



31 C/70
20 October 2001
Original: French

Item 5.15 of the agenda

UNESCO's ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD BOOK CAPITAL

OUTLINE

This item has been placed on the agenda at the request of Spain. A copy of the letter dated 10 October 2001 from the Spanish Ambassador and Permanent Delegate is attached.

ANNEX

Permanent Delegation of Spain to UNESCO
Paris

No. 306

Paris, 10 October 2001

Sir,

I have the honour to request that the following item:

UNESCO's association with the World Book Capital

be placed on the agenda of the 31st session of the General Conference.

This item is sponsored by Spain and by Benin, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Lithuania, Mexico, Philippines, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tunisia and United Kingdom.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Francisco Villar
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

Mr S. Kol
Secretary to the General Conference
SGC – C.034
UNESCO House

31st SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Draft resolution on the “World Book Capital”

The General Conference,

Recalling 28 C/Resolution 3.18, in which it decided to proclaim 23 April of every year World Book and Copyright Day,

Reiterating the historical importance of books as the most powerful tool for the dissemination of knowledge and the most effective means of preserving it, and its belief that all initiatives aimed at enhancing the impact of books constitute a cultural enrichment for all those who have access to them, and furthermore, can only serve to develop fuller public awareness of the treasures of the world cultural heritage and to foster understanding, tolerance and dialogue,

Emphasizing that World Book and Copyright Day has since 1996 enjoyed increasing success among the Member States and their civil societies, in particular thanks to the initiatives of book professionals and their associations,

Welcoming the initial incentive provided by UNESCO,

Believes that it would be desirable for this one-day event to continue all year long in a candidate city to be chosen by the international professional associations concerned, in consultation with UNESCO, and for that city to be designated World Book Capital from one Book and Copyright Day to the next;

Emphasizes that the city chosen and the international professional associations involved would need to make a special effort throughout the year to conduct significant activities in that place;

Also emphasizes the importance of involving all regions of the world in turn;

Considers the 2001 activities in Madrid to be a positive experience which may be replicated elsewhere with a greater number of partners;

Adopts this idea and *invites* the international professional associations concerned to work together to put it into practice;

Urges the Director-General to provide the Organization’s moral and intellectual support for the design and implementation of this project.