

Hundred and sixtieth Session

160 EX/15
PARIS, 14 September 2000
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Item 3.5.2 of the provisional agenda

**PRIZES FOR THE SAFEGUARDING, PROTECTION AND PROMOTION
OF CULTURAL SPACES OR FORMS OF CULTURAL EXPRESSION
PROCLAIMED BY UNESCO “MASTERPIECES OF THE ORAL AND
INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY”**

SUMMARY

At its 154th, 155th and 157th sessions, the Executive Board, in 154 EX/Decision 3.5.1, 155 EX/Decision 3.5.5 and 157 EX/Decision 3.4.1 concerning an international distinction entitled “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”, invited the Director-General to seek public or private donors in order to obtain extrabudgetary resources which would be used to encourage the creation of prizes or the funding of actions to safeguard, protect and revitalize masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.

This document contains a progress report on the creation of the above-mentioned prizes.

Decision required: paragraph 8.

**INTERIM REPORT ON THE CREATION OF PRIZES IN CONNECTION
WITH THE PROCLAMATION BY UNESCO OF “MASTERPIECES
OF THE ORAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY”**

1. After studying the Director-General’s first proposal (154 EX/13) to create, in accordance with resolution 23 adopted by the General Conference at its 29th session, an international distinction for the safeguarding, revitalization and promotion of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity, the Executive Board approved the principles relating to the creation of an international distinction entitled “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity” (154 EX/Decision 3.5.1). In its decision, the Board invited the Director-General to seek public or private donors for the creation of a prize that would be awarded by UNESCO in order to ensure the preservation and promotion of cultural spaces or forms of oral cultural expression proclaimed “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”.
2. Similarly, at its 155th session, the Executive Board, after approving the Regulations relating to the proclamation by UNESCO of “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”, invited the Director-General to “seek public or private donors in order to obtain extrabudgetary resources which will serve to encourage the creation of prizes or the work of safeguarding, protecting and revitalizing cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression once they have been proclaimed “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity” (155 EX/Decision 3.5.5).
3. At the 157th session of the Executive Board, the Director-General submitted an interim report on the implementation of this project (157 EX/8) and informed the Members of the Board that several States intended to provide extrabudgetary funds to strengthen the implementation of the project. This had produced tangible results, as the Director-General, during his visits to the Republic of Korea and to Bolivia, had signed letters of intent for the creation of prizes for “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”. At the same session it was stated that the United Arab Emirates warmly supported the idea of creating a prize on this theme.
4. At its 157th session the Executive Board also invited the Director-General to continue to seek extrabudgetary funds that could be used to encourage the creation of prizes or the funding of actions to safeguard, protect and revitalize masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity (157 EX/Decision 3.4.1).
5. In June 2000 the Director-General received from Japan a donation in the form of funds-in-trust, thanks to which it was possible to provide financial assistance to several Member States for the preparation, by 31 December 2000, of the files for the submission of nominations for the proclamation of “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”.
6. In September 2000, during his visit to Uzbekistan, the Director-General signed a letter of intent with the authorities of that country, for the creation of a prize in connection with this project.
7. Given the limited number of donors – only four countries – it would seem advisable to launch an appeal to Member States and to public and private donors, so that the question of creating prizes may be finally submitted to the Board at its 161st session.
8. Taking into account the above-mentioned points, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 160 EX/15 concerning prizes for the safeguarding, protection and promotion of cultural spaces or forms of cultural expression proclaimed “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”,
2. Recalling 157 EX/Decision 3.4.1 concerning the need to continue to seek extrabudgetary funds that could be used to encourage the creation of prizes or the funding of actions to safeguard and promote masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity,
3. Urgently appeals to Member States and to public and private donors to strengthen their action to safeguard, revitalize and promote the heritage proclaimed by UNESCO to be “masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity”, in particular through extrabudgetary resources or the creation of prizes;
4. Invites the Director-General to submit the prize regulations to it for approval at its 161st session.