

Records of the General Conference

32nd Session

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Volume 1

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United Nations Educational,
Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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- (b) assist Member States in developing higher education policy frameworks which may narrow the knowledge and technological divide between developed and developing countries, and maximize the benefits and minimize the threats of globalization;
 - (c) promote cooperation and common standards for capacity-building for quality assurance, qualifications-recognition and provider and course accreditation and/or certification;
 - (d) build on and further develop existing standard-setting documents and normative instruments of UNESCO, in particular the World Declaration on Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century and the regional conventions on the recognition of qualifications in higher education;
 - (e) develop practices and principles to guide cross-border provision of education, drawing on the competence of UNESCO and other international agencies, in close cooperation with quality assurance agencies and educational providers;
 - (f) promote the development of information tools for students regarding access, qualifications recognition and quality assurance of higher education;
 - (g) develop a plan for building regional and global networks of information on quality assurance and accreditation among national education authorities and quality assurance agencies to provide relevant information, including lists of bona fide institutions of higher education approved or accredited by the authority in each country;
 - (h) promote and strengthen research on trends, policies and reforms of higher education systems and structures globally;
3. *Invites* UNESCO partners – intergovernmental organizations, other United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector – to cooperate with UNESCO in the attainment of these objectives.

11 Establishment of a Regional Educational Planning Centre under the auspices of UNESCO in the United Arab Emirates¹

The General Conference,

Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1 concerning the principles and guidelines for the establishment of institutes and centres under UNESCO's auspices,

Further recalling 164 EX/Decision 3.2.1 and 167 EX/Decision 3.3.3 concerning a proposal by the United Arab Emirates to establish a regional centre for educational planning for the Gulf Region,

Having examined document 32 C/65 containing a final report by the Director-General on the proposed establishment of a Regional Centre for Educational Planning in the United Arab Emirates under the auspices of UNESCO,

1. *Welcomes* this initiative of the United Arab Emirates, which responds to the pressing need of improving educational planning in the Gulf region;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for its commitment to fully fund the future Centre, including its premises, equipment, staff and running costs;
3. *Approves* the establishment of the said Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as recommended by the Executive Board in 167 EX/Decision 3.3.3;
4. *Invites* the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the United Arab Emirates annexed to this resolution.

Annex Agreement between the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the Establishment and Operation of the Regional Educational Planning Centre in the United Arab Emirates

Whereas the General Conference, at its 32nd session, decided that the Regional Educational Planning Centre would be established in the United Arab Emirates as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),

Whereas the Government of the United Arab Emirates has contributed and stands ready to contribute further to the establishment and to ensure the operation of the Centre in its territory,

Bearing in mind that the Government of the United Arab Emirates has already taken a number of effective measures and steps to ensure the necessary infrastructure and facilities for the Centre, by constructing and equipping the necessary premises,

Desirous of concluding an agreement with a view to ensuring the establishment and operation of the said Centre and to defining the terms and conditions governing the support that it shall be granted, under the guidelines laid

1. Resolution adopted on the report of Commission II at the 18th plenary meeting, on 15 October 2003.

down by the General Conference (21 C/Resolution 40) for regional centres set up by a State with UNESCO's participation,

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, hereinafter called "the Organization", and the Government of the United Arab Emirates, hereinafter called "the Government",

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article I – Establishment

The Government agrees to take any measures that may be required for the setting up and the operation of the Regional Educational Planning Centre in the United Arab Emirates, hereinafter called "the Centre", as provided for under this Agreement.

Article II – Legal status

The Centre shall be an autonomous institution with the legal status of a non-profit educational institution within the legal context of the host country, the United Arab Emirates. In order to reflect its formal association with the Organization, the name of the Centre shall be the "Regional Educational Planning Centre under the Auspices of UNESCO (REPC)".

Article III – Participation

1. The Centre shall be at the service of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and possibly other States that, by their geographical proximity to the Centre and/or the nature of their educational development and planning needs, desire to cooperate with the Centre.
2. The Centre would welcome cooperation with relevant intergovernmental regional organizations, such as the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS).

Article IV – Objectives

1. The objectives of the Centre are:
 - (a) to build national and regional capacity for modern educational planning, by targeting senior officials and technical staff of ministries of education, local level (province, district) education offices, and other ministries directly related to the education sector, such as finance ministries, through:
 - (i) training in all aspects of education planning;
 - (ii) training in applied education research, by undertaking fact-finding and analysis work focused on specific needs of the countries of the GCC region; and
 - (iii) awareness-raising with regard to specific sector development issues which are of priority for the countries in the region;
 - (b) to facilitate access to information on educational planning and management of other countries and relevant information published by international organizations and institutions, in particular the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), by making relevant material available to the trainees of the Centre in English and Arabic, including translating selected material into Arabic, and by disseminating material on educational planning and management to education authorities in the region.

Article V – Organization

1. The structure of the Centre as well as the number and qualification of its professional and support staff is determined by the Centre's objectives set forth in Article IV above. Thus, the Centre will have three programme sections and one support section:
 - (a) Section 1: Educational Planning Training Section;
 - (b) Section 2: Educational Research Training Section;
 - (c) Section 3: Educational Planning and Management Information Section;
 - (d) Section 4: Administrative Support Section (including a translation/interpretation unit and a printing and publications unit).
2. The activities of the Centre will be conducted in Arabic and, whenever appropriate, in English.
3. The Organization will authorize the Centre to issue certificates in UNESCO's name, with the certificate form and content to be mutually agreed, once the quality of the courses delivered by the Centre has been duly assessed and approved by UNESCO. The quality assessment will cover the course content, the profiles of the trainers, the methods of organizing courses and the teaching materials, and will be carried out by a UNESCO team and an external evaluator.

Article VI – Governing Board

1. The Centre shall be guided and supervised by a Governing Board renewed every four years and composed of:
 - (a) the Minister of Education of the United Arab Emirates or his/her appointed representative;
 - (b) three Ministers of Education from participating GCC countries or their appointed representatives, at the invitation of the Minister of Education of the host country;

- (c) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
 - (d) the Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) or his/her representative;
 - (e) the Director of the Centre (who shall have no voting rights).
2. The Minister of Education of the United Arab Emirates or the person designated by the Minister shall be the Chairperson of the Governing Board.
 3. The Governing Board shall:
 - (a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
 - (b) approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including the staffing table;
 - (c) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre;
 - (d) issue the rules and regulations and determine the procedures for the financial, administrative and personnel management of the Centre;
 - (e) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international institutes in the work of the Centre.
 4. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary sessions at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if summoned by the Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or at the request of the UNESCO Director-General or of four of its members.
 5. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and the Organization.

Article VII – Personnel

1. The personnel of the Centre shall comprise on a regular basis: professional staff, administrative staff and other support staff.
2. The Centre shall have a core group of professional staff, including the Director, that shall exercise collective leadership in substantive matters, monitoring and guiding the training, research and information dissemination activities of the Centre, in order to ensure consensus on major programme and programme management matters. The core professional staff shall be engaged for periods of at least three years, and preferably five years or more, in order to ensure the building of solid professional quality and experience and ensure its sustainability.
3. The personnel of the Centre shall comprise on an ad-hoc basis visiting lecturers and visiting research fellows, for limited periods of time and for specific tasks.
4. All personnel that have signed a contract with the Centre shall be under the authority of the Director of the Centre and shall report to him/her.

Article VIII – Director

1. The Director of the Centre shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Board after consultation with each member of the Board. The Director shall discharge the following duties:
 - (a) direct the work of the Centre in conformity with the directives and programmes established by the Governing Board;
 - (b) propose the work plan, budget and staffing table to the Governing Board;
 - (c) appoint the staff of the Centre in agreement with the Minister of Education and, in the case of senior staff, after consultations with the Board;
 - (d) organize at regular intervals (at least once every calendar month) and chair meetings of the core group of professional staff in order to ensure consensus on major programme and management matters;
 - (e) prepare and submit reports on the activities of the Centre to the Governing Board;
 - (f) prepare the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Governing Board and submit to the Board proposals that he/she deems necessary for the administration of the Centre;
 - (g) maintain relations with institutes, centres and national and international organizations directly relevant to the work of the Centre;
 - (h) submit proposals to the Governing Board that the Director deems necessary for the efficient management of the Centre and which require Board consultation or approval;
 - (i) represent the Centre in law and in all civil acts.
2. The Director shall work closely with the core group of professional staff (as defined in Article VII, para. 2).

Article IX – Financial arrangements

1. The Centre's financial resources shall derive from sums allotted by the Government, from tuition fees and from such contributions as it may receive from other participating countries.
2. The Centre may, with approval of the Governing Board, receive gifts and legacies.

Article X – Contribution of the Government

1. The Government shall cover the operating costs of the Centre, including the salaries and compensations of the personnel of the Centre (as defined in Article VII, paras. 1 and 3), maintenance and repair, and all goods and services required on a recurrent basis for the proper functioning of the Centre (such as communication, utilities, transport and stationery) in its three programme areas of training in educational planning, access to educational planning and management information, and training in educational research.
2. The Government shall provide the Centre with appropriate space, furniture and equipment.
3. The Government shall cover the expenses of holding the sessions of the Governing Board.

Article XI – Contribution of the Organization

1. The Organization shall lend mutually agreed support to the establishment and the operation of the Centre as described in paragraph 2 below.
2. The Organization shall provide technical assistance for the establishment and operation of the Centre, including the preparatory phase, the launching phase and the phase of normal operation.
 - (a) During the preparatory phase, the Organization shall provide support to the Centre for the identification of suitable professional staff, the preparation and testing of course materials, the training of core professional staff, and the selection of material to be translated into Arabic for purposes of dissemination of educational planning information in the region.
 - (b) During the launching phase, the Organization shall provide technical assistance for the running-in of the training courses; and expertise to assess the quality and relevance of the training activities of the Centre and to advise on suitable ways to strengthen its performance.
 - (c) During the phase of normal operations of the Centre (i.e. once the launching phase is completed), the Organization shall:
 - (i) provide the Centre with relevant materials published by it;
 - (ii) provide or assist in obtaining technical assistance, for the development of training materials and for participation as resource persons or guest lecturers in training activities;
 - (iii) provide advice on research and training activities of the Centre at the request of its Director;
 - (iv) associate staff of the Centre with relevant UNESCO activities in the region and elsewhere; and
 - (v) provide evaluative advice on the performance of the Centre with a view to assisting it in reaching and/or maintaining high levels of professional performance.
 - (d) The Organization shall facilitate access of the Centre to the relevant know-how and the services of its own institutes and Regional Offices, in particular the know-how and the services of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, the UNESCO Institute for Education, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States Region (Beirut), and the UNESCO Office in Doha.

Article XII – Final clauses

1. The present Agreement shall come into force upon its signature by the two parties. It shall remain in force until the end of the year 2007 and may be renewed for similar successive periods as agreed upon between the Government and the Organization.
2. The present Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and the Organization.
3. Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by giving six months' prior written notice to the other party. Such termination shall mean that the Centre shall cease to be officially associated with the Organization as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized, have signed the present Agreement in two copies in Arabic and English.

For the Government of the
United Arab Emirates:

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization:

.....
(representative of the Government)

.....
(representative of the Organization)

12 Statutes of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee for the Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean (PRELAC)¹

The General Conference,

Having examined document 32 C/61 and the draft statutes of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee for the Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean, prepared by the Interim Intergovernmental Regional Committee in Havana, Cuba,

1. *Thanks* the Interim Intergovernmental Regional Committee for the work it has accomplished;
2. *Adopts* the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee for the Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean as annexed to this resolution;

1. Resolution adopted on the report of Commission II at the 18th plenary meeting, on 15 October 2003.

B. Report of Commission II¹

Introduction

PART I General debate

PART II Recommendations of the Commission

Recommendations relating to specific items on the Commission's agenda

- Item 3.1** Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5)
- Item 5.4** Implementation of 31 C/Resolution 43 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories
- Item 5.9** Follow-up to the Round Table of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport: Preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of an international anti-doping convention in sport
- Item 5.17** Higher education and globalization: Promoting quality and access to the knowledge society as a means for sustainable development
- Item 5.20** Establishment of a regional centre for educational planning in the United Arab Emirates under the auspices of UNESCO
- Item 7.5** Amendment to the Statutes of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA)
- Item 7.7** Draft Statutes of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee for the Regional Education Project for Latin America and the Caribbean

Recommendations on the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (Item 4.2, Major Programme I, Education)

- Proposed resolutions in document 32 C/5
- Recommendations of the Executive Board contained in document 32 C/6
- Other draft resolutions examined by the Commission
- Draft resolutions not seeking to amend the proposed resolutions
- Total budgetary provision for Major Programme I

Part III Debate on the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5)

1. The General Conference took note of this report at its 18th plenary meeting, on 15 October 2003, and approved the decisions recommended by the Commission therein.

INTRODUCTION

- (1) The first meeting, held on Tuesday, 30 September 2003, was opened by the Chairperson of Commission II, Ms Zobaida Jalal (Pakistan). At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, Mr Javier Barros Valero (Mexico), recommended, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, the following as *Vice-Chairpersons*: Dr Simon Clarke (Jamaica), Mr Ole Briseid (Norway), Dr Hamda Alsulaiti (Qatar), and Ms Dagmar Kopčanová (Slovakia). Mr Bonaventure Maïga (Mali) was recommended as *Rapporteur*. The Commission accepted the recommendations by acclamation.
- (2) The Chairperson submitted for approval the draft timetable of work of the Commission. She proposed to divide the Commission's work into five debates: (i) a debate on item 5.9 – Follow-up to the Round Table of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport and item 5.10 – Proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of an international year for physical education and sport; (ii) a general debate on item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007; (iii) a general debate on Major Programme I of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005; (iv) a debate on items 5.4, 5.17, 5.20, 7.5 and 7.7; and (v) consideration of the recommendations of the Commission concerning proposed resolutions in Draft 32 C/5 and recommendations of the Executive Board thereon, draft decisions proposed under items 5.9, 5.20, 7.5 and 7.7, and draft resolutions submitted by Member States concerning document 32 C/5 and other items. The draft timetable was approved unanimously.
- (3) The Assistant Director-General for Education, Mr John Daniel, representative of the Director-General, introduced Major Programme I (Education) of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (32 C/5).
- (4) The Chairpersons of the governing bodies of UNESCO's education institutes presented their reports (32 C/REP/1, 32 C/REP/2, 32 C/REP/3, 32 C/REP/5, 32 C/REP/6 and 32 C/REP/7). The UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) was presented by Mr Aziz Hasbi, President of the IBE Council, the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) by Dato' (Ms) Asiah bt. Abu Samah, Chairperson of the IIEP Governing Board, the UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE) by Mr Justin Ellis, Chairperson of the Governing Board of UIE, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) by Mr Bernard Cornu, Vice-Chairperson of the IITE Governing Board, the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) by Mr Anibal Jozami, Chairperson of the Governing Board of IESALC, and the UNESCO Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) by Mr Leonce Johnson, Chairperson of the Governing Board of IICBA.

PART I GENERAL DEBATE

- (5) The Commission examined items 5.9 and 5.10 at the first and second meetings held on Tuesday, 30 September 2003. Before the discussion began, the Director of the Division for the Promotion of Quality Education introduced the two items, followed by the Vice-Chairperson for Africa of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) who spoke on the items. During this Debate, 25 Member States took the floor. At the end of the debate, the Assistant Director-General for Education replied to the comments and observations made by the Commission.
- (6) During the second meeting, held in the afternoon of 30 September 2003, the Commission discussed item 3.1 – Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007. The Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning introduced the item and replied to the comments and suggestions made by the Commission at the end of the debate. Fourteen Member States, one Observer and one non-governmental organization took the floor during this debate.
- (7) The third debate began at the end of the second meeting on 30 September 2003 and continued on Wednesday, 1 October 2003. During this debate, the Commission discussed Major Programme I (Education) of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 (32 C/5) as a whole, including Subprogrammes I.1.1, I.1.2, I.2.1 and I.2.2, the programmes of the UNESCO education institutes and the projects relating to cross-cutting themes that concern the Education Sector. Sixty-seven Member States, one Associate Member, one Observer and four non-governmental organizations took the floor during this debate. At the end of the fourth meeting held in the afternoon of Wednesday, 1 October 2003, the Assistant Director-General for Education, representative of the Director-General, replied to the comments and questions raised by the Commission during this debate.
- (8) The fifth meeting, held in the morning of Thursday, 2 October 2003, was devoted to the discussion on items 5.4, 5.17, 5.20, 7.5 and 7.7. Thirty-six Member States, one Observer, and two non-governmental organizations spoke on these particular items. Regarding item 5.17, there was a discussion on the United Nations Millennium Development Goal 8. The Assistant Director-General for Education, representative of the Director-General, replied to the comments and questions raised by the Commission during the debate.
- (9) In the afternoon meeting of Thursday, 2 October 2003, the Commission held its sixth meeting to consider the proposed resolutions in draft document 32 C/5 and recommendations of the Executive Board thereon, draft decisions proposed under items 5.9, 5.20, 7.5 and 7.7, and draft resolutions submitted by Member States concerning document 32 C/5 and items 3.1, 5.4 and 5.17, and to decide on its recommendations. The Commission continued the consideration

of item 5.4 in the morning of Monday, 6 October 2003 in its seventh meeting, and decided to postpone its decision on this item in order to give the Working Group created within the Commission concerning this item the necessary time to finalize a revised draft resolution. At its eighth meeting on 8 October, the Commission listened to the report of the Chair of the Working Group, and took its decision on this item.

PART II RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO SPECIFIC ITEMS ON THE COMMISSION'S AGENDA

Item 3.1 Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5)

(10) Having examined document 32 C/COM/I.II.III.IV.V/DR.1 submitted by Australia, Barbados, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and supported by Aruba, Bahamas, Comoros, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, and Trinidad and Tobago, the Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained therein (32 C/Resolution 48).

Item 5.4 Implementation of 31 C/Resolution 43 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories

(11) Having examined document 32 C/16, having considered the draft resolution 32 C/COM.II-IV/DR.1, submitted by Egypt, Oman and Pakistan, and supported by Algeria, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, and having considered further 32 C/COM.II, IV/DR.1 Rev., submitted by Egypt, Oman and Pakistan as agreed by the Working Group created within Commission II, the Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained therein (32 C/Resolution 54).

Item 5.9 Follow-up to the Round Table of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport: Preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of an international anti-doping convention in sport

(12) Having examined document 32 C/50, the Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained therein (32 C/Resolution 9).

Item 5.17 Higher education and globalization: Promoting quality and access to the knowledge society as a means for sustainable development

(13) Having examined document 32 C/COM.II/DR.1, submitted by Norway, supported by Mozambique, Iceland, Japan, Madagascar and the United Republic of Tanzania, and having considered several amendments proposed by the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the Commission decided to recommend that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained therein as amended (32 C/Resolution 10).

Item 5.20 Establishment of a regional centre for educational planning in the United Arab Emirates under the auspices of UNESCO

(14) Having examined document 32 C/65, the Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained therein, including the draft agreement between the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the establishment and operation of the regional educational planning centre in the United Arab Emirates (32 C/Resolution 11).

Item 7.5 Amendment to the Statutes of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (ICBA)

(15) Having examined document 32 C/58, the Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained therein (32 C/Resolution 13).