to two pages)

(continue on a separate page, if necessary)

5 Detailed description of **estimated budget**: The budget must be drawn up in US\$ and clearly indicated in the main breakdown of expenditures (paragraph 3)

(continue on a separate page, if necessary)

6. 37 C/5 activity to which this project relates:

37 C/5 paragraph No.	
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7. Contribution from the Member State or NGO in US\$: _____

8 Geographical coverage of the project (tick the appropriate box):

National (up to US \$26,000)	
Sub regional project (maximum US \$35,000) Project must be supported by at least two other Member States. Please attach <u>two support letters</u> (link to the model of support in annex II)	
Inter-regional project (up to US \$35 000) Project must be supported by at least two other Member States. Please attach <u>two support letters</u> (link to the model letter of support in annex II)	
Regional project (up to US \$45,000) Project must be supported by at least three other Member States. Please attach <u>three support letters</u> (link to the model of support letter in annex III) Note that for activities of a regional character may be submitted only by Member States and are not included in the quota of 7 requests.	

9. Name of the institution responsible for carrying out the project:

NATCOM:

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Designated Ministry

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

ONG

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

10. Beneficiary institution(s):

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

11. In the case of financial contributions, please tick the appropriate box:

Method of payment

- by bank transfer to the National Commission bank account or to the one of the ministry responsible (recommended for reasons of reliability and speed). **Payment to a third party is not authorized.**

Currency of payment

- US dollars euro other _____

- or** Exceptionally, via field office upon UNESCO HQ approval.
In this case the approved projects will be implemented by the field office concerned.

Please inform the Participation Programme Section if any modification to your bank details occurred since the last transfer of funds

12. The applicant accepts the conditions set out in 37 C/Resolution 72 on the Participation Programme, adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session.

Date

Stamp and signature:
of the Secretary-General of the National Commission
for UNESCO or of the recognized representative
of the Government (1) or of the international
non-governmental organization in an
official partnership with UNESCO

(1) In Member States where there is no National Commission

ANNEX II

PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME 2014-2015

MODEL LETTER OF SUPPORT

Such letters must be sent attached to the electronic form or, failing that,
sent to the Participation Programme Section (ppe@unesco.org)

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of:

(name of the country offering its support)

wishes to support the project:

(title of the project)

submitted by:

(name of the country or INGO submitting the project)

within the framework of the Participation Programme for the 2014-2015 biennium

for the following reasons:

Place and date

Name, signature and stamp

(Secretary General of the National Commission)
(Permanent Delegate or recognized
representative of the government)

Note: The fact that a Member State has given its support to a request submitted by another Member State has no implications for the seven requests submitted on its own behalf.

ANNEX III

PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME 2014-2015

MODEL LETTER OF SUPPORT

REGIONAL PROJECT

Such letters should be sent attached to the electronic form or, failing that,
sent to the Participation Programme Section (ppe@unesco.org)

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of:

(name of the country offering its support)

wishes to support regional project No. 1, 2 or 3 of the region:

(title of the project)

submitted by:

(name of the country or group of countries submitting the project)

within the framework of the Participation Programme for the 2014-2015 biennium

for the following reasons:

Place and date

Name, signature and stamp

(Secretary General of the National Commission)
(Permanent Delegate or recognized
representative of the government)

Note: The fact that a Member State has given its support to a request submitted by another Member State has no implications for the seven requests submitted on its own behalf.

ANNEX IV

37 C/RESOLUTION 72

72 Participation Programme and Fellowships Programme¹

The General Conference

A – Participation Programme

I

1. *Authorizes* the Director-General to implement, during the period 2014-2017, the Programme of Participation in the activities of Member States, in accordance with the following principles and conditions:

A. Principles

1. The Participation Programme is one of the means employed by the Organization to achieve its objectives, through participation in activities carried out by Member States or Associate Members, or by territories, organizations or institutions, in its fields of competence. This participation is designed to strengthen the partnership between UNESCO and its Member States and make that partnership more effective through a sharing of contributions.
2. Under the Participation Programme, priority will be given to proposals submitted by least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries, post-conflict and post-disaster countries, small-island developing States (SIDS), countries in transition and middle-income countries.
3. Member States with high annual GDP per capita as established by the World Bank are invited to refrain from submitting requests.
4. Requests shall be submitted to the Director-General by the Member States through the National Commissions for UNESCO or, where there is no National Commission, through a designated government channel.
5. The projects or action plans submitted by the beneficiaries under the Participation Programme must relate to the priorities of the Organization, in particular to the major programmes, interdisciplinary projects, and activities to benefit Africa, youth and gender equality, as well as activities of the National Commissions for UNESCO with a specific reference to the paragraph of document 37 C/5 corresponding to the activity. It is understood that no financing will be provided for supplies and equipment which are not directly linked to operational works within the framework of these projects or for the recurrent costs of the beneficiary organizations.
6. Each Member State may submit seven requests or projects, which must be numbered in an indicative order of priority from one to seven. Requests or projects from national non-governmental organizations will be included in the quota submitted by each Member State.
7. The indicative order of priority laid down by the Member State may only be changed by the National Commission itself and before the start of the approval process. Member States must include at least one gender-equality project among their first four priorities.
8. International non-governmental organizations in an official partnership with UNESCO, of which the list is established by the Executive Board, may submit up to two requests under the Participation Programme for projects with subregional, regional or interregional impact, provided that their request is supported by at least the Member State where the project is to be implemented and another Member State concerned by the request. In the absence of supporting letters, no such requests may be considered.
9. *Submissions:*
 - (a) requests should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than the following deadlines: 28 February 2014 for Africa, small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs), and 31 August 2014 for all other eligible countries, except for requests for emergency assistance or a regional project, which may be submitted at any time in the biennium (equivalent deadlines will apply for the following financial cycle);

¹

Resolution adopted on the report of the APX Commission at the 15th plenary meeting, on 19 November 2013.

- (b) requests should, wherever possible, be submitted in electronic form, with a view to moving to exclusively electronic submissions in due course.
- 10. The Secretariat shall inform Member States of the receipt of their requests within 45 days of the deadlines of 28 February and 31 August of the corresponding years, and subsequently of the response by the Director-General to the requests as soon as possible.
- 11. *Beneficiaries.* Assistance under the Participation Programme may be accorded to:
 - (a) Member States or Associate Members, upon request through their National Commissions or, where there is no National Commission, through a designated government channel, to promote activities of a national character. For activities of a subregional or interregional character, requests are submitted by the National Commissions of the Member States or Associate Members on whose territory they are to take place; these requests must be supported by at least two other National Commissions of participating Member States or Associate Members. For activities of a regional character, requests are limited to three per region and must be submitted by one Member State or a group of Member States. Such requests must be supported by at least three Member States (or Associate Members) concerned, and will not come within the quota of seven requests submitted by each Member State; they will be evaluated and screened by the Secretariat in accordance with the procedure established for the processing of requests submitted under the Participation Programme;
 - (b) a non-self-governing or trust territory, upon the request of the National Commission of the Member State responsible for the conduct of the territory's external relations;
 - (c) international non-governmental organizations in an official partnership with UNESCO as defined in paragraph 8 above.
- 12. *Forms of assistance.* The applicant chooses the form of assistance, and may request either:
 - (a) a financial contribution; or
 - (b) implementation by UNESCO at Headquarters or in the field. In both cases, assistance may take the following forms:
 - (i) the services of specialists and consultants, not including staff costs and administrative support;
 - (ii) fellowships and study grants;
 - (iii) publications, periodicals and documentation;
 - (iv) equipment (for operational programme purposes in accordance with the list of benchmarks annexed to the Participation Programme circular letter of the Director-General sent at the beginning of each biennial budget cycle);
 - (v) conferences, meetings, seminars and training courses: translation and interpretation services, participants' travel costs, the services of consultants, and other services deemed necessary by all concerned (not including those of UNESCO staff members).
- 13. *Total amount of assistance.* Whichever of the above forms of assistance is requested, the total value of the assistance provided for each request shall not be in excess of \$26,000 for a national project or activity, \$35,000 for a subregional or interregional project or activity, and \$46,000 for a regional project or activity. The financial provision made by the applicant must be sufficient to implement the activity satisfactorily. The activity must be executed and all funds disbursed in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Organization. The expenditures must be made according to the distribution of the budget as approved by the Director-General and communicated to Member States in the letter of approval.
- 14. *Approval of requests.* When deciding upon a request, the Director-General shall take into account:
 - (a) the total amount approved by the General Conference for the Participation Programme;
 - (b) the assessment of the request made by the relevant sector(s);
 - (c) the recommendation of the Intersectoral Committee on the Participation Programme chaired by the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information (ADG/ERI) and responsible for screening the Participation Programme requests, which are to be in conformity with the well-established criteria, procedures and priorities;

- (d) the contribution that such participation can effectively make to the attainment of Member States' objectives in UNESCO's fields of competence, and within the framework of the major priorities of the Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Programme and Budget (C/5) approved by the General Conference, with which participation must be closely linked;
- (e) the need to establish an equitable balance in the distribution of funds, by giving priority to Africa, least developed countries (LDCs), gender equality and youth as well as developing countries and countries in transition and small island developing States (SIDS), which need to be mainstreamed throughout all programmes. In this regard, an appropriate selection criterion such as annual GDP per capita, established by the World Bank and/or the scale of assessment of Member States' contributions to UNESCO, is to be considered by the Secretariat since, in general, the funds requested by Member States by far exceed those available. In addition, the Secretariat will establish the relevant financial ceilings, to be communicated to Member States, based on their status as LDCs, SIDS, developing countries or middle-income countries. Member States with high annual GDP per capita, as established by the World Bank, are invited to refrain from submitting requests;
- (f) the need to ensure that funding for each project approved is, as far as possible, allocated no later than 30 days before the date set for the start of the implementation of the project concerned, and in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph B.15(a).

15. *Implementation:*

- (a) the Participation Programme will be implemented within the biennial programme of the Organization, of which it forms an integral part. The implementation of the activities set out in a request is the responsibility of the Member State or other applicant. The request submitted to the Director-General must show specific scheduled commencement and termination dates for the implementation of projects, cost estimates (in United States dollars) and promised or expected funding from the Member States or private institutions;
- (b) the results of the Participation Programme will be made known with a view to the planning and implementation of the Organization's future activities. The activity reports and sexennial reports, submitted after the completion of each project by Member States, will be used by the Secretariat to evaluate the Participation Programme's impact and results in Member States and its consistency with the objectives and priorities set by UNESCO. An evaluation by the Secretariat may also be undertaken while the project is being carried out; the list of beneficiaries submitting reports late will be transmitted to the governing bodies;
- (c) the use of UNESCO's name and logo for the activities approved under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the directives approved by the governing bodies, will give this programme a higher profile when it is carried out at the national, subregional, regional or interregional levels, and the beneficiaries will report on the results recorded in this way.

B. Conditions

16. Assistance under the Participation Programme will be provided only if the applicant, when sending in the written requests to the Director-General, accepts the following conditions. The applicant shall:
- (a) assume full financial and administrative responsibility for implementing the plans and programmes for which participation is provided; in the case of a financial contribution, submit to the Director-General, at the close of the project, an itemized statement accounting for the activities executed (financial report in United States dollars) and certifying that the funds allocated have been used for the implementation of the project, and return to UNESCO any balance not used for project purposes. This financial report must be submitted by 30 March 2016 at the latest. It is understood that no new financial contribution will be paid until the applicant has submitted all the requisite financial reports or returned the contributions paid out. The financial reports shall be signed by the competent authority and certified by the Secretary-General of the National Commission. Also, given the need for proper accountability, all the additional supporting documents necessary shall be kept by the applicant for a period of five years after the end of the biennium concerned and provided to UNESCO or the auditor upon written request. In certain exceptional cases or in unavoidable circumstances, the Director-General may decide on the most appropriate way to handle requests, in particular through implementation by a field office concerned, provided that she duly informs the Executive Board;

- (b) undertake to provide on a compulsory basis, together with the financial report mentioned in subparagraph (a) above, a detailed activity report on the results of the projects financed and their usefulness for the Member State or States and UNESCO; in addition, a sexennial report on the impact of the Participation Programme shall be prepared by each beneficiary on a cycle aligned with the Medium-Term Strategy (C/4);
- (c) pay, where participation is accorded in the form of study grants, the cost of the grantholders' passports, visas, medical examinations and salaries while they are abroad, if they are in receipt of a salary; help them to find suitable employment when they return to their countries of origin in accordance with national regulations;
- (d) maintain and insure against all risks any property supplied by UNESCO, from the time of its arrival at the point of delivery;
- (e) undertake to cover UNESCO against any claim or liability resulting from the activities provided for in this resolution, except where it is agreed by UNESCO and the National Commission of the Member State concerned that such claim or liability arises from gross negligence or wilful misconduct;
- (f) grant to UNESCO, with regard to activities to be carried out in connection with the Participation Programme, the privileges and immunities set out in the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies.

C. Emergency assistance

17. *Criteria for according emergency assistance by UNESCO:*

- (a) Emergency assistance may be accorded by UNESCO when:
 - (i) there are insurmountable circumstances nationwide (earthquakes, storms, cyclones, hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons, landslides, volcanic eruptions, fires, droughts, floods or wars, etc.), which have catastrophic consequences for the Member State in the fields of education, science, culture or communication and which it cannot overcome on its own;
 - (ii) multilateral emergency assistance efforts are being undertaken by the international community or the United Nations system;
 - (iii) the Member State requests UNESCO to provide emergency assistance, in accordance with (i) and (ii) above, in the fields of its competence, through its National Commission or an established government channel;
 - (iv) the Member State is prepared to accept the Organization's recommendations in the light of the present criteria;
- (b) UNESCO emergency assistance should be restricted to the Organization's fields of competence and should only begin once the threat to life has been overcome and the physical priorities have been met (food, clothing, shelter and medical assistance); it shall also take account of the policy followed in support of countries in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- (c) UNESCO emergency assistance should be concentrated on:
 - (i) assessing the situation and the basic requirements;
 - (ii) providing expertise and formulating recommendations on resolving the situation in its fields of competence;
 - (iii) helping to identify outside funding sources and extrabudgetary funds;
 - (iv) the urgent needs as identified by the Member States in the case of emergency assistance in cash or kind;
- (d) no administrative support or personnel costs shall be financed through emergency assistance;
- (e) the total budget for any emergency assistance project shall not exceed \$50,000; it may be supplemented by extrabudgetary funds identified for this purpose or other sources of funding;
- (f) emergency assistance shall not be provided if the Member State's request may be met within the ordinary Participation Programme;
- (g) emergency assistance shall be provided in coordination with other United Nations agencies.

18. *Procedures to be followed when providing emergency assistance:*

- (a) faced with an emergency situation, a Member State, through its National Commission or the designated government channel, will identify, as appropriate, its needs and the type of assistance it requires from UNESCO, within UNESCO's fields of competence; a specific form will be available for the submission of this type of request; a

provisional budget as well as pro forma invoices in case of equipment should be provided;

- (b) the Director-General shall then inform the Member State, through the National Commission or established channel, of her decision;
- (c) when appropriate, and in agreement with the Member State, a technical assessment mission will be sent to appraise the situation and report to the Director-General;
- (d) the Secretariat shall report to the Member State on the assistance and the amounts it envisages providing and the follow-up, if any, which could be considered; the total value of the assistance provided shall not be in excess of \$50,000;
- (e) in the case of goods or services to be supplied by UNESCO, there shall be no international competitive bidding if the situation requires urgent action;
- (f) an evaluation report and a financial report shall be submitted by the Member State after completion of the project.

II

2. *Invites* the Director-General:

- (a) to communicate without delay, in order to enhance the presentation, follow-up and evaluation of the projects submitted under the Participation Programme, to the National Commissions for UNESCO or, where there is no National Commission, through the designated government channel, the reasons for modifying or denying the requested amounts;
- (b) to inform the National Commissions, or where there is no National Commission, the designated government channel, of all projects and activities undertaken by international non-governmental organizations in their respective countries with support from the Participation Programme;
- (c) to provide to the Executive Board at every autumn session a report containing the following information:
 - (i) a list of applications for contributions from the Participation Programme received in the Secretariat;
 - (ii) a list of the projects approved under the Participation Programme and those under emergency assistance, together with the amounts approved to finance them, and any other costs and support connected with them;
 - (iii) with regard to international non-governmental organizations, a list drawn up along the same lines as that provided for in (ii) above;
- (d) to ensure that the percentage of the Participation Programme funds for emergency assistance, international non-governmental organizations and regional activities does not exceed 7%, 5% and 3% respectively of the allocated amount for the Participation Programme for a given biennium;
- (e) to seek extrabudgetary funds to supplement the emergency assistance programme for 2014-2015 as needed;
- (f) to identify ways and means of strengthening the Participation Programme in the forthcoming biennium for the benefit of the least developed countries (LDCs), developing countries, post-conflict and post-disaster countries, small island developing States (SIDS) and countries in transition.

3. *Requests* the Director-General to report in the statutory reports on the achievement of the following expected result:

(1) Programme management significantly improved to ensure greater transparency, strengthen accountability mechanisms, promote the Organization's image, increase the impact of its action and give effective priority to Africa and to other priority target countries (LDCs, SIDS and post-conflict and post-disaster countries).

B – Fellowships Programme

1. *Authorizes* the Director-General to implement, during the period 2014-2017, the plan of action in order to:

- (i) contribute to the enhancement of human resources and national capacity building in areas that are closely aligned to UNESCO's strategic objectives and programme priorities, through the award and administration of fellowships;
- (ii) negotiate cost-sharing arrangements either in cash or in kind with interested donors to fund fellowships through co-sponsored fellowship programmes;
- (iii) explore possibilities of strengthening the Fellowships Programme through partnerships with civil society and non-governmental organizations;

2. *Requests* the Director-General to report in the statutory reports on the achievement of the following expected result:

(1) Thematic areas aligned to strategic objectives of the Organization. Fellowship beneficiaries (in particular from Africa and LDCs) empowered in programme priority areas through sharing of knowledge and upgrading of skills at the graduate and postgraduate levels.

C – Appropriation for the Participation Programme and Fellowships Programme

1. *Authorizes* the Director-General:
- (a) to allocate for the period 2014-2015 for the Participation Programme an amount of \$15,897,000 for direct programme costs;
 - (b) to allocate also for the period 2014-2015 for the Fellowships Programme an amount of \$900,000 to honour UNESCO obligations under cost-sharing arrangements with donors in the framework of co-sponsored fellowships programmes;
 - (c) to allocate further for the period 2014-2015 for staff and operating costs of the Participation Programme and fellowships unit an amount of \$2,008,000.

ANNEX V

PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME 2014-2015

BENCHMARKS

The purpose of these benchmarks is to guide Member States, Associate Members and NGOs in their project formulations for the Participation Programme.

A. The project must:

1. be related to UNESCO's mandate and fields of competence;
2. support, in this connection, UNESCO's Regular Programme priority activities (37 C/5) (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002200/220074e.pdf>);
3. preferably take account of UNESCO's two global priorities: Africa and gender equality;
4. pay particular attention to the participation of girls and women;
5. especially benefit, in a sustainable manner, least developed countries, developing countries, post-conflict and post-disaster countries, small island developing states, middle-income countries and countries in transition;
6. contribute to intercultural and inter-ethnic dialogue and reconciliation in an impartial manner and without favouring specific political or religious groups;
7. contribute to promoting UNESCO's visibility in Member State; and,
8. conform to the Organization's ethical standards and not present a conflict of interest in the case of candidatures (study grants).

B. The information provided on the project also must clearly show:

1. an explicit title (for example, "National Workshop on "The Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage in X: case of Y");
2. classification in the order of priority given to the requests;
3. the project's aim and main objectives;
4. a reference to the paragraph of document 37 C/5 corresponding to the activity;
5. the name and status of the institution responsible for implementing the project's activities, and of the beneficiary institution(s);
6. a description of the project, giving specific details of the activities proposed to meet the objectives and the dates of implementation;
7. a precise location for the implementation of the project (name of the province, town or quarter, if in a large city);
8. the beneficiary group targeted (youth, women, students, artists, etc.);

9. the partner institutions or groups (private and/or public);
10. a detailed description of the estimated budget, in United States dollars, and a well-defined breakdown for each item of expenditure;
11. the financial participation in the project by the Member State or any other agency/institution; and,
12. a detailed work plan, list of participants, programme of the workshops/conferences, objectives, publications (language(s), distribution/quantity).

C. We invite you to ensure that:

1. the project is submitted on the request form corresponding to the Director-General's Circular Letter for 2014-2015;
2. the order of priority takes into account the implementation date of the projects;
3. at least three (3) competitive offers (*pro forma* invoices) for the purchase of professional goods and services in the amount of \$2500 and above are attached to the request form;
4. for ephemeral activities (such as conferences, meetings, festivals, training and so forth), the alternative of renting the necessary equipment is explored and, if the option to buy remains the best solution, that the final destination of the equipment after the event is indicated;
5. the administration costs and the purchase of means of transport are not covered by UNESCO's financial participation in the projected budget;
6. the necessary letters of support are attached to the request form for a subregional (two), interregional (two) or regional (three) project;
7. the INGOs submit the two (2) obligatory letters of support (otherwise, the projects shall not be submitted to the Intersectoral Committee);
8. the maximum amount requested corresponds to the geographical scope of the project, which is \$26,000 for a national request, \$35,000 for a subregional or interregional request and \$46,000 for a regional request;
9. the title of the person who signs the request form and the stamp are clearly shown; and,
10. the expected results and impact of the project are clearly indicated in the request form.

**Equipment and supplies for which funding
is not authorized under the Participation Programme**

In 37 C/Resolution 72 on the Participation Programme, Part A – Principles, paragraph 5, it is stipulated that no financing will be provided for supplies and equipment that are not directly linked to operational works within the framework of projects submitted for 2014-2015. Unauthorized items include:

- furniture (e.g. tables, chairs, bookcases)
- TV-video equipment and accessories (e.g. home cinemas, LCD or plasma screens, DVD players/recorders, camcorders, stereos)
- IT equipment such as software and touchscreen tablet computers
- appliances (e.g. vacuum cleaners, air conditioners, refrigerators, microwave ovens)
- peripheral devices (hard disk, USB key, printer)
- office supplies (ink cartridges, toner, paper)