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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART I

## EVALUATION AND RENEWAL OF CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### SUMMARY

Pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 12 (II.A), the Executive Board should review at its current session progress on the Beijing branch's involvement in the World Heritage Training and Research Institute for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP) in China.

Pursuant to the agreements with the governments establishing category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO, this document also provides information on the evaluations carried out on the following centres:

- Regional Centre for the Development of Science Parks and Technology Incubators (IRIS), Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran;
- International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK), Guilin, China;
- Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU), Abeokuta, Nigeria.

The evaluations specifically reviewed whether the centres make important contributions to the strategic goals of UNESCO and whether the activities pursued in each of these centres are in conformity with their respective agreements. The key results of the evaluations are contained in the present document.

In accordance with the principles and guidelines regarding the establishment and operation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) as approved by 37 C/Resolution 93, continuation of each of these centres as category 2 centres is proposed.

Action expected of Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 31.

## **I. REVIEW OF THE WORLD HERITAGE TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION (WHITR-AP) IN CHINA**

1. By its 195 EX/Decision 12 (II.A), the Executive Board decided to renew at this session, the designation of the World Heritage Training and Research Institute for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP) as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO. It also decided to review progress on the Beijing branch's involvement in the WHITR-AP and the potential modification of the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of China at its 197th session (195 EX/Decision 12 (II.A)).

2. The Secretariat has been in contact with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the World Heritage Training and Research Institute for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP) with a view to reviewing progress on the involvement of its Beijing branch in the work and governance of WHITR-AP. The Secretariat has not yet received the necessary information to report at the present session of the Executive Board. It shall therefore report to the Executive Board as soon as such information is made available.

## **II. REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE PARKS AND TECHNOLOGY INCUBATORS (IRIS), ISFAHAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

3. The Executive Board at its 182nd session recommended in 182 EX/Decision 20 Part XII, that the General Conference, at its 35th session, approve the establishment of the Centre and authorized the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement (35 C/Resolution 20, Part XXII).

4. On the basis of an agreement signed between UNESCO and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 17 December 2009, the main emphasis of the work of the Centre would be on facilitating the integration of a developmental approach into science, technology and innovation, organizing capacity-building, providing policy advice, facilitating the exchange of experience and best practices, and conducting research and problem solving in science park and technology incubator development. The initial focus of this would be on issues related to countries in the Economic Cooperation Organization: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan, but it may have broader potential and take an international lead with time.

5. The overall goal of the Centre is to increase capacity for governance of science and technology parks throughout developing countries by:

- (a) Conducting capacity-building activities. The Centre conducts regional training programmes, workshops, seminars and conferences for science park and technology incubator stakeholders, such as public officials interested in developing these facilities, managers, funders and the companies they support, scientists and scientific entrepreneurs, and local and national government decision-makers from the region.
- (b) Providing technical assistance. The Centre provides countries in the region with technical assistance in science park and technology incubator governance, including preparing feasibility studies and technopolis development plans, providing technical advice on networking, funding and technopolis establishment, and encouraging and promoting the region to attract foreign investment. Experts on science and technology parks are mobilized for this technical assistance.
- (c) Facilitating knowledge transfer. In order to promote knowledge transfer between the public and private sectors, the Centre fosters cooperation between government, academia and industry.

- (d) Supporting research. The Centre supports or hosts junior and senior researchers working on science park and technology incubators.
- (e) Networking. The Centre facilitates network development, collaborative R&D and training programmes at regional and international levels, which includes developing linkages to designated nodal centres in participating countries; and
- (f) Information exchange and dissemination. The Centre promotes information exchange and dissemination, including publishing books and journal articles on science parks and technology incubators.

6. Pursuant to the agreement, an evaluation of the Centre's performance for the period 2010-2015 was carried out by two international experts appointed by UNESCO. The evaluation was managed by UNESCO's Division for Science Policy and Capacity Building (SC/PCB) of the Natural Sciences Sector in close consultation with the Centre. SC/PCB consulted with UNESCO's IOS for technical guidance during the evaluation process. The cost of the evaluation was borne fully by the Centre. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess whether the Centre has been actively engaged in the field of science, technology and innovation policy in cooperation with UNESCO and contributing to the strategic objectives of Organization.

7. The evaluation team conducted a field mission to Isfahan and Tehran from 4 to 11 May 2015. The methodology adopted combined both the narrative as well as the qualitative systems of rating which provided the metric scores for each assessment criteria in line with the information provided by IRIS and those gathered through interaction with its institutional and individual partners. The following activities formed the core aspects of the review exercise:

- (a) A framework of review (Term of Reference) was prepared to provide a guideline for the external experts towards exercising their duties according to the review and covers all the planned review processes focusing particularly on the methodology adopted including the assessment criteria.
- (b) A desktop review of existing documents comprised of the following: (i) founding Agreement between UNESCO and IRIS and any subsequent modifications; (ii) annual reports of projects and project outcomes; (iii) minutes of the Governing Board; (iv) annual financial reports; and (v) publications.
- (c) Direct interviews with institutional and individual stakeholders. During the field visit, 25 people were interviewed.
- (d) Survey of IRIS's partners' and beneficiaries' programmes and activities about the science parks and technology incubators that have consistently engaged with IRIS.

8. The evaluation concluded that IRIS has conducted various activities to promote a culture of innovation. The importance of IRIS's work is reflected in the strong support that IRIS has received from the Government of Iran. IRIS has also significantly contributed to UNESCO's programme activities in assisting the UNESCO Member States in the development of science parks and technology incubators. In this regard, the Centre has conducted more than 40 training workshops, provided technical assistance and annually organized the Sheikh Bahai Technopreneurship Festival. Over the last five years, the Centre has trained more than 550 individuals. In addition, the Centre has been very active in the propagation of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development.

9. The review team recommends that UNESCO renew the Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the continuation of IRIS as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and encourages UNESCO to provide greater support to IRIS in relation to developing, presenting

and delivering innovative training programmes and workshops. The team recommended that such support could be achieved by providing appropriate staff development to key individuals in IRIS.

10. In light of the satisfactory evaluation, the Director-General recommends renewing the granting of the status of a category 2 centre to IRIS. A draft Agreement was drawn up between UNESCO and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with 37 C/Resolution 93. The draft Agreement does not deviate from the model agreement annexed in document 37 C/18 Part I. The draft agreement will be available on the Natural Sciences Sector website.

### **III. EVALUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE ON KARST (IRCK), GUILIN, CHINA**

11. In 34 C/Resolution 32, the General Conference of UNESCO approved the establishment in China of the International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK) under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2). The corresponding Agreement was signed between UNESCO and the Government of the People's Republic of China on February 2008. This agreement has come to term and is subject to renewal.

12. In 37 C/Resolution 93, the General Conference approved the revised Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for all Category 2 Institutes and Centres (37 C/18 Part I and its annex) which applies to all renewals of agreements. UNESCO Beijing Office initiated the review assessment process.

13. UNESCO Beijing Office, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), IOS and BSP, managed the review in compliance with the guidelines of the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and its annex. The Government of the People's Republic of China fully covered the cost of the review which took place in November 2013. The aim of the review was to provide an objective assessment of the activities of the Centre to support an informed decision as to whether or not to renew the category 2 status and sign the corresponding agreement.

14. The evaluation team, consisting of experts from other related UNESCO category 2 centres, international karst experts and a programme specialist from UNESCO's Beijing office, met to review the first six years of IRCK (2008-2013). The evaluation team examined the activities, budget, funds, scientific projects, international training courses, symposia, publications, scientific publicity and popularization papers, and international cooperation and communication of the Centre.

15. In accordance with the Agreement, IRCK is striving to create a world class category 2 centre. During the first six years, IRCK has become an impressive international platform for academic exchange about karst research. For karst areas globally, but especially in Africa and South-East Asia, IRCK has provided systematic consultation and training to promote sustainable economic and social development related to karst systems.

16. IRCK cooperates with the IGCP, the International Association of Hydrogeologists and the International Hydrological Programme especially in the preparation of various international symposia and training courses on karst hydrogeology, karst water resources and ecosystems, sustainable development, global climate change and the karst carbon cycle. IRCK has organized five IGCP projects successfully, building a stable collaboration team of over 200 karst experts from more than 40 countries.

17. As the first category 2 centre on geosciences, IRCK has effectively fulfilled its objectives as expected for UNESCO natural science centres. Further to its scientific exchange and training

activities, IRCK has made contributions to the management and protection of significant karst sites around the world, including World Heritage sites and Global Geoparks.

18. The review recommended that the Centre: (a) continue to develop karst research and make efforts to support sustainable development in karst regions, (b) continue to collaborate with international organizations related to geology and climate change, (c) foster international cooperation to construct a global karst carbon sink monitoring network, and (d) align IRCK's Medium-Term Strategy with the Medium-Term Strategy of UNESCO.

19. The review recommended that the Government of China: (a) consider enhancing the financial support for IRCK to encourage its role as a bridge between China and the international karst research community, and (b) ensure institutional flexibility for IRCK to effectively operate as an international centre of excellence under the auspices of UNESCO.

20. The review recommended that UNESCO maintain close contact with IRCK and promote their activities in the relevant international networks.

21. The review acknowledged IRCK's outstanding achievements thus far and recommended that UNESCO renew its category 2 status.

22. A draft renewal agreement has been drawn up in compliance with the model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and its annex. The online version of the draft Agreement as well as the renewal assessment review report is available for consultation on the webpage of the UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector (<http://en.unesco.org/themes/sciencesustainable-future>).

#### **IV. EVALUATION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING (IACIU), ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA**

23. The General Conference by 34 C/Resolution 42 authorized the Executive Board to finalize the process of establishing the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria, as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO and subsequently to request the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement once approved by the Executive Board. The Executive Board, in 180 EX/Decision 19/Part III, approved the establishment of the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU) in Nigeria. Subsequent to the approval of the Executive Board, an agreement concerning the establishment of the Institute was signed between the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and UNESCO on 8 April 2009 and entered into force immediately.

24. In 37 C/Resolution 93, the General Conference approved the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres which applies to all renewals of agreements for category 2 institutes and centres (C2Cs). In conformity with the said strategy, an independent evaluation was carried out on the Institute between November 2014 and March 2015, which was fully financed by the Government of Nigeria. The main aim of the review was to assess the Institute's performance with respect to its objectives and functions, as specified in the agreement between UNESCO and the Nigerian Government, and its contribution to UNESCO's Strategic Programme Objectives and sectoral or intersectoral programme priorities and themes, that would allow an informed decision on whether the current category 2 status should be renewed and the corresponding agreement signed. The evaluation consisted of a detailed review of relevant documents provided by the Institute and UNESCO, in-depth interviews and discussions with relevant stakeholders.

25. Overall, the evaluation has found that the activities of the Institute were undertaken in conformity with the terms of the 2009 agreement between UNESCO and the Nigerian Government, given that the aims and objectives of that agreement were wide-ranging and not highly specific about the manner in which the Institute was expected to "contribute" to UNESCO's strategic

objectives and programme priorities. The evaluation noted that in the first four years of its existence, IACIU has set up an impressive staff, which has initiated and run a dynamic and varied programme of activities building on the foundations of the 2005 Convention, but also ranging much wider, across areas relating to preservation and promotion of tangible and intangible heritage and intercultural dialogue. It has had significant influence in Nigeria, working with academic and cultural partners, but a limited impact in its focus countries or elsewhere in Africa. During most of the 2009-2013 period, the majority of IACIU's activities could be said to have been relevant to, aligned with, and broadly contributing to the Overarching Objectives and Strategic Programme objectives of UNESCO as laid down in the Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and the programme priorities laid down in the relevant Programme and Budget documents (C/5), as required in the agreement.

26. However, in 2011 UNESCO rolled out results-based programming, management and monitoring across the Organization, setting out clear and measurable expected results for programme activities and projects, with performance indicators to which all activities of UNESCO and partner institutions, regardless of their funding source, are now expected to contribute to directly and in concrete terms. Activities must directly address the programmatic performance indicators. Moreover, the Culture Sector's priorities and, therefore, its Main Lines of Action, are now focused on supporting the Culture Conventions, and activities in support of intercultural dialogue are no longer within its sectoral remit. The ground for cooperation with the Institute has shifted since the first agreement was signed. The report therefore concludes that renewal of the agreement as it stands is no longer possible because UNESCO's priorities and programmes no longer encompass the breadth of work of the IACIU. The evaluation therefore proposes two possible ways forward for the IACIU:

- Renewing a completely recast and renegotiated agreement to remain a category 2 institute of UNESCO that would be likely to narrow the focus and range of the Institute's work to ensure that it contributes directly, concretely and only to its programmes and expected results during the period 2014-2021;
- Working as an active partner of UNESCO on specific, jointly agreed interventions, under the terms of the UNESCO Comprehensive Partnership Strategy, but not as a UNESCO category 2 institute, thus allowing the Institute to plan its own agenda, and maintain its current wide-ranging purpose and programmes that are broadly relevant to UNESCO's strategic objectives and priorities.

27. The evaluation also put forward a number of recommendations to improve the Institute's effectiveness. In particular the evaluation recommends:

- that the IACIU Governing Board meet twice a year; to be cost-effective one of these meetings could be an international video-conference meeting, if reliable Internet connectivity can be assured;
- that the Institute's Executive Board be disbanded and replaced by a Management Committee meeting quarterly, chaired by the Director and composed of two to three senior staff (Account, Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Programme Officer) and representatives from the Institute's key partners, e.g. the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding (CBCIU) and Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation (CBAAC);
- that the Governing Board invite representation onto the Board from one or more Member State governments (e.g. from the Ministries of Culture in Kenya, Mozambique, etc.);
- that the Institute expand its team of Associate Experts to include experts from and based in other countries in Africa, and consider the feasibility of international staff exchanges and internships to internationalize its core staff;

- that the Institute look at potential external funding opportunities in the European Union's external relations programmes and the potential for building project proposals for such opportunities in international partnerships with its network partner institutions;
- that the Institute give serious consideration to recruiting an experienced Fundraising Officer as core staff for a two-year contract, with a mandate to build innovative new funding models for projects, and develop the proposal-writing and fund-raising capacity of IACIU programme staff.

28. Following the submission of the final evaluation report, UNESCO, the Institute and the Nigerian authorities met in April 2015 and again in May to discuss the way forward. The meetings concluded that the Institute should remain as a category 2 institute of UNESCO and that it would narrow the focus and range of its work to ensure that it contributes directly to UNESCO's programmes and strategic objectives as set out in the approved 37 C/4, by focusing on the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

29. In conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy, and based upon the results of the evaluation and consultation with the Nigerian authorities, the Director-General recommends that the Executive Board renew the designation of the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU) as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO on the understanding that the Institute will have to narrow its focus of action, in particular on the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

30. A draft agreement has been drawn up taking into account the recommendations of the evaluation and in compliance with the model agreement annexed to the revised strategy on category 2 centres contained in document 37 C/18 Part I. It contains no deviation from the model agreement. The online version of the draft agreement as well as the evaluation report is available for consultation on the webpage of the UNESCO Culture Sector ([www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres](http://www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres)).

## PROPOSED DECISION

31. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decisions:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 34 C/Resolution 32, 34 C/Resolution 42, 180 EX/Decision 19 (III), 35 C/Resolution 30 and 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking into account document 37 C/18 Part I and its annex,
3. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part I,
4. Notes the Director-General's recommendation that the designation of the centres/institutes mentioned in document 197 EX/16 Part I and listed below as category 2 centres/institutes be renewed:
  - Regional Centre for the Development of Science Parks and Technology Incubators (IRIS), Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran;
  - International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK), Guilin, China;

- Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU), Abeokuta, Nigeria;
6. Confirms that all the centres mentioned above have performed satisfactorily as category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO;
  7. Decides to renew the designation of IRIS (Islamic Republic of Iran), IRCK (China) and IACIU (Nigeria) as category 2 centres/institutes under the auspices of UNESCO;
  8. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreements.





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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART I

## EVALUATION AND RENEWAL OF CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### ADDENDUM

#### SUMMARY

Pursuant to the agreements signed with the governments establishing category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO, the evaluation of the African World Heritage Fund (South Africa) was carried out in 2015.

The evaluation specifically reviewed the Fund's contributions to the strategic goals of UNESCO and the conformity of the activities pursued by the Fund with its agreement. The key results of the evaluation are contained in the present document.

In accordance with the principles and guidelines regarding the establishment and operation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) as approved by 37 C/Resolution 93, continuation of this Fund as category 2 centre is proposed.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 8.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Conference, decision 35 C/Resolution 56, approved the establishment of the African World Heritage Fund in South Africa (Fund), as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO. Subsequent to the approval of the General Conference, an agreement concerning the establishment of the Fund was signed between the Government of South Africa and UNESCO on 27 January 2010 for a period of six years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement.

2. In conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres adopted by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93), an independent evaluation was carried out on the Fund between April and July 2015, which was fully financed by the Government of South Africa. The main aim of the review was to assess the Fund's performance with respect to its objectives and functions, as specified in the agreement between UNESCO and the South African Government, and its contribution to UNESCO's Strategic Programme Objectives and sectoral or intersectoral programme priorities and themes, in order to allow an informed decision on whether the current category 2 status should be renewed and the corresponding agreement signed. The evaluation consisted of a detailed review of relevant documents provided by the Fund and UNESCO, in-depth interviews and discussions with relevant stakeholders.

## II. EVALUATION

3. Overall, the evaluation has found that the Fund has fulfilled its objectives and functions, as set out in the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of South Africa, and is implementing its activities in conformity with the Agreement. The evaluation noted that the Fund's governance and management structure is sound and that there is great potential in the next years to take the Fund to grow and further strengthen its capacities to become an effective partner for the protection and conservation of heritage sites in Africa.

4. The evaluation has also reported the following major findings and challenges on the activities and management of the Fund:

- The Fund's performance on programmes and activities is widely acknowledged making an important contribution towards advancing the World Heritage agenda in Africa. However, its activities are not equally relevant and effective in reaching different groups of beneficiaries to improve geographical and language distribution, gender balance, and the integration of independent professionals, the private sector, and communities;
- The Fund is implementing its programme according to the agreed modalities. Combining trainings and field projects has yielded very positive results. However, capacity-building is focused on training of individuals, while institutional and organizational capacity-building is limited. The use of multiplier approaches to reach wider audiences, such as training-of-trainers, the use of radio or other media, is yet to be explored;
- The Fund's activities in raising awareness of the benefits of the World Heritage Convention in Africa, crucial at a time where criticism of the Convention is rising due to challenges with conservation and development issues, are too limited to keep up with the challenges impacting the States Parties' appreciation of the Convention;
- The Fund's communication and outreach is good with potential to improve, especially through the use of additional types of media and content, also reaching audiences, which are still disconnected;
- The Board is set up in a representative manner, executing its functions as per the Agreement with a high level of commitment of its members. While there is room for improvement on the side of the Board's support in fundraising and political networking,

recently recruited observers from the private sector have proven to be a great added-value, increasing the Board's capacity in these vital fields. The system of Patrons is conducive to the Fund. However, they lack a strategy to increase their positive impact on the Fund.

- The Fund's management is well respected. The human resource base, however, is too limited for the scope of the Fund's work. Stable operational funding, succession planning and institutionalization of internal management processes is needed to ensure sustainability.
- The Fund's financial basis is a key challenge and jeopardizes the sustainability of operations. While the Endowment Fund has never reached even a fraction of its initial goal, the Government of South Africa and the African States Parties have also not contributed as expected. Despite this, the Fund has performed extremely well in mobilizing the resources required for its operations and programme implementation.
- Communication and interaction between the Fund and UNESCO are complex. While coordination at an operational level is excellent, shortcomings were highlighted on both sides with respect to institutionalized consultation, namely on strategy development and programming, fundraising, and the distribution of small grants. With regards to cooperating with UNESCO field offices, the potential benefits for both sides are not sufficiently realized. Coordination and cooperation between the Fund and World Heritage Advisory Bodies vary greatly and can, with the exception of IUCN, be considered a lost opportunity. With regards to seeking cooperation with other category 2 centres, the Fund should to be lauded for its proactive role.
- States Parties are the main beneficiaries to the Fund, and relations between the Fund and the African States Parties are generally very good. However, there exists an imbalance with regards to the involvement of ministries responsible for culture and nature. Having a dedicated focal point in both relevant ministries would be an asset.

5. In conclusion, the evaluation considers the African World Heritage Fund's activities to be in conformity with the Agreement signed between UNESCO and the Government of South Africa. During the period under evaluation, the Fund has significantly contributed to achieving the relevant strategic goals of UNESCO. In light of the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Institutes and Centres under the Auspices of UNESCO contained in 37 C/18 Part I and its annex, it is recommended that the Agreement be renewed for a period of six years, with a number of specific recommendations, in particular the following:

- Revise the Fund's mission statement to include raising awareness about the benefits of the World Heritage Convention among African States Parties, including the benefits to both the World Heritage properties and their local communities;
- Revise the Fund's objectives to ensure that the objectives are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely), and develop an appropriate monitoring framework;
- Revise the Fund's functions to be in line with recent considerations on the challenges of heritage sites protection, conservation and management, and the results of this evaluation. Ensure that the functions are realistic and keep in mind the Fund's added value and its assessed and potential strengths and weaknesses in terms of financial, human, and organizational capacities;
- Consider further expanding the members and observers to the Governing Board and Patrons in order to strategically open new fields for political and financial support;

- Further emphasize the important role of the UNESCO Member States and the African Union for ensuring the sustainability and impact of the Fund.

### **Recommendation**

6. A draft agreement has been drawn up taking into account the recommendations of the evaluation report in consultation with the South African Government. It does not contain any deviation from the model agreement.

7. In conformity with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy, and based upon the results of the evaluation, the Director-General recommends that the Executive Board renew the designation of the African World Heritage Fund as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO for a period of six years. The online version of the draft agreement as well as the evaluation report is available for consultation on the following webpage: [www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres](http://www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres).

### **Proposed decision**

8. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 35 C/Resolution 56 and 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking into account document 37 C/18 Part 1 and the attachments thereto,
3. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part I,
4. Notes the Director-General's recommendation that the designation of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO be renewed;
5. Encourages the Government of South Africa to ensure the AWHF's enhanced contribution to the implementation of the strategic objectives and priorities of UNESCO and in particular of the 1972 World Heritage Convention;
6. Invites both the Government of South Africa and the African World Heritage Fund to improve the effectiveness of the Fund and its operations as recommended by the evaluation report;
7. Decides to renew the designation of the African World Heritage Fund as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO for a period of 6 years;
8. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.



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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART I

## EVALUATION AND RENEWAL OF CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### ADDENDUM 2

## INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY IN ZADAR, CROATIA

### SUMMARY

In conformity with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres (Ref. 37 C/Resolutions 93), UNESCO carried out, in spring 2015, an evaluation of the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) in Zadar, Croatia, which was established under UNESCO's auspices in accordance with 34 C/Resolution 40. This document reports on the evaluation of the activities of ICUA and its contribution to the relevant programme objectives of UNESCO.

Based on the results of the evaluation, the Director-General recommends to the Executive Board to renew the designation of ICUA as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and to authorize her to sign the corresponding agreement with the Government of Croatia.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 11.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Conference, at its 34th session, in its 34 C/Resolution 40, approved the establishment of the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) in Zadar in the Republic of Croatia. Subsequent to the approval by the General Conference, an agreement concerning the establishment of the Centre was signed between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and UNESCO on 1 August 2008 for a period of six years (the “current Agreement”). The current Agreement entered into force on 7 March 2009 upon meeting the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of the Republic of Croatia and by UNESCO’s internal regulations.

2. In 37 C/Resolution 93, the General Conference approved the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres, which applies to all renewals of agreements concerning category 2 institutes and centres. In conformity with the said strategy, an independent evaluation, fully financed by the Government of Croatia, was carried out on ICUA in spring 2015. The main objectives of this review were to examine ICUA’s performance with respect to its objectives and functions, as specified in the current Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Croatia, and its contribution to UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives and sectoral or inter-sectoral programme priorities and themes. This shall allow an informed decision on whether the current category 2 status should be renewed and a new agreement signed. The evaluation consisted of a detailed review of relevant documents provided by the Centre and UNESCO, in-depth interviews, an on-site mission and discussions with relevant stakeholders.

## II. EVALUATION

3. The only centre specialized in underwater archaeology and conservation of underwater cultural heritage in the region, ICUA, has developed its capacities since its creation, and was established by a country, which is active in promoting the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, while also having a long tradition in underwater archaeology. The evaluation found that ICUA’s overall mandate remains highly relevant to UNESCO’s strategy and objectives. The Centre addresses the tasks assigned, especially with regard to training, conservation work and research. It also contributes to improving public awareness, and is currently preparing a project for the creation of a new area for presentation of the archaeological findings, exhibitions and public events.

4. The evaluation concluded that the Centre’s functions have been generally fulfilled and recommends the Centre’s renewal as a category 2 centre of UNESCO. However, the evaluation also identified the following major shortcomings and issues to be taken into account in renewing designation of ICUA as UNESCO’s category 2 centre:

- ICUA is currently understaffed and underfinanced. Under the current Agreement, the Ministry of Culture had committed to provide annually a minimum of US \$918,000 to ICUA from the national government. However, to date only a small portion of the committed funds has been paid. The limited financial resources provided have resulted in serious understaffing of ICUA and therefore ICUA is often unable to fulfil fully its regional and international role.
- A lack of regional outreach and strong working relations with other UNESCO Member States has been noted. The Centre needs to expand its work by establishing a functional network of cooperation at both the institutional and operational levels with the Member States within its regional mandate, building a continuous dialogue, and playing a proactive role in the region and internationally.
- There is a competitive relation between the Croatian Conservation Institute (part of the Ministry of Culture) and the Centre. The Croatian Conservation Institute includes a Department for Underwater Archaeology located in Zagreb, with similar responsibilities as

the Centre. In the current context of austerity, the two institutions are competing for the same financial resources and have overlapping mandates/competences. This situation should be resolved, ideally by merging and/or by better clarifying the division of tasks and responsibilities between the two. Further conflicts of interest could also be avoided by excluding the Institute from the ICUA's Governing Council, where it currently holds a seat.

- Challenges remain to improve programme development, to increase fundraising efforts, and to focus on the development of international projects. ICUA currently lacks a results-based internal management with a monitoring and evaluation framework. Staff expertise, especially in the management positions, needs to be strengthened.

5. The evaluation put forward a number of recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Centre's operations and encouraged the Government of Croatia and the Centre to take the necessary steps to this end. It underlined that:

- the contractual obligations need to be more realistic, especially as regards the financing of ICUA, however they also need to respond to the Centre's needs, as the Centre has to be enabled to fulfil its role;
- ICUA needs to more efficiently promote the UNESCO 2001 Convention and (with support from the Ministry of Culture and the Croatian National Commission for UNESCO) to intensify its efforts to involve UNESCO Member States in its regional and international mission;
- ICUA should be allowed a larger degree of financial and operational autonomy;
- ICUA's management needs to be enhanced through strengthening expertise in programme development, international outreach and policy-making as well as improving know-how concerning fundraising;
- thorough and regular reviews should take place to assess contractual obligations monitoring;
- ICUA needs to develop a sustainable fundraising outreach and partnership with the private sector as well as to seek financial returns from training activities and site visit permits taking advantage of the tourist potential in the Zadar region;
- ICUA should encourage other South-East European countries to support it and become more pro-active in engaging UNESCO Member States in its mission to preserve and promote underwater heritage. Services offered by ICUA (conservation and restoration; capacity development) should be extended to other South-East European countries and therewith involve international stakeholders;
- ICUA should create a regional network of experts to support the promotion and implementation of the 2001 Convention;
- the Ministry of Culture of Croatia should ensure that ICUA Management Team/Director is selected appropriately to ensure that fundraising, public outreach and strategic international development functions are better fulfilled, as well as ensuring closer cooperation with the Council;
- according to the current Agreement, ICUA is referenced as a regional entity, despite its designation as "International Centre". It is therefore recommended that greater clarity and consistency be applied in line with the international dimension of ICUA, as supported by the established cooperation with scientific institutions from other regions.

6. A draft new agreement has been drawn up taking into account the recommendations of the evaluation report in consultation with the Croatian Government. It contains a few modifications from the Model Agreement (document 37 C/18 Part I, Attachment 2) as underlined in the Annex to the present document.

- Unlike the current Agreement, Article 7.1(c) of the draft new agreement allows ICUA's Member States to participate in the Governing Council. However, it further specifies that these Member States do not have the right to vote in the Governing Council. Article 7.1(c) also specifies that the expenses of the participation of these Member States in the Governing Council shall be borne by themselves.
- Article 7.2 (d) of the draft new agreement diverges in a minor respect from the model agreement: the word "independent" has been omitted in light of the fact that the Centre's financial statement is audited by the State Audit Office of Croatia.
- The draft new agreement contains additional Articles 8, 9 and 10, which define the structure and roles of the Secretariat and the Director of the Centre.

7. Finally, Article 12.2 (b) of the draft new agreement provides information on the financial contribution by the Government which has been revised to a realistic figure, i.e. US \$254,000. However, it should be noted that the amount does not seem adequate for the Centre to fulfil its role and expand its regional outreach as recommended by the evaluation report. In this respect, the Croatian Government is strongly encouraged to secure additional sources of funding, including from bilateral, multilateral and private sources.

8. The evaluation report is available for consultation at the following website: [www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres](http://www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres).

### **Recommendations**

9. In conformity with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (37 C/18 Part I), and based upon the outcome of the evaluation and the consultation with the Croatian authorities, the Director-General recommends that the Executive Board renew the designation of ICUA as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

10. The Director-General further recommends that the Government of Croatia take measures to respond to all of the recommendations made in the evaluation as summarized in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the present document 197 EX/16 Part I, and that the government reports on the implementation of such recommendations by 1 April 2017.

### **Proposed decision**

11. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 34 C/Resolution 40 and 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking into account document 37 C/18 Part I and the attachments thereto,
3. Having examined present document 197 EX/16 Part I and its Annex,
4. Notes the Director-General's recommendation that the designation of the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO be renewed;



5. Notes also the Director-General's recommendation to request the Government of Croatia to take measures to mitigate issues identified in the evaluation, and to respond to the recommendations made in it, as summarized in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the present document 197 EX/16 Part I, and inform her of the measures taken by 1 April 2017;
6. Encourages the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) to strengthen the promotion and implementation of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, with support from the Ministry of Culture of Croatia and the Croatian National Commission for UNESCO;
7. Also encourages both the Government of Croatia and the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) to intensify their efforts to involve other UNESCO Member States in the Centre's regional and international mission and to create a regional network of experts to support the promotion and implementation of the 2001 Convention as well as an "intervention team" for concrete activities, followed by appropriate actions;
8. Further encourages the Centre and the Government of Croatia to secure additional sources of funding, including from bilateral, multilateral and private sources;
9. Invites the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) to improve its effectiveness and operations as recommended by the evaluation report;
10. Further invites the Government of Croatia to take measures to respond to all of the recommendations made in the evaluation as summarized in paragraphs 4 and 5 of document 197 EX/16 Part I, and to inform the Director-General, by 1 April 2017, of such measures;
11. Decides to renew the designation of the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology (ICUA) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
12. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the new agreement annexed to document 197 EX/16 Part I.

## ANNEX

### AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNESCO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY IN ZADAR, CROATIA AS A CATEGORY 2 CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

The Government of the Republic of Croatia,

and

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

*Taking into account* the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (Paris, 2001), in particular Articles 2.2, 19, 20 and 21 encouraging international cooperation, the exchange of knowledge and the provision of training in the field of underwater archaeology,

*Recalling* the Executive Board's decision 197 EX/[...] to renew the status of the International Centre for underwater archaeology (Zadar, Croatia) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and to authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement,

*Desiring* to define the terms and conditions governing the framework for cooperation with UNESCO that shall be granted to the said Centre in this Agreement,

#### **HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

##### **Article 1 – Definitions**

In this Agreement,

- (a) "UNESCO" refers to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
- (b) "The Centre" means the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar, Croatia;
- (c) "The Government" means the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
- (d) "The Ministry of Culture" means the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia;
- (e) "The Agreement" means the present agreement;
- (f) "The Parties" means UNESCO and the Government ;
- (g) "2001 Convention" means the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in Paris on 2 November 2001;
- (h) "Underwater cultural heritage" means "underwater cultural heritage" as defined in Article 1 of the 2001 Convention.

## **Article 2 – Continuation**

The Government agrees to take all measures that may be required for assuring the functioning of the Centre at Zadar, as provided for under the Agreement.

## **Article 3 – Purpose of the Agreement**

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaboration between UNESCO and the Government concerned as well as the rights and obligations stemming therefrom for the Parties.

## **Article 4 – Legal status**

4.1 The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.

4.2 The Government shall ensure that the Centre enjoys within Croatia's territory the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity:

- (a) to contract;
- (b) to institute legal proceedings;
- (c) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

## **Article 5 – Constitutive Act**

The constitutive act of the Centre must include provisions describing precisely:

- (a) the legal status granted to the Centre, within the national legal system, the legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive funds, obtain payments for services rendered, and acquire all means necessary for its functioning;
- (b) a governing structure for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its governing body.

## **Article 6 – Objectives**

The objectives of the Centre shall be:

- (a) To strongly promote the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and its implementation in the European Union, Southeast Europe and in other Member States of UNESCO;
- (b) To function as focal point and to provide a platform for dialogue and participation in the field of underwater archaeology within the European Union, Southeast Europe and worldwide;
- (c) To train underwater archaeologists and conservation specialists, nationally and internationally, practically and theoretically;
- (d) To improve, through fostering international cooperation, scientific research of underwater cultural heritage sites, analysis of finds and their presentation and restoration of objects recovered from the water and to seek to join international efforts in this area;

- (e) To foster and facilitate the exchange of knowledge in the discipline of underwater archaeology in the European Union, Southeast Europe and in State Parties to the 2001 Convention;
- (f) To organize international conferences and workshops; and
- (g) To educate the public in order to raise the awareness of the underwater cultural heritage among the public at large.

## Article 7 – Governing Council

7.1 The Centre shall be guided and supervised by a Council renewed every three years and composed of:

- (a) Three representatives of the Government of Croatia or his/her appointed representatives;
- (b) Up to two representatives of the Director-General of UNESCO. The cost of the participation of these representatives shall be borne by the Government of Croatia or the Centre;
- (c) Up to two representatives of Member State(s), **without right to vote**, which have sent to the Centre notification for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of article 13, paragraph 2, and have expressed interest in being represented on the Council. Should more than two Member States request to be represented, a rotation mechanism will apply for a term of two years. Expenses of the representatives shall be borne by the respective Member State(s).

7.2 The Council shall:

- (a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
- (b) approve the annual work plan and financial plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
- (c) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre, including biennial self-assessment reports of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- (d) examine the **periodic audit reports of the financial statements of the Centre prepared by the State Audit Office of Croatia** and monitor the provision of such accounting reports necessary for the preparation of financial statements;
- (e) adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;
- (f) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre.

7.3 The Council shall meet in ordinary session 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 Director-General of UNESCO, or of two-thirds of its members. Invitations to ordinary meetings of the Council shall be sent 6 months in advance.

7.4 The Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

## **Article 8 – Secretariat**

**8.1 The Centre’s Secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.**

**8.2 The other members of the Secretariat may include:**

- (a) **members of UNESCO’s staff who would be temporarily detached and made available to the Centre if needed, as provided for by UNESCO’s regulations and by the decisions of its governing bodies;**
- (b) **any person appointed by the Director, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Council;**
- (c) **government officials and civil servants, who would be made available to the Centre, as provided by national legislation.**

## **Article 9 – Director**

**The daily management of the Centre shall be assured by the Director, who shall be proposed by the Council and appointed by the Minister responsible for culture in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, for a term of four years, in accordance with the statute and the rules and procedures of the Centre as approved by the Council.**

## **Article 10 – Duties of the Director**

**The Director shall discharge the following duties:**

- (a) **direct the work of the Centre in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Council;**
- (b) **adopt the work plan and financial plan to be submitted to the Council for approval;**
- (c) **prepare the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Council and submit to it any proposals that he/she may deem useful for the administration of the Centre;**
- (d) **prepare reports on the Centre’s activities to be submitted to the Council;**
- (e) **represent the Centre in law and in all civil acts;**
- (f) **appoint staff members in accordance with the general act on the internal organization of the Centre;**
- (g) **direct the fundraising of the Centre;**
- (h) **represent the Centre internationally in Conferences and meetings, especially those organized by UNESCO; and**
- (i) **stay in close contact with UNESCO to ensure the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the 2001 Convention.**

## **Article 11 – UNESCO’s contribution**

11.1 UNESCO may provide assistance, as needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of the Centre, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO by:

- (a) providing assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre;
- (b) engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations; and
- (c) seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General of UNESCO on an exceptional basis, if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.

11.2 In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programme and budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

## **Article 12 – Contribution by the Government**

12.1 The Government shall provide all resources, financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre.

12.2 The Government undertakes to:

- (a) entirely assume during the period 2015 – 2021 the operating and maintenance costs of the Centre, including the costs of the administrative and scientific staff necessary for the performance of its functions, in accordance with the international role of the Centre;
- (b) provide annually from the State budget, through the Ministry of Culture, the minimum amount of \$254,000 to the Centre, of which USD 108,000 for human resources; USD 74,000 for administration and maintenance; USD 74,000 for programmes of underwater archaeology, including research, restoration, and educational activities. The budget shall be provided to the account of the Centre;
- (c) make available to the Centre the funds necessary for the further construction work on the complex in Zadar and the equipment of the premises. It entirely assumes the maintenance of these premises and technical equipment as well as the provision of the resources for the activities of the Centre;
- (d) assume the participation of 30% of the total cost for each international project undertaken by the Centre; and
- (e) the Council shall examine the provision and use of these resources annually.

## **Article 13 – Participation**

13.1 The Centre shall strongly and actively encourage the participation of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which, by their common interest in the objectives of the Centre, desire to cooperate with the Centre.

13.2 Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO wishing to participate in the Centre's activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send to the Centre notification to this effect. The Director shall inform the parties to the agreement and other Member States of the receipt of such notifications.

## **Article 14 – Responsibility**

As the Centre is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for the acts or omissions of the Centre, and shall also not be subject to any legal process, and/or bear no liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Agreement.

### **Article 15 – Evaluation**

- 15.1 UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of the Centre in order to monitor:
- (a) whether the Centre makes an important contribution to UNESCO's strategic programme objectives and expected results aligned with the four-year programmatic period of C/5 document (Programme and Budget), including the global priorities of the Organization, and related sectoral or programme priorities and themes and in particular the promotion of the 2001 Convention;
  - (b) whether the activities undertaken by the Centre respect the regulations of the 2001 Convention;
  - (c) whether the activities effectively pursued by the Centre are in conformity with those set out in this Agreement.
- 15.2 UNESCO shall, for the purpose of the review of this Agreement, conduct an evaluation of the contribution of the category 2 centre to UNESCO strategic programme objectives, to be funded by the Government or the Centre;
- 15.3 UNESCO undertakes to submit to the Government, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted;
- 15.4 Following the results of an evaluation, each of the Parties shall have the option of requesting a revision of its contents or of denouncing the Agreement, as envisaged in Articles 19 and 20.

### **Article 16 – Use of UNESCO Name and Logo**

- 16.1 The Centre may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use after its title the mention "under the auspices of UNESCO".
- 16.2 The Centre is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letter-headed paper and documents including electronic documents and web pages in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

### **Article 17 – Entry into Force**

This Agreement shall enter into force, following its signature by the Parties, when they have informed each other in writing that all the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of Croatia and by UNESCO's internal regulations have been completed. The date of receipt of the last notification shall be deemed to be the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

### **Article 18 – Duration**

This Agreement is concluded for a period of six years as from its entry into force. The Agreement shall be renewed upon common agreement between the Parties once the Executive Board made its comments based on the results of the renewal assessment provided by the Director-General.

### **Article 19 – Denunciation**

- 19.1 Each of the Parties shall be entitled to denounce this Agreement unilaterally.
- 19.2 The denunciation shall take effect within 30 days following receipt of the notification sent by one of the Parties to the other.

**Article 20 – Revision**

This Agreement may be revised by written consent between the Government and UNESCO.

**Article 21 – Settlement of disputes**

21.1 Any dispute between UNESCO and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the Parties, shall be submitted for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and a third, who shall preside over the tribunal, shall be chosen by the first two. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of a third, the appointment shall be made by the President of the International Court of Justice.

21.2 The Tribunal's decision shall be final.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Agreement, DONE in 2 copies in the English language, on [.....]

For the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

For the Government of Croatia

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

# 197 EX/16 Part II

PARIS, 24 August 2015  
Original: English

Item 16 of the provisional agenda

## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART II

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH, OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE AS A CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

##### SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to establish the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI), in Dhaka, Bangladesh as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO, a technical mission was undertaken in November 2014 to assess its feasibility. The evaluation of the proposal was carried out in conformity with the criteria outlined in document 37 C/28 Part I and approved by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93), concerning the establishment of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO.

This document has been prepared pursuant to the mission. It presents the conclusions of the feasibility study in light of the prerequisites for the establishment of the Institute.

A draft agreement has been drawn up in compliance with the Standard Model Agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and is available on the website of the Education Sector.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/worldwide/unesco-institutes-and-centres/education-centres/>

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraph 13.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 16.

## I. BACKGROUND

1. Language is a fundamental dimension of achieving inclusive, quality education for all, but it remains a source of exclusion for many ethnic and linguistic minorities around the world. Numerous studies point to large gaps in educational participation and attainment between the majority population and minority groups that speak other languages. Overcoming marginalization calls for inclusive policies that facilitate initial instruction in the mother tongue and bilingual education through a relevant curriculum, the development of institutional capacity and a legal framework that promotes non-discrimination.

2. UNESCO actively promotes linguistic and cultural diversity as foundations for social inclusion, sustainable development and lasting peace. Evidence shows clearly that teaching in the mother tongue and bilingual education improves students' learning achievement and reduces early drop-out from school. More widely, it contributes to the protection of languages and ensures that rare and indigenous knowledge is safeguarded and transmitted.

3. For UNESCO, "appropriate language education" is fundamental to enable learners to benefit from quality education, learn throughout life, and have access to information. This is possible if there is an approach to language education that promotes teaching of at least two languages in addition to the main language of instruction within their respective educational systems (ref: 194 EX/Decision 29).

4. Language education and promotion of multilingualism can also be seen as a means to ensure that, in the future, learners participate as global citizens, acting for change at both the local and global levels. Quality language education in general, and multilingual education in particular, are effective means to ensure inclusion in and through education and to equip learners with the language skills they need to contribute proactively to their societies. Language education also offers a framework for transmitting values and knowledge that strengthen a sense of belonging to both local and global communities, which are the starting point of civic engagement and global citizenship.

5. Yet much remains to be done to ensure that language education generates such returns. International Mother Language Day, which was proclaimed by UNESCO's General Conference in November 1999 ([30 C/62](#)), called on all Member States to "encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education for the development of fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue". In the same year, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh established the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) in Dhaka, as a means to take the Declaration forward and play a regional and global role for the promotion of mother-tongue based education and the protection of all mother tongues.

6. Against this background, the Government of Bangladesh is proposing to establish the existing IMLI as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO to promote the right to education, linguistic diversity, cultural pluralism and understanding. As such, the Institute aims to contribute towards achieving UNESCO's objectives by putting the issue of mother language education at the heart of national, cultural and social development. The current proposal aims to make the Institute a recognized and acknowledged centre of academic excellence and exchange, thus furthering efforts to improve mother language teaching and learning in Asia and other regions.

7. In compliance with 37 C/Resolution 93 concerning the revision of the integrated comprehensive strategy for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, a technical mission to prepare the feasibility study for the establishment of this Institute was conducted from 2 to 6 November 2014. The mission comprised meetings with and/or interviews of key stakeholders as identified by Bangladeshi counterparts and UNESCO. The findings and conclusions of the mission are presented by the Director-General in the present document.

## **II. OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL**

### Function and objectives of the Institute

8. The IMLI aims to strengthen education systems by paying special attention to the promotion of mother language education and learning while fully respecting human rights, especially the right to education, and pursuing the policy of an all-inclusive and responsive approach. The Institute will conduct research for the documentation and development of mother languages of the world to promote multilingual education. It will also participate actively in the yearly celebration of the International Mother Language day, through workshops, seminars, exhibitions and cultural programmes and publications.

9. The Institute will organize its activities under four major categories:

- (a) Engagement in activities related to knowledge creation and sharing, capacity development and policy advice which focus on the key role of mother language education and learning;
- (b) Design of new approaches of learning and development of a body of knowledge on the role and potential contribution of mother language education towards the construction of inclusive learning societies;
- (c) Documentation and undertaking of comparative research on relevant teacher training, curriculum development and educational strategies employed to link mother language education with national or majority language education;
- (d) Documentation, research and promotion of the dynamic linkages between practices of mother language education and artistic expression.

### Legal status and structure

10. The Institute shall be independent of UNESCO. The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh shall ensure that IMLI enjoys within its territory, and in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the country, the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity: to contract; to institute legal proceedings; to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

### Financial matters

11. The Institute shall be funded by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under its National Revenue Budget. Additional financial resources will also be mobilized from external funding sources, to secure funds for special projects with a regional impact. All administrative and financial activities of the Institute are governed by the rules and regulations of the Government of Bangladesh.

### Regional or international impact of the Institute

12. The Institute will focus on one of UNESCO's key priority areas, namely the universal right of every girl and boy, woman and man to their mother tongue and the right to education in their own language through research and the study of languages for the improvement of basic education and culture. Given the linguistic diversity of the Asia-Pacific region and the Institute's unique emphasis on mother tongue and multilingual education, IMLI will serve as a hub of knowledge and research and contribute towards new forms of learning and mother language education in the region and throughout the world. It will promote exchange of knowledge and relevant experiences in the field of curriculum products, teacher training and strategies in mother language education, in the subregion first, and then in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. It will develop a global network of mother language specialists on the basis of the Institute's publications, and its annual report. The

Institute will also provide a programme of visiting scholars to bring in distinguished national and international experts in mother language education who would participate in ad hoc lectures and seminars, and conduct and document field research.

#### Financial and administrative implications to UNESCO

13. In compliance with 37 C/Resolution 93, UNESCO shall not provide financial support for administrative or programmatic costs. Future foreseen administrative costs for UNESCO linked to the operation of the Institute, if established as a category 2 institute, will be related to liaising with the Institute to provide technical assistance, as needed, and enabling coordination between networks of related institutions and agencies.

### **III. CONCLUSION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

14. Throughout the technical mission and the feasibility study's finalization process, there was strong evidence of the Government of Bangladesh's genuine and widespread support to transform the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) as a hub for capacity-building in mother tongue-based education and mother language research. Clarifications and further details requested regarding the Institute's governance and funding were satisfactorily provided, and the IMLI's mission and objectives to promote the right to education, inclusive gender policies, linguistic diversity, cultural pluralism and understanding were further developed for better alignment with UNESCO's programmatic objectives.

15. Supporting Member States in their development and implementation of mother language education are critical factors for the achievement of the future development agenda on education, as well as in supporting UNESCO's vision of promoting global citizenship education. On the basis of the findings of the feasibility study, the proposal for the establishment of the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO satisfactorily meets the principles as outlined in 37 C/Resolution 93. A draft agreement, prepared through consultations between UNESCO and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, provides more specific details about the legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Institute.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Proposed decision**

16. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93, and taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
2. Recognizing the importance of quality education based on mother language education,
3. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part II containing the proposal to establish in Dhaka, Bangladesh the International Mother Language Institute as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;
5. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study;

<sup>1</sup> The draft agreement can be found on UNESCO Education Sector's website on its category 2 centres.

6. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part II to be such as to meet the requirements needed for UNESCO to grant its auspices to this institute;
7. Recommends that the General Conference at its 38th session approves the establishment in Dhaka, Bangladesh of the International Mother Language Institute and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding draft agreement.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

# 197 EX/16

## Part III

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### CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

#### PART III

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN SHENZHEN, CHINA, OF A HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION CENTRE

##### SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Government of the People's Republic of China to establish the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation in Shenzhen, China, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, a technical mission was conducted in June 2015 to assess its feasibility. The evaluation was carried out in conformity with the criteria outlined in 37 C/Resolution 93 on the "Revision of the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres".

This document has been prepared pursuant to the mission. It presents the conclusions of the feasibility study in light of the prerequisites for the establishment of the Institute.

A draft agreement has been drawn up in compliance with the Standard Model Agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and is available on the website of the Education Sector.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/worldwide/unesco-institutes-and-centres/education-centres/>

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraph 7.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 13.

## I. BACKGROUND

1. The 2009 World Conference on Higher Education indicated that at no time in history has it been more important to invest in higher education as a major force in building an inclusive and diverse knowledge society and to advance research, innovation and creativity. There is an unprecedented demand for and a great diversification in higher education, as well as an increased awareness of its vital importance for socio-cultural and economic development. However, higher education is faced with great challenges and difficulties related to financing, equity of conditions at access into and during the course of studies, improved staff development, skills-based training, enhancement and preservation of quality in teaching, research and community outreach, relevance of programmes, employability of graduates, establishment of efficient cooperation agreements and equitable access to the benefits of international cooperation.

2. Against this background, the People's Republic of China is proposing to establish an International Centre for Higher Education Innovation as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (hereinafter referred to as the "Centre"). The current proposal aims to establish this Centre to support the development and strengthening in higher education infrastructure through developing and promoting information and communication technologies (ICTs), in particular in the Asia and the Pacific region.

3. In compliance with 37 C/Resolution 93 concerning the revision of the integrated comprehensive strategy for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, a technical mission to prepare the feasibility study for the establishment of this proposed Centre was conducted in June 2015. The findings and conclusions of the mission are presented by the Director-General in this document.

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL

### The objectives and functions of the Centre

4. The overall mission of the Centre is to work with UNESCO in supporting higher education institutions in the Asia and the Pacific region to be better prepared and equipped for fulfilling their social responsibilities and to support the development needs of Member States. The Centre will also promote cooperation in higher education at global level. It aims to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) in higher education to improve access, equity, quality and governance in higher education in developing countries, and build synergies and strengthen subregional and regional networks related to ICTs in higher education.

5. The Centre will organize its activities along the following strategic objectives:

- (a) Knowledge production on emerging issues and demands of higher education;
- (b) Capacity-building in developing countries, in particular in the Asia and the Pacific region;
- (c) Technical support, in particular on innovative use of ICTs in higher education; and
- (d) Information sharing on strategies for institutional transformation in higher education.

### Legal status and structure

6. The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO. The Centre will have an autonomous status and will be an independent legal entity, set up according to national legislation and enjoy legal capacity.

### Financial matters

7. The Shenzhen Government of People's Republic of China will contribute the resources, financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre, providing the Centre with an annual budget sufficient to cover expenses relating to its activities, including the secretariat, staff, infrastructure and maintenance, equipment and utilities. Further support will be provided by the SUSTC Education Foundation, which is a designated fund-in-trust account set up for the Centre, mobilizing funds from the private sector in Shenzhen to support the Centre's operations and activities.

### Areas of cooperation with UNESCO

8. The Centre will support UNESCO's priority of achieving quality higher education for sustainable human development by assisting Member States. It hopes to contribute to strengthening UNESCO's higher education programmes by implementing effective policies and systems for teaching, training, and research and innovation in higher education retaining and developing higher education strategies to meet current and future demands. It will promote networks for the development of higher education through North-South-South cooperation and sharing of best practices.

### Regional or international impact of the Centre

9. The Centre will strive for regional impact in the Asia and the Pacific region by assisting all countries in the region in their efforts to promote higher education innovation by generating innovative proposals and providing policy advice, advocacy plans and strategies to Member States of the region. It will serve as a clearing house in the region for the transfer and exchange of experience, knowledge and best practices in the field of higher education management, use of ICTs in teaching, learning, and research. While the main geographic focus area will be Asia and the Pacific, it will also strive to cooperate with countries in other regions such as Africa and the Arab States.

### Financial and administrative implications to UNESCO

10. In compliance with 37 C/Resolution 93, UNESCO shall not provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes. Future possible administrative costs for UNESCO linked to the operation of the Institute, if established as a category 2 centre, will be related to liaising with the Centre to provide technical assistance, as needed, and enabling coordination between networks of related institutions and agencies.

## **III. CONCLUSION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

11. The feasibility study provides several positive findings: the Centre's mission and objectives are in line with the strategic priorities of UNESCO's Education Sector and the Centre is esteemed to have a positive impact on Asia-Pacific higher education by expanding UNESCO's capacity to undertake research-based policy advice and advocacy in improving access, equity, quality and governance in higher education through the development and application of new technologies. Furthermore, the establishment benefits from a strong commitment and support from the national authorities and is foreseen to receive financial and technical support from public and private partners. Moreover, the Centre has solid capacity in teaching, learning and management, and excellence in information and communication technologies.

12. Addressing the need for higher education innovation in the context of lifelong learning and sustainable human development is critically important for enhanced delivery of quality higher education. The proposal for the establishment of an International Centre for Higher Education Innovation in Shenzhen, People's Republic of China as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO satisfactorily meets the principles as outlined in 37 C/Resolution 93. A draft agreement,



prepared through consultations between UNESCO and the Government of the People's Republic of China, provides more specific details about the legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Institute.<sup>1</sup>

#### IV. ACTION EXPECTED OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

13. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93, and taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
2. Recognizing the importance of improving access, equity, quality and governance in higher education,
3. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part III containing the proposal to establish in Shenzhen, the People's Republic of China, an International Centre for Higher Education Innovation as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the People's Republic of China;
5. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study;
6. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part III to be such as to meet the requirements needed for UNESCO to grant its auspices to this Centre;
7. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Shenzhen, the People's Republic of China, an International Centre for Higher Education Innovation and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> The draft agreement can be found on UNESCO Education Sector's website on its category 2 centres.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**Executive Board**  
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**197 EX/16**  
**Part IV**

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**CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES**

**PART IV**

**ESTABLISHMENT IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA,  
OF AN AFRICAN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ECOHYDROLOGY**

**SUMMARY**

Following a proposal by the Government of Ethiopia to establish an African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ARCE) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a UNESCO mission was undertaken in June 2015 as a part of the evaluation of the feasibility of establishing the proposed Centre, which would specialize in and provide support to regional research and cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development within the context of the ecohydrology theme of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

This document contains the main findings of the feasibility study for the proposed Centre. A draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Ethiopia has been prepared in conformity with the standard model agreement indicated in document 37 C/18 Part I and is available on the Natural Sciences web pages for consultation. The feasibility study was conducted in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy documents approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93).

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraphs 19 to 21.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 24.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Government of Ethiopia has proposed the establishment of an African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. In February 2014, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy of Ethiopia transmitted to the Director of the Division of Water Sciences, a proposal for the establishment of an African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology in Ethiopia. The proposal presents a strong rationale for the establishment of the proposed centre, which is viewed as an integral part of the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy in Ethiopia to address the threat posed by degradation to land and water resources of the country. In addition, the proposal builds on and extends the strong cooperation between the Ministry, the water-related category 2 centre, European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, in Lodz, Poland (ERCE) on the development of ecohydrological solutions to this critical issues. This cooperation resulted in strengthening the base capacity in Ethiopia in the area of ecohydrology. The cooperation also resulted in developing several demonstration sites in different watersheds. Strong local expertise in ecohydrological principles, and stakeholder participation in addressing land degradation issues within integrated water resources management frameworks are at the cornerstone of the proposal.

2. The proposed centre will act as platform for Africa that accommodates diverse disciplinary interests relevant to the management of watershed, soil and water conservation, climate change, agriculture, and forestry. The proposed centre aims to: (a) conduct experimental and theoretical scientific research, conduct education and training courses and promote scientific research; (b) participate in the UNESCO-IHP network as a focal point for ecohydrology in the region and support IHP international activities; (c) create and reinforce institutional and information networks for the exchange of scientific, technical and policy information at the international level; (d) cooperate with government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), institutions, stakeholders and decision-makers in order to put the results of scientific research into practice; (e) disseminate ecohydrological knowledge through publications, scientific meetings, seminars and scientific conferences; (f) promote ecological education and increase public awareness of the links between water systems, biodiversity and sustainable development.

3. The proposal identifies a wide range of potential partners including ministries, universities, organizations, institutes and regional water bureaus. The proposal expresses the readiness of the Government of Ethiopia to provide, through the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, the financial, technical, and personnel support and facilities required to perform the proposed functions. It is foreseen that the proposed centre will be hosted by the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy.

4. In principle, the proposed centre has the potential to reinforce the existing network of category 2 water-related centres due to the breadth of areas involved in watershed management with particular emphasis on ecohydrology. There would be ample opportunities for collaboration with centres that focus on integrated water resources management, erosion and sedimentation, and water-related hazards.

5. In May 2015 the Director-General of UNESCO approved the undertaken of the feasibility study for the establishment of the African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology in Ethiopia.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

6. The proposal defines the Centre as a platform for Africa where joint studies by specialists of different fields allows for mutual cooperation, cross exchange of information and identification of synergies among different systems within the framework of the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy of Ethiopia.

7. It is expected that the Centre will provide technical knowledge that will lead to a better understanding of the patterns of water/biota/soil/climate interplays, and their importance for societies. The Centre's objectives are:

- (a) Advance ecohydrology through scientific research, publications, international;
- (b) Advance international cooperation and contacts and provide a platform for the exchange of scientific information about ecohydrology and integrated watershed management (IWM) between institutions in Africa/worldwide within the framework of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO;
- (c) Provide advisory activities, technical information and training as a basis to develop and implement new integrated methods of water restoration and management;
- (d) Develop a network of demonstration sites for the implementation of the ecohydrology concept to improve water resources quantity and quality, create positive socio-economic feedback and provide relevant ecosystem services;
- (e) Promote advanced scientific research on eco-hydrology, monitoring and modelling systems, as well as transfer of knowledge and its implementation in order for water bodies and water-related ecosystems to be ecologically sound, and implement the Water Related Framework Directive of the African Countries, and other environment-related legal regulations;
- (f) Promote social awareness-raising within the scope of ecohydrology application for integrated management of water resources (freshwater and groundwater) including: society at large, NGOs and governmental institutions at central and regional levels;
- (g) Develop potential and facilities for training, education, dissemination and popularization of scientific achievements.

8. In order to accomplish these objectives, the Centre will undertake the following activities:

- (1) Conduct experimental and theoretical scientific research; conduct education and training courses;
- (2) Participate in the UNESCO-IHP network as a focal point for ecohydrology in the region and support IHP international activities;
- (3) Create and reinforce institutional and information networks for the exchange of scientific, technical and policy information at the international level;
- (4) Cooperate with government agencies, NGOs, institutions, stakeholders and decision-makers in order to put the results of scientific research into practice;
- (5) Spread ecohydrological knowledge through publications, scientific meetings, seminars and scientific conferences;
- (6) Promote ecological education and increase public awareness of the links between water systems, biodiversity and sustainable development.

### **Location and infrastructure**

9. The Centre facilities are located within the Ethiopian Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) in Addis Ababa. These facilities comprise:

- A modern office for the Director of the centre and three specialists.
- Chemistry laboratory equipped with some analytical instruments; and
- Separate storage facilities.

10. In a near future, some facilities currently used by another entity will be incorporated:

- A soil and biomass laboratory;
- A water laboratory.

11. Some space limitations are preventing the Centre from expansion, but these will be overcome soon, allowing the incorporation of new national and international staff. The equipment for the new office is ready to be put into place.

12. The centre owns a range of old – but working – and modern analytical equipment, including for example:

- Liquid chromatography (LC);
- Gas chromatography with Mass capture detector (GC-MS);
- Multi-parameter sondes;
- Electro photo spectrometer.

### **National and international institutions that support the Centre**

13. Several Institutions have expressed their support to ARCE:

- Basin Administrator Director at MoWIE;
- Minister of Environment and Forests;
- Addis Ababa University/Geology Department;
- European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (Poland).

14. The Centre has begun to establish contacts with other existing regional institutions in nearby countries such as the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda as well as with others like Nigeria.

### **Contribution to the region**

15. The designation of ARCE as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO will allow the Centre to make major contributions to building the capacity at national level in various areas related to water ecosystems sustainable utilization and restoration. By contributing to building the capacity of

professionals and institutions, the Centre has the potential to support regional and national efforts to mainstream ecological approaches in water resources management plans.

### **Justification for support and unique identity**

16. The Bureau and the Council of UNESCO International Hydrological Programme, the Government of Ethiopia as well as the governments of various countries give their support to the establishment of this Centre, which will have the potential to contribute to research and capacity-building on ecohydrology in Africa, being the sole Centre in ecohydrology on the continent.

### **Legal status and mode of operation**

17. The proposed Centre will be an independent legal entity under the laws of Ethiopia, with the functional autonomy necessary for the exercises of its activities. It will have the status and legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings, and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. Being located on the premises of the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) in Addis Ababa, the Centre will benefit from all amenities thereof, including utilities, security, staffing and resources without loss of autonomy.

### **Governance**

18. The Centre will be composed of the following bodies:

- (a) A governing board, composed by three representatives of the government (Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy), the Director of the Centre as an observer to the governing board, one representative from UNESCO and up to two representatives of Member States and/or Associate Member States of UNESCO from Africa, which have expressed interest in being represented on the Board
- (b) A secretariat, composed of the Director of the Centre, supported by two ecohydrologists, a hydrologist and a chemist. In addition, two administrative staff supporting the centre's financial and administrative affairs will be incorporated.

### **Financial matters**

19. The Government of Ethiopia is committed to provide financial and in kind resources to ARCE needed for the administration of the Centre, as well as take appropriate required measures to guarantee through the National Water Research Institute budget allocation from the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy. The centre will also acquire additional resources by rendering research, analytical, and consultancy services to governments and development agencies (and others, like the private sector through public-private-partnerships) nationally and at regional scale.

### **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

20. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the Centre and shall not provide financial support for administrative costs.

21. UNESCO may contract the Centre to implement concrete programmes/activities that are implemented by the Centre, if they are part of a particular UNESCO project or programme that is managed and led by UNESCO. UNESCO may also ensure the Organization's representative attendance in formal meetings of the Centre, in particular in the governing board. UNESCO's participation shall be financed by the government or the Centre.

### **Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes and expected impact of the Centre**

22. The Centre will cooperate with UNESCO in developing activities, within the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), contributing to UNESCO's actions towards building national, regional and international capacities with a priority for Africa. This is in accordance with the Strategic Objectives 4 of document 37 C/4, and the Main Lines of Action 6 of Major Programme II of document 37 C/5. The Centre has the potential to serve as an example of alignment with UNESCO's global priority on gender equality and as a promoter of women and girls in science and technology education (STE) initiatives within UNESCO.

23. The Centre will seek to build partnership and collaborate with relevant UNESCO partners, as well as the network of UNESCO Chairs and category 2 centre, and other specialized institutions and networks of excellence.

### **Proposed decision**

24. In light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part IV, which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to establish the African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the water sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Ethiopia,
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of the Centre offers in the framework of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP),
5. Recognizing that the proposed centre meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by the General conference of UNESCO in 37 C/Resolution 93,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, of an African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ARCE), as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Ethiopia.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

# 197 EX/16 Part V

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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART V

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN KIGALI, RWANDA, OF AN EAST AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

##### SUMMARY

In response to a proposal by the Government of Rwanda for the establishment of an East Africa Institute for Fundamental Research based on Activities Associated with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), in Kigali, Rwanda, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, consultation was held with the Rwandan Ministry of Education, as well as with the National Science and Technology Commission and a mission to Rwanda was undertaken to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed Institute.

The present document reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Institute and provides the scientific and institutional rationale behind the proposal of the Rwandan Government. A Draft Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Rwanda has been prepared in conformity with the standard model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and is available on the Natural Science website. The feasibility study was conducted in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) approved by the General Conference at its 37th sessions.

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraphs 9-13.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 16.



## INTRODUCTION

1. In April 2014, the Government of Rwanda, through its Ministry of Education, submitted a proposal for the establishment of an East Africa Institute for Fundamental Physics based on a close collaboration with the ICTP, in Kigali, Rwanda, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The Rwandan authorities requested that this item be included on the agenda of the Executive Board at its 197th session.

2. A technical mission of UNESCO has been conducted to Kigali, the location of the proposed Institute, and the feasibility study has been undertaken in line with the guidelines and criteria for category 2 institutes and centres as approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/18). It was carried out in consultation with the relevant Rwandan authorities and the scientific board of the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) which is responsible for advising the Director-General on IBSP activities. At its 9th meeting, the scientific board concluded that the proposal on the Institute is worthy of the Organization's support and recommended that it be considered by the Executive Board. The present document reports to the Executive Board on the findings and conclusions of the said feasibility study.

3. During the technical mission, meetings were held with the Minister of Education, Professor Silas Lwakabamba, representing the Ministry of Education, Academician Prof. Nelson Ijumba, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Rwanda, and Dr Ignace Gatere, Director General National Commission for Science and Technology. Strong support for the proposed Institute was expressed by all three representatives, echoing the "unconditional" backing for the Institute, expressed by former Minister of Education, Vincent Biruta, to UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, in his letter of 4 April 2014.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE

4. The proposal submitted by Rwanda can be summarized as follows:

### Objectives of the Institute

5. The proposed Institute will provide facilities and opportunities for advanced training and research for scientists from East Africa countries, in addition to the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, with an additional emphasis on promoting women in science throughout its programmes. Specifically, the Institute will:

- (a) develop a Masters course in physics, supported by and facilitating further coordination of research-oriented advanced studies in physics and mathematics;
- (b) provide expertise to decision-makers, educators and the general public to strengthen the research and development potential in the region;
- (c) develop outreach activities (seminars, conferences, schools, workshops) in cooperation with national and international institutions, providing an international forum and enhancing collaborative networks among scientists from different countries in the region.

6. Training and regional capacity-building activities of the Institute will focus on:

- (a) advanced training and development through scientific research, carried out by the Institute permanent staff and by short/long term visitors, in cooperation with national and international institutions and with participation in international research projects;

- (b) scientific events and knowledge transfer through short-term activities, developed in cooperation with UNESCO and ICTP, which would include schools, workshops, conferences and seminars compatible with UNESCO programmes.

### **Location and infrastructure**

7. The Institute will be located in Kigali, on the premises of the University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology Nyarugenge Campus, in collaboration with the College of Science and Technology, which includes the Faculty of Physics of the University of Rwanda. The Institute will be permanently located in a renovated building there with sufficient space for offices, laboratories, computer centre, technical space, conference and exhibition rooms.

8. Within the University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology, the Institute will have access to a number of research laboratories, and high speed communication networks and computer centres.

### **Legal status and mode of operating**

9. The Institute will be an independent legally autonomous unit within the national legal framework of Rwanda, with the functional autonomy necessary for the exercise of its activities. It will have the status and legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings, and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. Being located on the premises of the University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology, the Institute will benefit from all amenities thereof, including utilities, security, staffing and resources without loss of autonomy.

### **Governance**

10. The Institute will have three bodies responsible for its governance and proper functioning:

- (a) **A Governing Board**, composed of a representative of the Rwandan Ministry of Education, two representatives of UNESCO (one from ICTP and one from IBSP), the Vice Chancellor of the University of Rwanda or his/her representative, a representative of the East Africa Region outside Rwanda, two internationally reputed scientists chosen by ICTP to be on the steering committee as well as representatives of other major sponsors as appropriate. The Director of the Institute will participate in the meetings of the International Governing Board as a non-voting member. The Steering Committee will have a Chairperson and a Coordinator. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for approving policies concerning the Institute. This consists of the funding of the Institute, selection and the appointment of its Director, the number of permanent positions (both scientific and administrative), overseeing the spending of the budget of the Institute, appointing the Scientific Council, etc. The cost relating to the meeting and functioning of the Governing Board shall be covered by the institute.
- (b) **An International Scientific Advisory Council**, composed of up to 10 scientists from both developed and developing countries actively engaged in the basic sciences relating to the objectives of the Institute, and at least one representative of ICTP. Their major duties will be to critically advise on the scientific programme of the Institute as prepared and proposed by its Director. They will also define the terms and conditions for the membership of permanent researchers and post-doctoral fellows, as well as propose new ideas for the activities of the Institute. The members should be appointed for a period not longer than four years. The cost relating to the meeting and functioning of the International Scientific Advisory Council shall be covered by the institute.
- (c) **A Secretariat**, composed of the Director of the Institute, and the administrative and technical staff required to ensure the proper execution of the day-to-day activities of the

Institute. All measures should be taken to shape the administrative body in such a way that the engagement of the scientists in non-scientific issues is minimized.

### **Financial matters**

11. The Rwandan government will provide all the resources, financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Institute.

12. Other national collaborating institutions are expected to make some in-kind contributions for the Institute's activities, while the Institute will be expected to undertake fund-raising activities from national and international governmental bodies, various foundations, and private sources.

### **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

13. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the Institute and shall not provide financial support for administrative costs.

### **Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes and expected impact of the Institute**

14. The Institute will cooperate with UNESCO in developing activities within the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), contributing to UNESCO's actions towards building national, regional and international capacities with a priority for Sub-Saharan Africa countries. This is in accordance with Strategic Programme Objective 4 of 37 C/4 and Biennial Sector Priority of the 37 C/5. The Institute's activities will also reach some African countries in realization of UNESCO's priorities in education and research in the basic sciences for Africa ("Priority Africa"). Overall, the Institute will strive to promote women in science in the region, noting that gender equality is a priority of UNESCO. At the programme level, the goals and the activity of the Institute will fully correspond to the mandate of IBSP.

15. The Institute will seek to build partnerships and collaborate with relevant UNESCO partners; included the network of UNESCO chairs and category 2 centres, and other specialized institutions and networks of excellence.

### **Proposed draft decision**

16. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part V, which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to establish an East Africa Institute for Fundamental Research in close collaboration with the ICTP as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Rwanda,
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of the Institute offers in the framework of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposed Institute meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by UNESCO's General Conference in document 37 C/18,

6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Kigali, Rwanda, of an East Africa Institute for Fundamental Research based on a close collaboration with the ICTP and IBSP as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Rwandan government.



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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART VI

#### **ESTABLISHMENT IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, OF A REGIONAL POST-GRADUATE TRAINING SCHOOL ON INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL FORESTS AND LANDS**

##### **SUMMARY**

Following the proposal of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a UNESCO mission visited Kinshasa in June 2015 to assess the feasibility of converting the existing Regional Post-Graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands (ERAIFT) to a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. ERAIFT trains senior managers specialized in an interdisciplinary, systemic approach and able to devise and implement policies on the integrated planning, development and management of tropical forests and lands.

This document presents the main results of the feasibility study, undertaken in line with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy described in document 37 C/18 Part I and approved by the General Conference at its 37th session. Annex I contains ERAIFT's history and Annex II the list of current partner institutions.

A draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be viewed online. The provisions of the draft agreement that deviate from the model agreement (see 37 C/18 Part I Annex) are contained in Annex III to this document.

The financial and administrative implications for UNESCO are contained in paragraph 33.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 44.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since it opened its doors on 10 April 1999 at Kinshasa University, Democratic Republic of the Congo (RDC), the Regional Post-Graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands (ERAIFT), a higher education institution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has made its mark in the region as a flagship project for the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.
2. The UNESCO/European Union (EU) grant agreement, signed in 2009 to support ERAIFT, envisages, as one of its anticipated results, “the recognition of ERAIFT by UNESCO’s decision-making bodies in the framework of the category 1 institutions or category 2 institutions under the auspices of UNESCO.”
3. Initially, the Democratic Republic of the Congo wanted to make ERAIFT a category 1 centre; the Minister of Higher Education reminded UNESCO’s Director-General of that when she visited Kinshasa in January 2011. At the 186th session of the Executive Board in May 2011, the Africa group stated their desire to reinforce ERAIFT’s status so as to guarantee the sustainable regional and international character of the institution. On 9 March 2012, an information meeting on “the Sustainable Future of ERAIFT” was held at UNESCO Headquarters between the Secretariat, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and ERAIFT’s partners, and resulted in the recommendation to make ERAIFT a category 2 centre, given UNESCO’s current financial situation.
4. On 27 January 2015, the Democratic Republic of the Congo presented a detailed proposal for the establishment of ERAIFT as a category 2 centre, in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy described in document 37 C/18 and approved by the General Conference at its 37th session. The proposal answered the desire expressed by both ERAIFT’s associate countries and its donors to ensure its continued existence by reinforcing its status and its regional and international base.
5. Thereafter, the Director-General of UNESCO initiated a feasibility study of the proposal.

## II. EXAMINATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

### II.1 Overview of the proposal

6. Tropical forests are a reservoir of biological resources and play a decisive role in the provision of environmental goods and services, climate regulation and worldwide economic and social development. The Congo Basin Forest in Central Africa is the second largest tropical forest after the Amazonian forest; it represents 26% of tropical forest surface worldwide. ERAIFT’s exceptional geographical position at the heart of the Congo Basin makes it an obvious partner for international training and research institutions and all the scientific and academic partners from the South and North alike.
7. ERAIFT, as a category 2 centre with a new autonomous status, will see its regional base strengthened. It will develop its network of technical and financial partners in the service of society, providing research and training for African decision-makers, in Africa as well as other regions of the world, in the sustainable management of tropical forests and lands. Close ties will be maintained with UNESCO’s objectives and programmes.

### II.2 Goals and functions of ERAIFT

8. The conceptual and scientific basis that characterizes the educational orientation of ERAIFT and makes it unique comes from its *systemic approach*, which takes into account all the parameters present in a given system, made up of the lands and the populations who live there. Trainees come to ERAIFT after courses in the natural and exact sciences, as well as the social, human and health sciences: agronomy, forestry, agricultural engineering, geography,

hydrogeology, veterinary studies, economics, sociology, law, etc. The recruitment of professors complies with international norms, by advertising extensively for applications.

9. ERAIFT's goal is to train senior managers specialized in an interdisciplinary and systemic approach, and able to devise and implement the integrated planning, development and management of tropical lands and forests.

10. ERAIFT is a post-graduate school that awards Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies degrees (DESS) – and doctorates (PhDs). The *DESS* is recognized by the African and Malagasy Council on Higher Education (CAMES). From 2016, the ERAIFT *DESS* will also be valid in the European higher education system; the duration of the course will increase from 18 to 24 months and it will lead to a Master's degree. PhDs generally take three years to obtain, in partnership with foreign universities, particularly the universities of Laval and Liège. A new Master's on the management of protected areas will be set up from 2016 thanks to the support of the Central Africa Protected Areas Network (RAPAC). The diplomas awarded on completion of studies at ERAIFT are awarded by the Rector of the University of Kinshasa.

11. Courses are taught in French, but there are future plans to teach in English as well. Subjects taught cover a broad range, from land planning, interactions between populations and forest and resource management to subjects that are more technical (cartography, remote sensing) or general (legal aspects, education and ethics). Work experience in the field supplements the theoretical training.

12. Since 1999, 197 DESS students have been trained and 29 are in training. Seven post-graduates have finished their PhD thesis and 24 are currently working on theirs. These students come from 23 countries<sup>1</sup>. A feedback survey answered by former ERAIFT students showed that the main strengths are the systemic approach, the field work experience, the continuing training seminars, and the diverse and international character of students and professors. To the question "*Would you recommend this training to a colleague?*" 100% of those surveyed answered "Yes" and highlighted the very innovative character of the training for developing countries. More than 90% of those trained currently have a job related to the training they received, in ministries, cooperation projects, non-governmental organizations, or the private sector. Former ERAIFT students keep in touch through a platform known as "RADDI", the African network for sustainable development.

13. In recent years, ERAIFT has also developed continuing training activities in various fields such as land planning, remote sensing, geographical information systems and the calculation of the economic value of protected areas in the context of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Some 150 national officials from ministries and institutions tasked with the management of natural resources and protected areas have received the benefit of this training in about 20 African and Asian countries. ERAIFT also intervenes as a service provider for different institutions.

14. Since its establishment, ERAIFT has developed technical partnerships with a considerable number of institutions (the list of these partnerships is contained in Annex 2).

### **II.3 The School's infrastructure and equipment**

15. The authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo placed at ERAIFT's disposal, on the university campus of the University of Kinshasa, infrastructure that was renovated in 2006 and includes a 100-seat auditorium, classrooms, a library, a cyber-school, offices, a meeting room, an ichthyology laboratory and an experimental plant nursery. Two fully functional buildings provide accommodation for the teaching and administrative staff as well as the students. The site has suitable equipment at its disposal, namely in the way of computers, and a geomatics laboratory,

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<sup>1</sup> Angola, Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Chad and Togo, and Belgium and Haiti

which cooperates with several bodies such as the Central African Satellite Forest Observatory (OSFAC), the Central African Forest Observatory (OFAC), and the University of Marne La Vallée, and processes Envisat and Landsat data. Extension and modernization plans to upgrade the installations, including the computer system, electricity grid and water supply are being carried out. A guard from a sub-detachment of the University police is assigned to ERAIFT to ensure the safety of people and property.

16. The future category 2 centre should thus be in a satisfactory state to pursue and develop its activities.

#### **II.4 Name of the Centre**

17. It is proposed that the category 2 centre keep its current name of “Regional Post-Graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands” (ERAIFT), given how well it is known.

#### **II.5 Legal status and operation**

18. ERAIFT is currently governed by an Administrative Council, chaired by UNESCO, and an Academic and Research Council, chaired by ERAIFT’s Director.

19. With a view to creating a category 2 centre, a new status and new structures are being set up. ERAIFT will become a regional organization established by the signature of an agreement by the following countries – Cameroon, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and Togo – to lay down its Statute.

20. The agreement laying down ERAIFT’s Statute provides for the setting up of:

- a Meeting of the States Parties;
- an Administrative Council, composed of representatives of the Congolese Government and Member States by rotation; one representative each for the Director-General of UNESCO, the Director of ERAIFT, and representatives of the private sector, the teachers and students, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), international non-governmental organizations, the Technical and Financial Partners and the *Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux* (International Technical Association for Tropical Timber). It devises ERAIFT’s policy;
- an Academic and Research Council, which ensures the quality of education and research.

21. As a regional entity, ERAIFT will have its headquarters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and will enjoy the legal personality and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions. ERAIFT will sign a host country agreement with its host country.

#### **II.6 Financial matters and sustainability**

22. ERAIFT’s annual balanced budget is US \$2,064,985.

23. In the 15 years of its existence, ERAIFT has been able to raise, through all its activities taken together, about US \$12 million from traditional donors (UNDP, the Kingdom of Belgium, European Union and *Wallonie Bruxelles International*).

24. In recent years, the diversification of funding sources and partners has been considered a priority. Thus, to historical donors such as UNDP, UNESCO, the EU and Belgium were added, among others, the United States of America, the ADB, Japan, GIZ, the AFD and the RAPAC, ensuring a continuous flow of funding.



25. Moreover, ERAIFT's funding policy is evolving from a direct model to an indirect one through student grants (*DESS*, PhD) from institutions such as USAID, *Wallonie Bruxelles International*, the University of Liège Centre for Partnership and Development Cooperation (PACODEL), Belgium, the Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCO), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Central African Network of Forest and Environmental Training Institutions (RIFFEAC). Indirect funding is also used for continued *ad hoc* training.

26. The list of financial partners is contained in Annex 2.

27. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo contributed greatly to ERAIFT's establishment and functioning. As ERAIFT's host country, since 2003 it has contributed about €100,000 per year to the cost of part of the local staff. It makes buildings and other infrastructures available to the School. Under the present agreement, the Government will continue to provide part of the resources necessary for ERAIFT's functioning.

28. To reinforce ERAIFT's status and regional dimension with a view to its conversion to a category 2 centre, the following countries, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and Togo, are planning to establish ERAIFT as an autonomous institution. The terms of the agreement that lays down ERAIFT's Statute provide for financial contributions from the 11 signatory States.

29. Some financial commitments already cover the next two or three years. Most of the technical and financial partners who are already active have stated that they were willing to pursue their financial commitment either in a direct manner (through projects) or in an indirect manner (funding the trainees and researchers) but recommend that ERAIFT change its status and make its regional character official. That is notably the case of the EU, with which a new project in support of ERAIFT for 2016-2022 is being discussed. ERAIFT's long-term institutional positioning therefore has implications for its future funding.

30. ERAIFT's provision of logistical, scientific and academic support to all its scientific and academic partners working in the Congo Basin such as the Congolese National Centre for the Support of Development and Popular Participation (CENADEP), Forest trends, Nature+, etc. are likely, in future, to represent 15% of ERAIFT's regular budget.

31. At its 37th session, the General Conference approved document 37 C/18 Part I on the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part I), which includes a model agreement between UNESCO and a Member State or group of Member States regarding an institute or centre under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2). Article 9 of the model agreement provides that the government is to provide all the financial and/or in-kind resources required for the administration and proper functioning of the centre. Article 11, contained in Annex III, therefore does not comply with the model agreement (37 C/18 Part I).

32. Given the increasing revenue earned for the services provided by ERAIFT, the promised commitments of its technical and financial partners and the contributions expected from partner countries, it is reasonable to conclude that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be able to mobilize the additional resources required for ERAIFT's financial sustainability.

## **II.7 Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

33. UNESCO does not have any financial obligations or responsibilities with regard to ERAIFT's operations, management and accountancy and is not obliged to provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes, activities or projects.

### III. RELATION TO UNESCO'S OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES

34. Overall, ERAIFT contributes to UNESCO's action in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be formally adopted in September 2015, particularly in the worldwide perspective of the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests and the contribution to the fight against climate change.

35. As one of UNESCO's projects, until 2015, ERAIFT was an integral part of the Organization's programme and budget, both as part of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the Global Priority Africa strategy. ERAIFT relies on biosphere reserves as training sites and for the demonstration of *"learning sites for sustainable development"*.

36. For the 2014-2021 period, ERAIFT is included in Strategic Objective 5 *"Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development"* of the Medium-term Strategy (37 C/4) and in the broad area of *"building institutional capacities for sustainable development and poverty eradication"* of the Operational Strategy for the implementation of Global Priority Africa and its flagship programmes 3 and 4.

37. The current Programme and Budget document 37 C/5 (2014-2017) provides, in Main Lines of Action (MLA) 4 and 5, that UNESCO will foster *"international science collaboration for earth systems, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction"* and strengthen *"the role of ecological sciences and biosphere reserves"*. The relations between human beings and nature in specific ecological zones are explored, particularly thanks to the biosphere reserves, which are favourable to research, applied studies and demonstration activities. It is in exactly that perspective that ERAIFT organizes field work in biosphere reserves.

38. The proposed category 2 centre thus complies with the objectives of the C/4 document and of the current C/5 document. The new Centre will make it possible for ERAIFT to further its contribution to these objectives; to develop an international centre of excellence for training and research on the sustainable management of tropical forests and lands in sub-Saharan Africa; to build the capacities of the managers and decision-makers of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean in this field and to develop South-South cooperation, particularly between the institutions of the countries spanned by the tropical forests of the Amazon basin, the Congo basin and South-East Asia. ERAIFT will also be able to give policy advice in the centre's fields of specialization.

#### III.1 Results expected from UNESCO's contribution

39. Once the proposed category 2 centre has been created, UNESCO will be able to provide technical assistance, as needed and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds to that end, so it can formulate its programmes; UNESCO will also be able to encourage international, governmental and non-governmental scientific and financial institutions, as well as its Member States, to provide the Centre with financial aid and technical assistance; it will strive to promote further collaboration between ERAIFT and other institutions (category 2 centres or otherwise) involved in similar research and training fields; it will facilitate ERAIFT's collaboration with the relevant networks, and in particular the regional and thematic networks of the MAB Programme, as well as with the sites designated by UNESCO, particularly biosphere reserves.

40. Lastly, UNESCO will participate in the scientific, technical and training meetings held by the Centre, as needed and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds to that end.

41. UNESCO will be able to enhance ERAIFT's functioning and development where possible through the scientific and technical support of its regular programmes, particularly the MAB Programme, by encouraging the National Commissions for UNESCO to involve interns, trainees, researchers and professors in the training and research programmes offered by ERAIFT, and, lastly, by participating in ERAIFT's Administrative Council.

42. For its part, ERAIFT will provide a high level of visibility to UNESCO in all of its activities.

#### **IV. RISKS**

43. The risks that UNESCO would incur in the establishment of the category 2 centre would be low due to the official support provided by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the direct connection established between the centre's activities and the Organization's objectives, which are set to continue.

#### **V. PROPOSED DRAFT DECISION**

44. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part VI and its annexes, which give an analytical summary of the feasibility study of the proposal,
2. Recognizing the importance of training senior managers specialized in an interdisciplinary and systemic approach and able to devise and implement policies for the integrated planning, development and management of tropical forests and lands,
3. Welcomes the proposal of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to convert ERAIFT to a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, in compliance with the integrated comprehensive strategy and the guidelines for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO contained in document 37 C/18 Part I approved by the General Conference;
4. Takes note of the divergences between the model agreement for category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and the draft agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UNESCO contained in annex to this document;
5. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment of ERAIFT as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

## ANNEX I

### History and background of ERAIFT

ERAIFT originates from the Declaration of N'Sele, adopted at the end of the Regional Seminar on the Strengthening of Cooperation for the Rational Management of African Tropical Forests held in N'Sele (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo), in March 1991. Among the recommendations of this seminar, organized by UNESCO and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was the *"establishment of a regional institution to train specialists in the management of the tropical forest environment"*.

The N'Sele Declaration was taken into account in the C/5 document adopted at the 29th session of the General Conference in September 1995, which planned its effective implementation as an activity linked to the crosscutting MAB Programme/Priority Africa action line, with a budget of \$20,000 to carry out a feasibility study. Following that study, a budget of US \$150,000 was assigned to the *"Support for the establishment and the functioning of ERAIFT"*. Thanks to these funds, UNESCO was able to mobilize considerable extrabudgetary funding from the UNDP/Democratic Republic of the Congo, reaching an amount of approximately \$1,345,000.

The School would later be named the Regional Post-Graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands, to reflect the fact that ERAIFT is not, strictly speaking, a forestry school, but endeavours to find solutions to the complex problems arising from the interactions between forests and local populations. ERAIFT's original conceptual/systemic approach very quickly established itself as a way to address the relationship between poverty eradication and safeguarding forest resources.

The choice of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as ERAIFT's host country was dictated by both historical and objective reasons, of an ecological and biophysical nature, and especially the size of the forests in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo Basin), which represent 47% of the tropical forest surface in Africa, and means this country ranks among the countries with the greatest tropical forest surface, alongside Brazil (Amazon Basin) and Indonesia (South-East Asia Basin).

ERAIFT's Headquarters, first intended to be set up in Kisangani, were, at the time, temporarily set up in Kinshasa, given the instability in the region surrounding Kisangani, which was cut off from Kinshasa and remained so until 2002.

ERAIFT's regional orientation became clear from the start and was especially obvious, from 1998, after the 10 following countries made official requests to become associate members: Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Chad and Togo.

The Congolese Government's decision to have its State Treasury provide for a higher education institution called "ERAIFT" was taken by the Minister for National Education, by ministerial decree of 1 December 2003. From that date, the costs of part of the local staff and the buildings placed at ERAIFT's disposal were covered by the Congolese Government, which represents a budget of approximately €100,000 per year.



## ANNEX II

### Financial and technical partners

#### ***Financial partners***

European Union  
Central Africa Protected Areas Network (RAPAC)  
WWF Belgium/ Belspo (Belgian scientific policy)  
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)/Jica (Japan)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
Wallonie Bruxelles International (WBI)  
University of Liège Centre for Partnership and Development Cooperation (PACODEL)  
Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCO)  
French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)  
Central African Network of Forest and Environmental Training Institutions (RIFFEAC)  
US Forest Service, (USFS/USAID)  
Royal Museum for Central Africa (MRAC)

#### ***Technical partners***

#### **National partners**

University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN)  
University of Kisangani (UNIKIS)  
Congoese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN)  
Botanical Garden of Kisantu

#### **International partners**

National School for Water and Forests (ENEF), Cap Esterias, Gabon  
Royal Museum for Central Africa (MRAC), Tervuren  
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (IRSNB)  
National Botanic Garden of Belgium (JBNB), Meise  
Central Africa Protected Areas Network (RAPAC)  
Central African Network of Forest and Environmental Training Institutions (RIFFEAC)  
University of Dschang (Cameroon)  
University of Benin  
Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (University of Liège), Belgium  
Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), Belgium  
*Université Libre de Bruxelles* (ULB), Belgium  
University of Para, Belém, Brazil  
Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Jakarta, Indonesia  
International Centre on the use of Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural Heritage, China  
University of Marne la Vallée, France  
University of Laval, Québec, Canada  
African and Malagasy Council on Higher Education (CAMES)  
Central African Forest Observatory (OFAC)  
Central African Satellite Forest Observatory (OSFAC)  
Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)  
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)



## **ANNEX III**

### **PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT THAT DIVERGE FROM THE MODEL AGREEMENT**

#### **ARTICLE 11 – Contribution of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The Government undertakes to:

- Place at ERAIFT's disposal the infrastructure and installations required to house the academic and administrative services;
- Take full responsibility for the maintenance of the premises;
- Place at ERAIFT's disposal the administrative and service personnel necessary to carry out its functions, from the State's budget;
- Cover part of the operational costs and investment budget as consideration for this agreement.





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

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# 197 EX/16 Part VII

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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART VII

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN EL-QANATER, EGYPT, OF A CENTRAL LABORATORY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MONITORING (CLEQM)

##### SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the establishment of the Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring (CLEQM) at El-Qanater Egypt as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and pursuant to the comprehensive and integrated strategy for category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part 1 and attachments), approved by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93), the Bureau of International Hydrological Programme (IHP), at its 50th session, reviewed and endorsed the proposal. Subsequently, at its 21st session, the Intergovernmental Council of IHP approved resolution (XXI-4), endorsing the proposal to the Director-General. On 29 October 2014, the Director-General authorized the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC) to undertake a feasibility study of the proposed centre. An experts fact finding mission visited Egypt (13-19 November 2014), in coordination with the Delegation of Egypt, and with UNESCO Office in Cairo.

This document presents the main findings of the feasibility study mission. A draft agreement was drawn between Egypt and UNESCO in compliance with the model agreement (37 C/18 Part 1) and may be consulted on the Natural Sciences website.

The administrative and financial matters are dealt with in paragraphs 9 and 10.

Action expected from the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 25.

## Introduction

1. On 7 February 2014, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt presented a proposal for the designation of the Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring at El-Qanater, (CLEQM) Egypt, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. In accordance with the Revised Comprehensive and Integrated Strategy for Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part 1 and attachments), approved by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93), the Bureau of IHP, at its 50th session, reviewed and endorsed the proposal for introduction at the 21st session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP. Subsequently, at its 21st session, the Council approved resolution (XXI-4), endorsing the proposal to the Director-General. On 29 October 2014, the Director-General authorized the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC) to undertake a feasibility study of the proposed centre. The ADG/SC convened and dispatched a team of UNESCO experts on a fact finding mission to Egypt (13-19 November 2014), in coordination with the Permanent Delegation of Egypt to UNESCO, and UNESCO Office in Cairo.

2. The deterioration of water quality is quickly emerging as a major challenge to sustainable management of water resources especially in developed countries in Africa and the Arab States. The severity of both point source and diffused water pollution in these regions threatens the safety of drinking water supplies and the adequacy of sanitation facilities, and with it that the safety and wellbeing of countless number of people in both rural and urban areas. Capacity is urgently needed in Africa and the Arab States to provide adequate assessment of the water quality conditions and to establish national and regional monitoring programmes, identify and propose solutions, and raise awareness of these critical challenges.

3. In 1990, the Government of Egypt founded the Centre Environmental Quality Monitoring as a cross-cutting unit within the National Water Research Institute. As an environmental testing and research laboratory, CLEQM has been delivering analyses, policy briefs, research publications, technical and postgraduate training for nearly 25 years. CLEQM provides these services to the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation Egypt as well as to other public and private-sector entities in Egypt and beyond. Recognizing the crucial need for capacity-building in the region, the Government of Egypt decided to propose the designation CLEQM as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

## Summary of the proposal

4. CLEQM as a multi-disciplinary research, training, postgraduate education, and capacity-building centre within the National Water Research Centre of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt. The Centre is responsible for solving environmental problems in the areas of environmental chemistry, microbiology, aquatic toxicology, water quality modeling and risk assessment.

5. The mission of CLEQM is to provide technical knowledge on environmental issues and train technical personnel to help in decision-making related to environmental protection and sustainable use to natural resources as well as to solve environmental problems in the area of environmental chemistry, microbiology, aquatic toxicology, water quality modeling and risk assessment.

6. In addition, CLEQM has established ties to many universities in Egypt and Africa and to more than thirty five national and international research centres and institutes including those in Europe and North America. It is foreseen that CLEQM will develop additional partnerships, especially with the network of water-related category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO. CLEQM is foreseen to be a multi-regional centre focusing on Arab States and Africa.

7. The objectives of the CLEQM are to:
  - (a) Provide technical knowledge on environmental issues and train technical personnel to help in decision-making related to environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources;
  - (b) Solve environmental problems in the area of environmental chemistry, microbiology, aquatic toxicology, water quality modeling and risk assessment.
8. The functions of the centre are to:
  - (a) Provide timely, high-quality, analytical services at the national and regional levels;
  - (b) Assist with the development of water quality protection guidelines and legislations based on specific monitoring tasks for future pollution and control measures;
  - (c) Use all available advanced technologies and risk analysis models to generate and publish basic information, establish database and update it regularly to be used by decision-makers and concerned authorities;
  - (d) Train and upgrade capability of young professionals in the areas of environment and water quality to cope with recent advances at the national, regional and international levels.

### **Legal status and governance**

9. The Government of Egypt will establish a committee to ensure that the centre will have the legal autonomy necessary to exercise of its functions under the laws of Egypt. The centre will have the legal personality allowing it to contract, institute legal proceedings, acquire and dispose of moveable and immovable properties. A governing board will be established to allow the participation of a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO and the participation of representatives of Member States wishing to participate in the Centre. The centre will continue to have access to the facilities of the National Water Research Centre, which is the main research arm of the Ministry is the National Water Research Centre (NWRC). Established in 1975 as Egypt's pioneer institution for various water research activities, NWRC encompasses 12 research institutes and four strategic research units undertake concerted efforts to implement a comprehensive research plan serving ongoing projects and national and regional development plans and partnerships.

### **Financial aspects**

10. CLEQM receives its operational budget from the MWRI through NWRC. However, for services that are not part of the basic operations of the centre, CLEQM has an established cost recovery process (i.e. sample analysis cost recovery). Additional resources may also include cost recovery of engineering consultancy services to government agencies and to the private sector and extrabudgetary resources obtained through competitive proposals.

### **Consideration of the feasibility**

#### **Relationship between the activities of the centre and UNESCO's purposes and strategic programmes priorities of IHP (IHP-VIII)**

11. There are demonstrable programmatic linkages between CLEQM objectives, activities, and the fourth medium-term strategic objective of UNESCO (SO4): "promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development". Also, the proposed geographic scope of the centre (Africa and Arab States) is directly linked to UNESCO's global priority Africa, particularly with respect to the role of scientific research as one of the drivers of transitioning to

knowledge economy. The practices within CLEQM and its host institute are well in alignment with UNESCO's priority on Gender Equality.

12. CLEQM implements a comprehensive world standard compliant environmental quality monitoring programme, including sampling, laboratory analyses, data processing, interpretation and research. The centre reports its findings in scientific publications and advises national policy-makers and other stakeholders on policies and planning matters in the field of water quality and environmental protection. CLEQM activities have the potential for significant contributions to the implementation of the strategic objectives of IHP-VIII, in particular to focal areas (2.4, 3.4, and 3.5) with many other activities related to theme 4.

13. The centre is well engaged in water education at multiple levels (IHP-VIII theme 6). It participates, as an academic research institute, in the education of future water quality scientists and professionals. It also conducts extensive training activities and engages in promoting water education to children and the youth through field trips, demonstrations, and internships for undergraduate students.

#### **Ability of the centre to meet its objectives:**

14. CLEQM is an interdisciplinary environmental testing and research laboratory that has successfully delivered analyses, policy briefs, research publications, and training for nearly 24 years. Founded in 1990, the centre is one of the largest national public environmental testing laboratories combining advanced technology and experienced personnel to accomplish its goals while meeting the most stringent quality standards in the environmental testing industry (ISO Certified). The centre is housed in a modern facility and is well equipped with state-of-the-art analytical laboratories that are operated by a cadre of 124 highly trained academic, professional and technical staff.

#### **Relevance and regional impacts of the centre**

15. Both Africa and the Arab region face challenges with respect to the mechanisms of water quality control and monitoring. The need for technical capacity in these areas remains high in order to better support national and regional water quality monitoring and management policies. There is also a regional need for affordable water quality analysis and standard adhering services, given the high cost of establishing and operating standard compliant facilities and/or utilizing capacities available at developed countries. CLEQM training activities are already making impacts at the regional scale. They have resulted in capacity-building of Egypt, Iraq (2014), South Sudan (2011), and Nile Basin Countries (2010). These training courses covered analytical and applied water quality skills including water quality protection and policy advice formulation.

16. The Centre has established successful regional and international partnerships with major international donor agencies, including: The Global Environment Facility Coordination (GEF) – UNEP, Science for Peace and Security (SPS), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), US Agency for International Development (USAID), CIDA, CALA, EPLab (in Canada), CHIEAM-Bari, APAT, IMELS (Italy), OIEAU, MEED (France), and BMLFU and UBA (in Austria). It collaborates with many Universities in Egypt and Nile Basin Countries.

#### **Complementarities/duplication with existing networks of water-related centres**

17. A recent thematic and regional mapping of water-related centres indicated the need for water-quality dedicated centres in most regions. While some water-related centres undertake water-quality activities, water quality is not the main focus of any of these centres. Therefore, CLEQM, if designated, will be the first category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO whose sole focus is on water quality. It will complement the network of existing centres as it fills a gap

identified by the IHP Secretariat as a priority for new centres without duplicating the efforts and mandate of existing water-related centre.

18. The centre also cooperates with the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones (RCTWS) in Egypt without duplicating or overlapping of mandate given the focus of RCTWS as a training facility that may be complemented by the strong research and academic positioning of CLEQM. The centre will also complement the proposed Water Research Centre at the Kuwait Instituted for Scientific Studies which focuses on the development of water treatment technologies and ground water quality and has global scope. The two centres have expressed strong desire to cooperate in complementary manners.

#### **Areas of cooperation with UNESCO and the results of UNESCO's contributions to the centre**

19. By contributing to building the capacity of professionals and institutions in water quality, the centre has the potential to support regional and national efforts to mainstream water quality issues in water resources management plans. The centre has the potential and desire to make significant contributions to the UNESCO-IHP Knowledge, Research and Policy Initiative on Water Quality.

20. Potential contributions of UNESCO to the centre include the provision of technical advice in the formulation of the short-term, middle-term, and long-term programmes of the centre; the provision of IHP publication and the participation of UNESCO staff in the activities of the centre. These contributions will enhance the centre's capacity to implement of IHP programmes and activities.

#### **Potential financial impacts to UNESCO**

21. There are no financial impacts to UNESCO of the designation of CLEQM as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO on the centre.

#### **Impacts of the Secretariat ability to coordinate the network of centres**

22. Recent actions taken by the secretariat of the IHP has enhanced its capacity to coordinate the expanding network of water-related centres and to engage, regionally and globally with new centres without significant impacts on the coordination of the existing network. The impact of the designation of CLEQM on the capacity to coordinate the network of water-related category 2 centres is minimal.

#### **Summary of the finding**

23. The results of the feasibility study indicate that the designation of CLEQM as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO will allow the centre to make major contributions to building the capacity of Member States in the Arab States region and in Africa in various areas of water quality. By contributing to building the capacity of professionals and institutions in water quality, the centre has the potential to support regional and national efforts to mainstream water quality issues in water resources management plans and the potential and desire to make significant contributions to the UNESCO-IHP Knowledge, Research and Policy Initiative on Water Quality. The centre will complement the existing network of water-related without posing any risk of duplication.

#### **Conclusion**

24. The Director-General welcomes the proposal by the Government of Egypt to designate the Central Laboratories for Environmental Quality Monitoring at El-Qanater, Egypt as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. She recognizes the Government's commitment to continue supporting the facility and activities of the proposed centre and that the designation will result in benefit to Member States.

**Proposed decision:**

25. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 93 and IHP-IC Resolution XXI-4 adopted at the 21st session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme in June 2014,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/ 16 Part VII,
3. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to designate the Central Laboratories for Environmental Quality Monitoring in El-Qanater, Egypt as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the Revised Integrated Comprehensive Strategy and the Guidelines concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) contained in the annex to document 37 C/18 Part I approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;
4. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designate the Central Laboratories for Environmental Quality Monitoring at El-Qanater, Egypt as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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# Executive Board

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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART VIII

#### ESTABLISHMENT AT THE KUWAIT INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF A WATER RESEARCH CENTRE IN KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT

##### SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Government of the State of Kuwait to designate the Water Research Centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and pursuant to the comprehensive and integrated strategy for category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part I and Annex), approved by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93), the Bureau of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), at its fiftieth session, reviewed and endorsed the proposal. Subsequently, at its twenty-first session, the Intergovernmental Council of IHP approved resolution (XXI-4), endorsing the proposal to the Director-General. An experts' fact-finding mission visited Egypt (5-6 July 2015), in coordination with KISR, and with UNESCO Office in Cairo.

This document presents the main findings of the feasibility study mission. A draft agreement was drawn up in compliance with the model agreement (37 C/18 Part 1 and may be consulted on the Natural Sciences web pages.

Deviation from the Model Agreement is explained in the Annex.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 26.

## Introduction

1. On 6 March 2014, the Government of Kuwait submitted a proposal to the Director-General for the designation of the Water Research Centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. In accordance with the Revised Comprehensive and Integrated Strategy for category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part I and attachments), approved by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93), both the Bureau of IHP, at its fiftieth session, and the council of IHP, at its twenty-first session, reviewed and endorsed the proposal (Resolution XXI-40). The Council approved resolution (XXI-4). On 24 May 2015, the Director-General authorized the feasibility study of the proposed centre and dispatched a UNESCO expert on a fact-finding mission to Kuwait (5-6 July 2015).

2. In the water-scarce arid and semi-arid regions, economic development has led to an increased per capita consumption of freshwater heightening the stress on conventional sources of freshwater far beyond their naturally available capacities. Desalination of sea water and brackish groundwater, and wastewater treatment and reuse, have therefore emerged as viable alternatives to meet the increasing freshwater requirements, albeit at a high economic cost in capital and energy. It is expected that by 2025, the combined cost of water and electricity in Kuwait will exceed one third of the GDP with similar levels expected in the other countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Clearly, there is an urgent need for capacity development in theoretical and applied research to increase the efficiency of desalination, enhance the integration of various types of treated water, enhancing demand management and ensuring long-term energy-water sustainability.

3. For over 20 years, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research has been involved in research concerning various aspects of water resources in Kuwait with the aim of developing safer and more cost effective methods for desalination and water treatment. In 2010, the Water Research Centre was formally established as a research centre within the Institute. The main objective of the water research centre is to address water challenges facing water-scarce regions of the world with emphasis on Kuwait and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council through the development of innovative technologies and solutions.

## Summary of the proposal

4. As part of KISR, which is the main research arm of the Government of Kuwait, the Water Research Centre conducts research on behalf of government agencies and public foundations such as the Ministry of Water and Electricity, and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), and private industries, towards the establishment of public-private partnerships on desalination, water treatment and recovery of natural water reserves.

5. Currently, the Centre has five analytical laboratories, three of which are located on the KISR campus (Inorganic, Organic and Microbiology, and Soil) and two off-campus laboratories, all equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. An interdisciplinary team of 50 national and international research scientists conducts research at the centre (13 Ph.D. and 8 Ms.) in fields including chemistry, geology, hydrogeology, hydrology, and engineering. Ties have also been established with universities and laboratories worldwide. Through these ties, the Centre has exchange programmes, memoranda of cooperation, joint research and technology development activities.

## Objectives and functions

6. The main objective of the Water Research Centre is to address water challenges facing Kuwait and shared with other countries especially in water-scarce regions of the world with focus on the development of innovative technologies and solutions relevant to the following four key areas:



- (a) Develop innovative desalination technologies and make substantial breakthroughs in desalination systems' efficiency in terms of footprint, energy, raw materials and environment, addressing the need for new desalination capacity with reduced natural fuel use and substantially improved environmental performance.
- (b) Develop thermal desalination technologies to improve the sustainability and competitiveness of freshwater supply from thermal desalination by radically improving efficiency, economics, and flexibility within cogeneration.
- (c) Develop innovative technologies for wastewater treatment and reclamation focusing on augmenting the overall water availability by improving technologies for wastewater treatment, reclamation, and reuse.
- (d) Propose solutions for natural water resources development and protection as part of providing an integrated approach that develops and protects natural water resources, and sustainably optimize their use and management.

7. The functions of the Water Research Centre are as follows:

- (a) Conduct innovative research and development activities in line with the above referenced programmatic areas defined in its objectives;
- (b) Provide expert advice to policy and decision-makers on water-related issues,
- (c) Conduct knowledge transfer and dissemination through scientific publication, and community outreach;
- (d) Organize and hold scientific seminars, technical workshops, and symposia in relevant areas of competence;
- (e) Participate in joint research and educational activities of higher educational institutions;
- (f) Establish and participate in expert exchange programmes with other centres of excellence, academia, and water-sector industries;
- (g) Establish science/application partnerships aiming for commercialization of research and development output with a view of enhancing the sustainability of research and development endeavour of the centre and highlighting the role of scientific research in water-related issues; and
- (h) As necessary, undertake capacity-building activities in Kuwait and other countries with a focus on targeting the water sector, especially in areas relevant to desalination.

8. The proposal includes a highly detailed and strategic action plan. It is highly likely that the Centre will embark on a major national and international recruitment exercise of highly qualified experts, to expand its research area as it transfers to its state-of-the-art facility. The Government of Kuwait, through KISR, has already established contracts for the acquisition of equipment for both laboratories and for the expansion of the existing laboratories.

### **Legal status and governance**

9. The Water Research Centre was established in 1967 as a unit within KISR to carry out applied scientific research in three fields: petroleum, desert agriculture and marine biology. In 1973, an Amiri Decree reorganized KISR and it became directly responsible, via its Board of Trustees, to the Council of Ministers. An Amiri Decree in 1981 (Law No. 28) formally established KISR as an independent public institution. The law specified that the Institute would be governed

by the Board of Trustees, chaired by a minister chosen by the Council of Ministers with the representatives from stakeholder institutions being present on the board.

10. It is not feasible under the laws of Kuwait, and for the foreseeable future, to fully separate the Water Research Centre from KISR, given the structure of the governance of KISR and its national and regional mandates as defined by Law No. 28. However, a governance structure for the Water Research Centre that allows for the presence of a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO and representatives of Member States and other partners, while at the same time maintains the authority entrusted to the KISR Board of Trustees has been negotiated. The Centre's governing board shall include the members of KISR Board of Trustees who are also representatives of the Water Research Centre stakeholders. This constitutes a deviation from the standard model agreements and is identified in the Annex to the present document.

### **Financial aspects**

11. The Government of Kuwait provides, through KIST, the full operational budget to the Centre. The centre also receives additional resources through service and research contracts with ministries, agencies, and public foundations.

### **Consideration of the feasibility**

#### **Relationship between the activities of the Centre and UNESCO's purposes and strategic programme priorities of IHP (IHP-VIII)**

12. There are demonstrable programmatic linkages between the objectives and activities of the Water Research Centre at KISR, and the fourth medium-term strategic objective of UNESCO (SO4) on: "promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development", especially as it relates to the sustainability of scarce water resources, while at the same time to recovery of the natural aquifer and the development of more efficient and less energy-intensive desalination and water treatment approaches.

13. In addition to its work on water desalination, which is directly linked to theme 3 (Addressing Water Scarcity and Water Quality) of the Eighth Phase of IHP-VIII (2014-2021), the activities of the Centre are also related to theme 2 (Groundwater in a Changing Environment) as it focuses also on groundwater quality protection and the application of aquifer recharge as an adaptation tool to climate change.

14. The Water Research Centre reflects a great deal of national and regional diversity of its staff. Its commitment to international cooperation is demonstrable by the various exchange programmes, memoranda of cooperation, as well as by the many temporary and long-term contracts it establishes with international experts.

### **Ability of the Centre to meet its objectives**

15. The Water Research Centre is an expanding interdisciplinary research facility that is successfully positioning itself at the juncture between advanced technological development and enhanced sustainability of water resources. The Centre is already delivering technical reports, consultations, and advice to the Government of Kuwait and to the private sector. The Centre has the staff, laboratories, action plan, and expansion strategy that would allow it to meet its objectives and carry out its activities.

### **Relevance and regional impact of the Centre**

16. At the regional scale, the Centre's focus on developing technologies suitable for the environmental and climatic conditions of the GCC will assist countries in the region in reducing the energy and environmental costs of non-conventional water resources. At the international scale, it will foster a collaborative environment allowing the international community to benefit from the

modern state-of-the-art facilities and experts. Given the rising use of desalination, which is currently used in 150 countries, the centre's impacts are highly relevant to the sustainable development agenda.

17. The Centre has established strong ties with major regional and international academic institutions (e.g. MIT/USA, University of Aachen in Germany, Loughborough University in the United Kingdom); research laboratories and agencies (e.g. Oak Ridge National Lab in USA, NRC Canada, Max Plank Institute in Germany, Institute of Membrane Technologies in Italy); with relevant technical and stakeholder organizations (e.g. KFAS, ACSAD and IAEA), and with several organizations from the private industry.

### **Complementarities with existing water-related Centres**

18. Should it be designated as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, the proposed Water Research Centre at KISR would be the first and only water-related centre focusing to a large extent on water desalination and technological advances. As such, while some of its technical operations may deal with water quality analysis, it is not likely to duplicate the work of other centres.

19. The Centre proposes to establish cooperation with the network of water-related category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO. This cooperation has been noted in its strategic plan and it covers a wide range of disciplines that are complimentary to the Centre's thematic focus.

### **Areas of cooperation with UNESCO and the results of UNESCO's contributions to the Centre**

20. The development of a knowledge base on desalination technologies within the IHP network will enhance UNESCO's contributions to the better understanding of the water-energy nexus, especially as it relates to water scarcity.

21. Potential contributions of UNESCO to the Centre include incorporating the latter's activities within the activities of IHP and the provision of networking, technical and strategic advice, and enhanced visibility of the Centre's technical contributions to the implementation of IHP programmes and activities. UNESCO also stands to support the Centre in formulating its capacity-building programmes and activities.

### **Potential financial impacts to UNESCO**

22. There are no financial impacts to UNESCO of the designation of the Water Research Centre as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

### **Impacts of the Secretariat's ability to coordinate the network of centres**

23. Recent actions taken by the Secretariat of the IHP have enhanced its capacity to coordinate the expanding network of water-related centres and to engage, regionally and globally with new centres without significant impacts on the coordination of the existing network. The impact of the designation of the Water Research Centre on the capacity to coordinate the network of water-related category 2 centres is minimal.

### **Summary of the findings**

24. The results of the feasibility study indicate that the designation of the Water Research Centre at KISR as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO will allow the Centre to make major contributions to building the capacity of Member States at the regional and the global scale to address critical water scarcity challenges through the development and dissemination of knowledge on more efficient water desalination technologies. The Centre's strategic plan, which also includes a clear vision of public-private partnerships on technological development in water

resources, will extend the impact of UNESCO to a wider segment of communities. The Centre has the potential to support regional and global efforts to establish economically viable and sustainable means for non-conventional water resources and to facilitate the emergence of a new water resources management paradigm that accounts for non-conventional resources in manners consistent with the real challenges facing arid and semi-arid regions of the world. The Government of Kuwait has the desire and commitment to the operation of the Centre and to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the IHP. The Centre will complement the existing network of water-related centres without posing any risk of duplication.

## Conclusion

25. The Director-General welcomes the proposal by the Government of the State of Kuwait to designate the Water Research Centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. She recognizes the Government's commitment to continue supporting the facility and activities of the proposed centre and that the designation will benefit Member States. The Director-General wishes to inform the Executive Board of the deviations between the model agreement for category 2 institutes/centres under the auspices of UNESCO and some of the provisions of the draft agreement with the Government of Kuwait drawn concerning the designation of the proposed centre. These deviations are presented in the Annex.

## Proposed decision

26. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 93 and IHP-IC Resolution XXI-4 adopted at the twenty-first session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme in June 2014,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part VIII, and its Annex,
3. Taking note of the deviations between the provisions of the model agreement and those of the proposed draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Kuwait as presented in the Annex,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of the State of Kuwait to designate the Water Research Centre, at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, in Kuwait City, Kuwait, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, which is generally in line with the revised integrated comprehensive strategy and the guidelines concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) contained in the annex to document 37 C/18 and approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93, except for the deviations indicated in the Annex to document 197 EX/16 Part VIII;
5. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designation of the Water Research Centre, at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in Kuwait City, Kuwait, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.

## ANNEX

### DEVIATIONS FROM THE MODEL AGREEMENT

The following articles deviate from the model agreement established in 37 C/18 Part I and Annex.

#### **Article 4 – (Legal Status) Paragraph 2 stating:**

2. The Centre will be part of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), which is an autonomous institution of the Council of Ministers of the State of Kuwait, through which it will have the legal capacity to:

- contract;
- institute legal proceedings; and,
- acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

#### **Explanation**

KISR is the host institute of the Water Research Centre. Its mandate, administrative laws, and governance have been decreed by an Amiri Decree (Law xxx), which established KISR as an independent public institution of the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers appoints the Chairperson (who shall be one of the ministers) and the members of the Board of Trustees. The Prime Minister appoints the Director-General of KISR. The heads of units and centres are deputies to the Director-General. The Minister of Higher Education (also the Minister of Education) is currently the Chair of the Board of Trustees and as such, represents KISR in the parliament and in signing State-level agreements. The budget of KISR comes directly from the Finance Ministry with line items delineating the budget for each of its centres and units. The budget of the Centre is independent from the budget of the Ministry of Education and of the Ministry of Higher Education. A centralized financial management unit and procurement unit exists and provides support to all units and centres.

Given the above, separating the Water Research Centre from KISR is not feasible under the existing laws of the State of Kuwait. Establishing full autonomy of the Centre requires changes in several laws including those governing state employment. Maintaining links to KISR will not impact the Centre's capacity to implement its activities, but it will ensure its sustainability.

#### **Article 7 – Governing Board, paragraph 2.e (Responsibilities of the Governing Board)**

2. The Governing Board shall:

- (e) adopt the rules and regulations, as well as determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country and the internal rules and procedures of KISR.

#### **Explanation**

With the Water Research Centre remaining part of KISR, it shall comply with the rules and regulations of the host institute. The Governing Board shall monitor and ensure this compliance.



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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART IX

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN ABBOTTABAD, PAKISTAN, OF A REGIONAL WATER RESEARCH CENTRE ON HYDROLOGY OF HEADWATER CATCHMENTS

##### SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Regional Water Research Centre on Hydrology of Headwater Catchments at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology in Abbottabad, Pakistan, as a UNESCO category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, a technical mission was undertaken in July 2015 to assess its feasibility. The evaluation of the proposal to establish a Centre was carried out in conformity with the criteria outlined in [37 C/Resolution 93](#) concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, and the guidance note for applying the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres contained in the Annex of document 37 C/18 Part I.

This document has been prepared pursuant to the mission. It reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Centre, and provides the rationale for Pakistan's proposal. In accordance with the model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I, the draft agreement on this Centre has been drawn up between Pakistan and UNESCO, and may be consulted on the website of the Natural Sciences Sector.

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraph 14.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 17.

## BACKGROUND

1. Pakistan's economy is highly based on agricultural activities with more than 60% of country's population living in rural areas, directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Despite this significance of agriculture in the country, Pakistan, located in an arid to semi-arid area, has little rainfall which is not enough to manage it. Responding to this need, Tarbela dam was constructed on the Indus River, and the dam is the first controlling storage on the River Indus, as water supplies for irrigated lands at downstream. Most of the year, influx of upper Indus River from Tarbela dam is derived from the headwater catchments in Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya (HKH) ranges. To date, the Indus Basin depends heavily on the glaciers of the western Himalayas which function as a reservoir, capturing snow and rain, holding the water and releasing it into the rivers which feed the plain.

2. Rapidly changing demographics and climatic conditions are seriously disturbing the natural eco-hydro system in the upper Indus Basin. It is now clear that climate change is already affecting snow and glaciers in a dramatic fashion. As the glacial reservoirs are reduced, there will be likely to be significant decreases in river flows, conceivably by a terrifying 30% to 40% in the Indus Basin in one hundred years. Sustainability of the Pakistan's economy and food security is dependent on water resources of snow and glaciers of HKH region and the water management in downstream area. Any change in these available water resources from climate variability, socio-economic factors or international policies will have a serious impact on food security and the environment in Pakistan. Nevertheless, there are limited institutes within Pakistan which are conducting specialized water research.

3. Against this background, the Government of Pakistan is proposing to establish a Regional Water Research Centre on the hydrology of Headwater Catchments at Abbottabad as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, with the aim of undertaking research on water resources, promoting capacity building.

4. The proposal aims to strengthen the Centre's current activities and transform it into a regional hub of expertise in various aspects of the water research and activities in capacity building for water communities in South Asia.

5. In compliance with [37 C/Resolution 93](#) on the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO, a study visit to prepare the feasibility study for establishment of this Centre was conducted from 6 to 10 July 2015. It comprised visits to various centres and meetings with a number of experts and specialists connected with regional water researches in Pakistan.

6. This document outlines and analyses the background, scope, feasibility and foreseeable implications of the creation of the proposed Centre, especially with regard to benefits to Member States in the Asia and the Pacific and the Centre's relevance to UNESCO's programmes.

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL

7. Objectives: The Centre aims to conduct research and provide policy advice on headwater catchments situated in the high altitude mountainous regions of South Asia. It will also contribute to capacity-building in water resources management for national institutes of the region.

8. Functions: The Centre will achieve these objectives through research, networking and policy advice by dealing with experimental and applied hydrology of the headwater catchments linked with UNESCO medium term strategies especially IHP-VIII. It will develop a knowledge platform of

innovations and best practices in integrated headwater catchment management to preserve water quantity and quality functions through international research collaboration, joint degree programmes and organization of networking events.

9. Legal status and structure: The Pakistan Government has agreed to take all necessary measures, including revision of the current laws and regulations governing the Centre, which may be required for the establishment of this Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The Centre will enjoy the personality and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions as a public institution established under national legislation. Under the authority of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the centre will have autonomy to create and implement its own programmes and activities. The Centre shall function under the auspices of UNESCO but will be independent of it. In addition, UNESCO will not be legally responsible for the Centre, nor bear any responsibilities or liabilities of any kind, be they managerial, financial or otherwise.

10. Its structure will involve:

- (i) Governing Board: a body in charge of guiding, supervising, screening, evaluating and monitoring the Centre's financial and thematic activities as well as matters of policy, direction and priorities. The activities of the Centre will be planned and supervised by the Governing Board. It will be a body with adequate representation of key stakeholders, including the Government of Pakistan, CIIT, UNESCO, Member States and relevant regional research institutes and universities.
- (ii) Scientific and Technical Board: a body in charge of guiding and supervising the implementation, reviewing and monitoring of the Centre's scientific and technical activities. The Scientific and Technical Board comprises the UNESCO's network linked with the IHP.
- (iii) Secretariat: a body in charge of running the operations of the Centre.

11. Financial matters: The Government of Pakistan, CIIT and/or partner organizations will cover the costs of the facilities of the Centre, including equipment, utilities, communications, secretariat staff and maintenance of infrastructure, mission costs arising from two Member States and UNESCO's membership on the Governing Board of the Centre, and costs for evaluations related to the process of renewal of agreements.

12. Areas of cooperation with UNESCO: The Centre will support UNESCO in its effort to accelerate progress in IHP Phase VIII, as the Centre will provide assistance to international and local agencies in researching and promoting water issues in Pakistan. The Centre will serve as a regional hub for enhancing expertise on water research in Pakistan and contribute to UNESCO's work in advancing the global water agenda especially in South Asia. UNESCO may provide as appropriate technical support required for the enhanced capacity and sustainability of the Centre in view of its new mandate to function as a regional hub of water research, and may assist the Centre by establishing linkages with other institutions and agencies and include the Centre in various water research initiatives of the Organization.

## **REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF THE CENTRE**

13. The Centre will strive for regional impact by assisting countries of the South Asia in their headwater catchments research efforts by conducting relevant research, designing relevant programmes, creating platforms for mutual learning, providing impetus to innovative ideas and transfer of experience, knowledge and promising practices in water researches and capacity building in water resources management.



## FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

14. In accordance with [37 C/Resolution 93](#), UNESCO shall not provide financial support for administrative or programmatic costs. Future foreseen administrative costs for UNESCO linked to operation of the Centre, if established as a category 2 centre, will be related to liaising with the Centre to provide technical assistance, as needed, and enabling coordination between networks of related institutions and agencies.

## CONCLUSION

15. Supporting Member States in the South Asia in their development of headwater catchments research, and in the implementation of water resources management education and capacity building programmes is critical for attaining the IHP-VIII goals as well as achieving UNESCO's vision of achieving water security. The proposal for the establishment of a regional water research centre at the CIIT in Pakistan as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO satisfactorily meets the principles as outlined in document 37 C/18 Part I.

16. A draft agreement, prepared through consultations between UNESCO and the Government of Pakistan, provides more specific details about the legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Centre. The draft agreement can be found on the Natural Sciences website.

## PROPOSED DECISION

17. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres, under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in [37 C/Resolution 93](#), and taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
2. Emphasizing the importance of research on all aspect of the water resources,
3. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Pakistan;
4. Having examined document IHP/IC-XXI/3 and IHP Resolution XXI-4 concerning the proposal for the establishment in Pakistan of a Regional Water Research Centre at the CIIT as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
5. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study;
6. Recognizing that the proposed centre meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by the General Conference of UNESCO in 37 C/Resolution 93;
6. Recommends that the General Conference at its 38th session approve the establishment in Abbottabad, Pakistan, of the Regional Centre Regional Water Research Centre on Hydrology of Headwater Catchments at the CIIT, and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding draft agreement.



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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART X

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN, OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

##### SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Government of Pakistan to establish an International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) under the auspices of UNESCO in Karachi, Pakistan, a UNESCO mission was undertaken in June 2015 as a part of the proposed Centre's feasibility study. The ICCBS would specialize in, and lend support to, international cooperation in the fields of chemical and biological sciences.

This document contains the main findings of the feasibility study for the proposed Centre. The evaluation of the Centre was done in conformity with the revised Comprehensive Integrated Strategy (document 37 C/18 Part I), approved by the General Conference at its 37th session.

The document includes, in the Annex, the provisions of the proposed draft agreement between the Government of Pakistan and UNESCO, which deviate from the model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I.

The financial and administrative implementations are covered in paragraphs 4 to 7.

Expected actions from the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 20.

## Introduction

1. In October 2014, by letter addressed to UNESCO Director-General, the Government of Pakistan, through the Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to UNESCO, had proposed the designation of UNESCO category 2 centre status to the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) in Karachi, Pakistan. The letter indicated that the Centre is one of the developing world's finest research and training centres at the interface between chemical and biological sciences, conducting cutting-edge interdisciplinary research for the discovery of important chemical compounds such as antioxidants from plants, as well as exploring innovative methodologies for the synthesis of novel agents and proteins used in drug discovery and biotechnology. It has amassed around 200 scientific patents to date. In addition, the ICCBS organizes major international conferences, symposia and workshops for participants from Pakistan and abroad on topics ranging from natural products, molecular medicine, spectroscopy, nanotechnology and computational medicinal chemistry.

2. Located in the premises of the University of Karachi, ICCBS is a large centre, which covers more than 200 acres, comprising of 12 research laboratory complexes that contain some of the Pakistan's most sophisticated laboratory equipment. The Centre also has a powerhouse, greenhouses, animal house facility, auditorium and a residential campus with 50 houses, five apartment buildings and an international guesthouse. The foundation of ICCBS was brought about by generous private donations from both the Husein Ebrahim Jamal (HEJ) Foundation, which built the Husein Ebrahim Jamal Research Institute of Chemistry (HEJRIC) in 1976, and the Dr Panjwani Memorial Trust, which built the Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMD) in 2002. These two Institutes and their 12 associated research laboratories constitute the ICCBS. ICCBS's core mandate is the production of scientifically excellent researchers from the Asia and Africa regions. Over the past 47 years, more than 700 students have earned Doctorate degrees and around 1,000 have earned Master's degrees.

3. The programme specialist from UNESCO Headquarters undertook a mission to ICCBS facilities in June 2015 to assess the feasibility of this Centre. Subsequently the Natural Sciences Sector deemed the feasibility study to have been positive.

## Consideration of the feasibility of the proposed category 2 status under the auspices of UNESCO

### Structure and legal status

4. The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.

5. The University of Karachi through the Syndicate established the Centre as a constituent institution with separate Executive Board. The syndicate of the University of Karachi delegated to the Centre administrative and legal powers for exercise its functions as required for UNESCO category 2 centres; in particular the capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. The University of Karachi is responsible for awarding degrees for the students of the Centre.

### Governance

6. The Centre will have a Governing Board and a Secretariat.

- (a) The Governing Board: shall be responsible for adopting the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country. The members of the Governing Board will comprise a representative of the Government of Pakistan, a representative of UNESCO Director-General, representatives of Member States that have sent a notification of membership to the Centre, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of

Karachi, the Patron-in-Chief of the Centre, the Director of the Centre and one representative of each of the two Centre's sponsors.

The set-up and attributes follow the guidelines specified at the General Conference at its 37th session (37C/18 Part I) pursuant to 37 C/Resolution 93.

- (b) The Secretariat: shall be responsible for implementing the Strategy and Annual Plan that will be approved by the Governing Board, as well as for preparing annual reports and for the operation of the Centre. The Secretariat will be headed by the Director, the appointment of whom shall be decided by the Governing Board, in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO.

## **Financial matters**

7. The Government of Pakistan has agreed to provide all the resources, financial or in-kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre. In view of this, the Government of Pakistan, through the country's federal Higher Education Commission (HEC), shall provide an annual core budget, which presently is US \$8 million. It shall be increased annually to cover salaries, research, and facilities costs, including equipment, utilities, communications, maintenance of infrastructure and the Governing Board meetings session costs. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the Centre and is not obliged to provide financial support for administrative and institutional purposes, activities or projects.

## **8. Objectives**

- To provide high-quality research-based education and training at the interface between the chemical and biological sciences.
- To provide high-quality advisory services on science, technology and innovation to regional institutes of high learning in Asia and Africa.
- To develop linkages, through collaborative research programmes in the areas of chemical and biological sciences within the Asia region and internationally.
- To provide world-class and internationally accepted analytical services to major industries in Pakistan and Asia region.

## **Functions**

9. The Centre runs a large doctoral programme producing over 60 PhDs every year with world-class training in the relevant fields of chemical, pharmaceutical, industrial and biochemical sciences.

- The Centre has world-class industrial analytical centres, including a bioequivalence centre and clinical research unit, recognized for their quality and credibility.
- The biotechnology division of the Centre has developed several tissue-cultured varieties of orchids, bananas and other important crops. Many of these varieties have already been commercialized and progressive farmers are benefiting from these innovations.
- The Centre has trained thousands of young graduates in various skills, such as horticulture, tissue culture, pharmaceutical services, diagnostic services, and food and pharmaceutical analysis, thus helping in generating employable skills in the country.

## **Regional and international impact of the Centre**

10. The report took into consideration the fact that ICCBS has amassed cooperation with numerous institutes across the world. To note is the fact that ICCBS has been designated as centre of excellence by many international highly reputed agencies including: Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). It is also the World Health Organization Regional Centre for Pesticide Analysis for Eastern Mediterranean Region. In addition, the ICCBS has twice won the Islamic Development Bank's (IDB) Prize for best Science and Technology Institution in 2004 and 2010.

11. Further, Professor Atta-ur-Rahman, Pakistan's former Minister of Science and Technology and former Chair of HEC, currently serves as ICCBS "Patron-in-chief" and is a member of its executive board, providing strategic guidance and vision for the Centre's broad-ranging goals. Professor Atta-ur-Rahman was a UNESCO Science award recipient in 1999 and a member of the High Panel on Science for Development that advised UNESCO in 2011 on its sciences programmes.

## **Role of the Centre in the implementation of the Organization's programmes**

12. The mission and objectives of the Centre are in line with UNESCO's 37 C/5 priorities in the basic sciences: Main Line of Action 2 Building institutional capacities in science and engineering; and Expected Result 2 Capacity-building in research and education in the natural sciences enhanced, including through the use of ICTs. It is also in line with UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4) Strategic Objective 4: Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally and Strategic Objective 5: Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development.

13. The activities of the Centre recently contributed to UNESCO IBSP's activities in organizing the Regional Asian Summit for Crystallography, as part of the International Year of Crystallography 2014 programmes where, for the first time, a joint MoU was signed between China, India and Pakistan on strengthening crystallographic sciences and mobility of scientists in these three countries. ICCBS has also led the signing of a cooperation agreement between India's and Pakistan's Academies of Sciences on promotion of scientific research between the two countries. These activities are indicators of peace-building and science diplomacy initiatives.

14. ICCBS hosts a hub of free online courses for university level, including iMOOCs and interactive lectures through webinars.

15. Over the last ten years, ICCBS has hosted a large number of promising African women researchers, providing them world-class research facilities. The ICCBS has recently proposed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Pakistan) to initiate a substantial scholarship programme for women scientists of sub-Saharan African countries.

16. ICCBS has indicated its willingness to host UNESCO IBSP statutory meetings and has proposed to organize a meeting for UNESCO category 2 centres networks in the basic sciences.

## **Potential impact of UNESCO on the Centre's activities**

17. UNESCO may provide organizational expertise to catalyse the establishment of regional research programmes in the Centre. If category 2 status is granted, ICCBS could also be foreseen as a centre which could develop synergistic linkages conducive to peace-building, with another established UNESCO category 2 centre, on regional biotechnology research, education and training in New Delhi.

## **Conclusion**

18. The annexed provision of deviations (Annex) address the legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Centre, taking into account the draft model agreement

contained in document 37 C/18 Part I, and applicable law and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Given the institutional set-up in which the category 2 centre would be established, the proposed draft agreement differs in some respects from the model agreement. The following deviation is proposed in light of paragraph A.1.7 of the integrated comprehensive strategy with respect to the agreement:

- According to document 37 C/18 Part I, category 2 centres must have the autonomy necessary for the execution of their activities and the legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings and to acquire and dispose of moveable and immovable property. The proposed agreement, in Article 5, indicates that the ICCBS is an entity within the University of Karachi. As such, the ICCBS has the legal status and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with the law of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and, in particular, the capacities to contract and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property through the University of Karachi. This arrangement does not provide the degree of autonomy required in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (namely its own legal personality). However it provides the necessary operational capabilities within the existing legal and institutional setup of the host organization.

19. Therefore, the Director-General welcomes, notwithstanding the deviations explained in the preceding paragraph, the proposed establishment of ICCBS as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. She recognizes that the government authorities are able to provide to the proposed Centre the required facilities for conducting research and training. Similarly, the Centre will result in important benefits to Member States.

### **Proposed decision**

20. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/18 Part I) pursuant to 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part X, which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to establish the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Pakistan, to establish in its territory an International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the present feasibility study;
5. Further takes note of the deviation between the draft agreement with the Government of Pakistan and the model agreement for category 2 centres and institutes contained in document 37 C/18 Part I;
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Karachi, Pakistan, of the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Pakistan.

## **ANNEX**

### **PROVISIONS DEVIATION FROM THE MODEL AGREEMENT**

#### **Article 5 – Legal status**

1. The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.
2. The Centre, will exist under the framework of the University of Karachi and shall enjoy in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity: to contract; to institute legal proceedings; to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property, through the University of Karachi.

(...)

Articles 1-4 and 6-20 are standard Agreement articles....



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

# 197 EX/16 Part XI

PARIS, 1 September 2015  
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Item 16 of the provisional agenda

## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XI

#### **ESTABLISHMENT IN TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHED AND BIO-RESOURCES IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID REGIONS**

##### **SUMMARY**

Following a proposal by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the establishment of an International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a technical mission was undertaken in June 2015 to assess its feasibility. The evaluation of the proposal to establish a Centre was carried out in conformity with the criteria outlined in [35 C/Resolution 103](#) concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, and the guidance note for applying the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres contained in the Annex to document [190 EX/18](#) Part I.

This document has been prepared pursuant to the mission. It reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Centre, and provides the rationale for Iran's proposal. In accordance with the model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I, the draft agreement on this Centre has been drawn up between Iran and UNESCO, and may be consulted on the website of the Natural Sciences Sector. The financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraph 14.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 17.



## BACKGROUND

1. As a country located in an arid and semi-arid region, the Islamic Republic of Iran possesses hundreds of sub- and micro-watersheds. With diverse landscape, climate and temperatures, the country has the rich and diverse experiences in watershed and bio-resources, including adapting to difficult climatic conditions, sustainable use of soil and water resources, indigenous knowledge of precipitation storage and conservation, groundwater harvesting, the historic hydraulic structures over centuries and agricultural development on slope areas.
2. Based on the implementation and experience of such wide-ranging watershed management activities, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is proposing to establish its international Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions, as a category 2 centre placed under the auspices of UNESCO in Tehran, and also as a platform that accommodates watershed management and bio-resources issues in the region.
3. The proposed centre is mandated to transfer applicable scientific knowledge and develop and share know-how and capacities in climate change impacts on watershed basins, including mitigation and adaptation, eco-hydrology for bio-resources management in watersheds with emphasis on integrated management, water-related disaster and hydrological change, ground water in changing environment, water scarcity and water and human settlements of the future, in order to promote sustainable development of bio resources and enhance human welfare.
4. In compliance with [37 C/Resolution 93](#) concerning the revision of the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres, a study visit to prepare the feasibility study for establishment of this Centre was conducted from 16 to 18 June 2015. This comprised visits to various centres and meetings with various experts and specialists connected with regional water researches in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
5. This document outlines and analyses the background, scope, feasibility and foreseeable implications of the creation of the proposed Centre, especially with regard to benefits to Member States and the Centre's relevance to UNESCO's programmes.

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL

6. **Objectives:** The Centre aims to build an international and regional platform for research and training. The centre aims to pursue the proposed research objectives:
  - generate knowledge and scientific information on eco-hydrology for bio-resources management in watersheds;
  - undertake in-service training in all aspects of watershed management;
  - improve data collection and analysis for watershed management;
  - broaden the knowledge base and research with respect to bio-resources management in watershed basins;
  - build on and improve institutional frameworks for watershed management;
  - develop area-specific adaptation strategies;
  - undertake effective capacity-building activities at institutional and professional levels;
  - target actions that best address both livelihoods and natural resource conservation objectives in Asia and internationally;

- improve watershed integration of land and water resources;
- enhance cooperation with international institutions, in order to advance knowledge in the field of watershed management.

7. **Functions:** The Centre will achieve these objectives through generating a structured body of knowledge in key areas of the scientific research and, to this end, will organize its activities under three major themes: (i) integrated watershed management, (ii) climate change mitigation and adaptation and (iii) ecohydrology for bio resources management.

8. **Legal status and structure:** The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed to take all necessary measures, including revision of the current laws and regulations governing the International Centre that may be required for establishment of Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The Centre will enjoy the personality and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions as a public institution established under national legislation. Under the authority of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Centre will have autonomy to create and implement its own programmes and activities. The Centre shall function under the auspices of UNESCO but will be independent of it. In addition, UNESCO will not be legally responsible for the Centre, nor bear any responsibilities or liabilities of any kind, be they managerial, financial or otherwise.

9. Its structure will involve:

- (i) **Governing Board:** the body in charge of guiding, supervising, evaluating and monitoring the Centre's financial and thematic activities as well as matters of policy, direction and priorities. The activities of the Centre will be planned and supervised by the Governing Board. This will be a body with adequate representation of key stakeholders from Asia and Africa, including directors of other category 2 centres and relevant partner institutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- (ii) **Scientific Board:** the body in charge of guiding and supervising the implementation, reviewing and monitoring of the Centre's scientific activities. The Scientific Board comprises the UNESCO's networks linked with the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).
- (iii) **Secretariat:** the body in charge of running the operations of the Centre.

10. **Financial matters:** The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will cover the costs of the facilities of the Centre, including equipment, utilities, communications, secretariat staff and maintenance of infrastructure, mission costs arising from UNESCO membership on the Governing Board of the Centre, and costs for evaluations related to the process of renewal of agreements. In the case of additional training, particularly for short courses, costs will be covered by partner organizations.

11. **Areas of cooperation with UNESCO:** The Centre will support UNESCO in its efforts to accelerate progress in IHP Phase VIII, as the Centre will provide assistance to international and local agencies in fulfilling the UNESCO's strategic programme objectives of IHP-VIII. The Centre will serve as an international platform for enhancing expertise on watershed and bio-resources in arid and semi-arid regions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and contribute to UNESCO's work towards promoting water security in the world.

12. UNESCO will provide technical support required for the enhanced capacity and sustainability of the Centre in view of its mandate to function as an international and regional hub of water research, and will assist the Centre by establishing linkages with other institutions and agencies. Activities will draw on existing collaborations and research projects with local and international

donors and institutions, making use of international experience, as well as tailoring this to the regional needs.

## REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF THE CENTRE

13. The Centre will gain wide experience in the development of research, education and capacity-building programmes on watershed and bio-resources in arid and semi-arid regions in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Centre will strive for regional and international impact by assisting the Member States in their watershed and bio-resources research efforts by conducting relevant studies by designing relevant programmes as well as by creating platforms for mutual learning, providing impetus to innovative ideas and transfer of experience and knowledge.

## FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

14. In accordance with [37 C/Resolution 93](#), UNESCO shall not provide financial support for administrative or programmatic costs. Future foreseen administrative costs for UNESCO linked to the operation of the Centre, if established as a category 2 centre, will be related to liaising with the Centre to provide technical assistance, as needed, and enabling coordination between networks of related institutions and agencies.

## CONCLUSION

15. Supporting the Member States in their development of watershed bio-resources research and in the implementation of its education and capacity-building programmes is critical for attaining the IHP-VIII goal of achieving water security. The proposal for the establishment of an International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions in the Islamic Republic of Iran as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO satisfactorily meets the principles as outlined in 35 C/Resolution 103.

16. A draft agreement prepared through consultations between UNESCO and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, provides more specific details about the legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Centre.

## PROPOSED DECISION

17. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to take the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking note of the important contributions of category 2 institutes and centres to UNESCO's programme priorities and their potential international or regional impact,
3. Recognizing the importance of research on every aspect of the water resources,
4. Having examined document IHP/IC-XXI/3 containing IHP Resolution XXI-4 for the establishment in Iran of an International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-resources in Arid and Semi-arid Regions as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,

5. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
6. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study;
7. Deems the considerations and proposals contained in document 197 EX/16 Part XI to be such as meet the requirements needed for UNESCO to grant its auspices to the regional centre;
8. Recommends that the General Conference at its 38th session approve the establishment in the Islamic Republic of Iran of the International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-resources in Arid and Semi-arid Regions, and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding draft agreement.



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## Part XII

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### CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

#### PART XII

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN CHIANG MAI, THAILAND, OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN ASTRONOMY

##### SUMMARY

Following a proposal by the Government of Thailand to establish an International Training Centre in Astronomy under the auspices of UNESCO in Chiang Mai, Thailand, a UNESCO mission was undertaken in January 2014 as a part of the evaluation of the feasibility of establishing the proposed Centre, which would specialize in and lend support to international cooperation in the field of astronomy and space education.

This document contains the main findings of the feasibility study for the proposed Centre. A draft agreement has been drawn up in compliance with the standard model agreement approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93) (document 37 C/18, Part I). The evaluation of the Centre was done in conformity with the Comprehensive Integrated Strategy documents 37 C/18 approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93).

Administrative and financial implications are dealt with in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 23.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Royal Thai Government has proposed the establishment of an International Training Centre in Astronomy in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. In December 2012, the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) formally requested the Director-General through the Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand to UNESCO that UNESCO carry out a feasibility study for the creation of a category 2 centre at the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand. The research institute will act as a knowledge transfer hub for young researchers, school teachers and students from South-east Asia, Africa and Latin America.

2. Astronomy has come a long way in the past 100 years, with revelations from Einstein, Bohr, Hubble and other great astronomers, physicists, and scientists. While certainly some of the greatest discoveries in astronomy of all time include the discovery of the other planets of the solar system, the Earth's orbit, the mathematical calculations for planetary orbits by Kepler through to the universal gravitation by Newton, more discoveries have been made in the twenty-first century astronomy than ever before, which reveals to us just how enigmatic our universe truly is. Recognizing the importance of astronomy, the United Nations had declared the year 2009 as International Year of Astronomy and UNESCO as a lead agency.

3. The National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) has been selected to coordinate the International Astronomical Union (IAU) astronomy-for-development activities in the South-east Asian region. "South East Asia has always been a fine example of regional cooperation in the field of astronomy and groups such as the South East Asian Astronomy Network and the South East Asian Young Astronomers collaboration show how the astronomy field can be developed more effectively as a region. The National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) has played a particularly important role in terms of their leadership as well in terms of research and human capital development." In December 2012 the Royal Thai Government proposed to UNESCO its commitment to start an International Training Centre in Astronomy. UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector, after having several internal consultations committed to support the proposal, had proposed a feasibility study by UNESCO. The Programme Specialist at UNESCO Bangkok conducted a mission to the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) facilities in Chiang Mai and other related institutions in Bangkok during September-October 2013 and January 2014 to assess the feasibility of this Centre.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

### Overview of the proposal

4. Astronomy combines science and technology with inspiration and excitement. It plays a unique role in facilitating education, capacity-building and in furthering sustainable development throughout the world. Inspirational, challenging and interdisciplinary in nature, astronomy provides an exciting gateway into physics, chemistry, biology, geology and mathematics. The need to study the faintest celestial objects has driven advanced developments in electronics, optics and information technology. The quest to explore the universe satisfies the deepest cultural and philosophical yearnings of our species and can stimulate a sense of global citizenship. Stimulating astronomy education and development throughout the world is one of the most important missions of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). The UN-proclaimed IAU-UNESCO International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) was an opportune time to review the educational strategy and develop a long-term educational plan that will focus on using astronomy to stimulate capacity-building and further sustainable global development.

5. **Structure and legal status:** The Centre shall be founded in accordance with laws and regulations of Thailand. The Centre shall be established in the territory of Thailand, and the legal status and legal capacity necessary for exercising its functions, in particular the following legal capacity: to contract, to institute legal proceedings and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

6. **Governance:** The Centre will have a Governing Board and a Secretariat.

- (a) **A Governing Board:** responsible for approving the Strategic and Annual Plan of the Centre, as well as providing guidance and supervision in the operation of the Centre. The members of the Governing Board are subject to change every six years, and will include: one representative from the Executive Board of the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT), who will serve as the Chairperson of the Board; one representative of UNESCO and six international renowned experts and scholars representing all the regions of UNESCO.

The set-up and attributes follow the guidelines specified at the General Conference at its 37th session (document 37 C/18).

- (b) **The Secretariat:** The Secretariat of the Centre shall be responsible for implementing the Strategic and Annual Plan that will be approved by the Board of Governors, as well as preparing annual reports. The Secretariat will be headed by a Director, responsible for the operation of the Centre, the appointment of whom shall be made by the Chairperson of the Governing Board, in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO.

7. **Financial matters:** The Royal Thai Government has agreed to provide all the resources, financial or in-kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre. In view of this, the Royal Thai Government has agreed to provide approximately 30 million Thai Baht (THB) per year for facilities and salary costs, including equipment, utilities, communications, maintenance of infrastructure and salaries for secretariat staff. The Centre's activities, such as the session of the Governing Board and scientific research projects, shall be funded from the following sources: the budget of the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT); payments made for research/consultancy projects by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Royal Thai Government and contributions made by other institutions participating in the activities of the Centre.

8. **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO:** UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the Centre and shall not provide financial support for administrative or institutional purposes, activities or projects.

**Objectives and functions:**

9. (a) **Objectives**

- (i) Strengthening research and enhancing the standard of astronomy development in the global community,
- (ii) Capacity-building skills developed for new researchers,
- (iii) Proper learning and training environments for students as a preparation for studies in higher levels,
- (iv) Dissemination of knowledge to schoolteachers and students through training programme and astronomical observations,
- (v) Development of appropriate curriculums to suit the needs of the centre.

(b) **Functions**

- (i) Capacity-building at school/university-level students, encourage graduates pursuing doctoral studies in astronomy and astrophysics, train teachers in tailored-made course to popularize astronomy and related sciences,

- (ii) Knowledge transfer/Sharing teachers from South-east Asia, Africa, South America will be trained at the international Centre,
- (iii) South-East Asian Astronomy Network to strengthen collaboration in research work and astronomy education in the region with special focus on radio astronomy; optical astronomy; theoretical astrophysics and cosmology and cosmic rays and solar physics,
- (iv) International Astronomical Union Regional Office of Astronomy for Development to facilitate the ongoing and emerging activities in astronomy, create better channels of communication and mobilize the influx of knowledge transfer.

10. **Areas of cooperation with UNESCO:** The Centre will closely cooperate with UNESCO, in particular, through its International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), in the implementation of relevant regional and international activities foreseen in UNESCO's programmes and budget documents and facilitate the linkage to relevant regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UNESCO Member States.

11. **Legal status and mode of operating:** The proposed Centre will be an independent legal entity under the laws of Thailand, with the functional autonomy necessary for the exercise of its activities. It will have the status and legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings, and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. Being located within the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT), Siripanich Building, 191 Huay Kaew Road, Muang District, Chiang Mai, Thailand 50200, the Centre will benefit from all amenities thereof, including utilities, security, staffing and resources without loss of autonomy. The National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) within its premises housed Thai National Observatory (TNO) at 2,457 meters above the mean sea level, the observatory has superb seeing conditions suitable for advanced research in astronomy and astrophysics. TNO is set to become one of Asia's most advanced facilities in optical astronomy.

12. With regard to all legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Centre, the Draft Agreement addresses these issues. This Draft Agreement on the proposed International Training Centre in Astronomy, under the auspices of UNESCO has been elaborated through a process of consultation between the authorities of the Royal Thai Government and the UNESCO Secretariat.

### **Relationship between the activities of the Centre and UNESCO's objectives and programmes**

13. UNESCO's involvement is at the front of astronomy and related science education and training for the benefit of Member States represents a long-term commitment. UNESCO's relationship with the Centre through its International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) will highlight the contributions of astronomy to the well-being of humankind and will emphasize the importance of astronomy in international sustainable development in the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014.

14. The capabilities and functions of the proposed Centre fall squarely within science education component of the Natural Sciences Sector and in line with the proposed new C/4 and C/5 documents of UNESCO. The proposed Centre will help UNESCO to promote equal access to scientific and technological knowledge and basic services in the field of astronomy. The astronomical research output and generated by the Centre will go beyond the traditional customers of the astronomer community.

15. The activities of the proposed centre will be linked with follow-up activities of UN-proclaimed IAU-UNESCO International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009), as well as contributing to the Strategic Objectives 4 and 5 of document 37 C/4. The activities of the Centre also will contribute to the ER2 of the MLA2 of the MP2 of documents 37 C/5 and draft 38 C/5.



16. **Regional and international impact of the Centre:** The report took into consideration the fact that the existing National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) and South-East Asia Astronomy Network (SEAAN), have already developed positive cooperation with a number of developed and developing countries, promoting the concepts of South-South cooperation and South-North cooperation. The proposed Centre is expected to cooperate with the established international, regional and national networks described below:

- (a) The following are the foreign institutes that have signed MoU with the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT): University of Manchester, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Sheffield, Warwick University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA., Yunnan Astronomical Observatory (YNAO), Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology, NAOC, People's Republic of China., Korean Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI), College of Natural Sciences, Chungnam National University, Astrophysical Research Centre for the Structure and Evolution of the Cosmos (ARCSEC), Sejong University, Republic of Korea. These institutes are endowed with researchers and academic staff who can perform and develop the research work, astronomical instrumentation, and relevant public outreach that highlight the collaborative network.
- (b) In 2007, the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) initiated the Southeast Asia Astronomy Network (SEAAN) with its aim to strengthen the research work and education activities among the ten member countries in South-east Asia, namely the State of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The mentioned parties have agreed to cooperate in the field of astronomy and science education. This cooperation will take place on the basis of equal footing and mutual benefit. The collaborative efforts will contribute to an enduring international linkage of aforementioned institutions for both scientific cooperation and assistance.
- (c) The National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) has been committed to collaborate with the local universities, namely Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Chiang Mai University, Naresuan University, Prince of Songkla University, Khon Kaen University, and Suranaree Technology University, in which astronomy and astrophysics are among the disciplines taught in their academic curricula in order to strengthen the teaching methods and to encourage research within the local network.

**Results expected from UNESCO's contribution:**

17. (a) **Role of the Centre in the implementation of the Organization's programmes:** The Centre fits well with UNESCO's International Basics Sciences objectives in general and with those of the Science Education and Earth Observation System and IAU and Southeast Asia Astronomy Network (SEAAN) priorities of Astronomy education and research provide a solid base for the launching of a Centre in the Kingdom of Thailand.
- (b) **Potential impact of UNESCO's contribution on the Centre's activities:** UNESCO will lend organizational expertise to catalyse the establishment and stimulate the initial operation of the Centre. Also, UNESCO will ensure a bridge to other countries, international organizations and relevant scientific institutions, an essential element for the success of the Centre.
- (c) **Risk:** The risks that UNESCO would incur in the establishment of the Centre would be low, due primarily to the support of the Royal Thai Government in providing an appropriate infrastructure, facilities and highly specialized personnel.

## SUMMARY EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED

18. The feasibility study has shown that there is sound justification for the establishment of the International Training Centre in astronomy within the Kingdom of Thailand. The proposal has a clear set of objectives with well-defined modalities for achieving them. The proposed Centre conforms with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as adopted by the General Conference at its 37th session.

19. It would help to meet several of UNESCO's objectives relating to the follow-up of International Year of Astronomy.

20. The proposed Centre will support the knowledge transfer to South-east Asia, Africa and South American Member States.

21. The Royal Thai Government has shown strong commitment to establishing the proposed Centre and made a commitment to providing substantial financial support through funding for activities on yearly basis.

## CONCLUSIONS

22. The Director-General welcomes the proposed establishment of the International Training Centre of Astronomy in Thailand. She recognizes that the government authorities are able to provide the required facilities to the proposed Centre for research and training and the centre will result in important benefits to Member States.

## Proposed decision

23. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines.

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93),
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XII, which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to establish the International Centre for Training in Astronomy as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Royal Thai Government to establish in its territory an International Centre for Training in Astronomy as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the present feasibility study;
5. Deeming the considerations and proposals contained therein to be such as to meet the requirements needed for UNESCO to grant its auspices to the International Centre, and
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment of the International Centre for Training in Astronomy in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) and authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Royal Thai Government.



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# Executive Board

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# 197 EX/16 Part XIII

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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XIII

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN HANOI, VIET NAM, OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE TRAINING IN PHYSICS

##### SUMMARY

In response to a proposal by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the establishment of the Viet Nam International Centre of Physics, in the Viet Nam Academy of Science and Technology in Hanoi, Viet Nam, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, a mission to Viet Nam was undertaken to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed centre.

The proposed centre will serve as a research and training hub and exchange platform for basic and applied physics within the ASEAN community, with a special mandate for least developed countries in Africa. The proposed centre also will be a platform for strengthening regional collaboration with large-scale facilities in physics, such as CERN and SESAME. The Government of Viet Nam commits to allocate around US \$500,000 per annum for the activities of the proposed centre, by decision of the Vietnamese Government on 24 March 2015.

The present document reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the centre and provides the scientific and institutional rationale behind the proposal of the Vietnamese Government. A Draft Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Viet Nam has been prepared in conformity with the standard model agreement – approved by the General Conference at its 37th session and is available on the website of the Natural Sciences Sector (37 C/Resolution 93). The feasibility study was conducted in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93). The financial and administrative implications of this proposal are set forth in paragraphs 11 to 16.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 18.

## INTRODUCTION

1. In October 2014, the Government of Viet Nam, through a delegation of its Ministry for Science and Technology visited UNESCO, particularly the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). The delegation also visited several category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO to understand the functioning of such structures. On 25 February 2015, the Government of Viet Nam submitted a proposal for the establishment in Hanoi of the Vietnam International Centre of Physics (VICP), a centre of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO. The Vietnamese authorities request that this item be included on the agenda of the Executive Board at its 197th session.

2. A technical mission of UNESCO was conducted to Hanoi, Viet Nam, on the location of the proposed centre. The feasibility study was undertaken on 14-20 June 2015, in line with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) for category 2 institutes and centres as approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 37th session, and was carried out in consultation with the relevant Vietnamese authorities and the Scientific Board of the IBSP. At its ninth meeting, the Scientific Board of IBSP concluded that the proposal on the centre merits the Organization's support and recommended that it be considered by the Executive Board. The present document reports on the findings and conclusions of this feasibility study.

3. During the technical mission, consultations were held with a committee which included the Minister for Science and Technology, the Vice Minister for Science and Technology, the Secretary General of the Vietnamese National Commission for UNESCO, the Deputy Director of the VAST (which will host the proposed centre), the UNESCO Office in Hanoi and the community of Vietnamese researchers in physics which will be working in, or will closely collaborate with, the proposed centre. All confirmed their full support for the VICP as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

### Background

4. Following on the favourable developments in the local and regional context in the fields of basic and applied physics and related technologies, *inter alia*:

- The increased cooperation between Vietnamese physicists with international colleagues of Europe, North America and Asia, including participation in large-scale international experiments and collaborations through world-class research centres such as the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) in Dubna, Russia,
- Positive developments in the South-East Asian region through close collaboration between Vietnamese physicists and colleagues in the ASEAN member states,
- Increasing prominence of Viet Nam's physics research achievements and cooperation worldwide,
- Recognition of the vital roles of science and technology, and education and training as factors that stimulate national economic growth and sustainable development, and contribute to the development in the region, which were confirmed by the Director-General of UNESCO and the Vietnamese Government,
- Close cooperation between Vietnamese researchers with IBSP, ICTP, the World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science in developing countries (TWAS), and category 2 centres of physics and UNESCO Chairs in the basic and applied sciences.

5. In order to further the expansion of physics research and education, and to better develop and support related UNESCO programmes in the region, the Vietnamese Government developed the proposed category 2 centre, VICP, under the auspices of UNESCO, as a centre under the umbrella of the VAST.

### **Objectives of the centre**

6. The objectives of the centre will be to contribute to the development of physics and related fields in the region, and support toward the achievement of UNESCO programmes through activities in research, education and training and outreach. This will be extended to the regional level, in particular to:

- (a) Develop a dynamic scientific research environment in close cooperation with the Institute of Physics (IOP) of Viet Nam and through short- and long-term academic exchange. Cooperation with national and international institutions as well as participation in international research projects will be an integral part of the VICP programme;
- (b) Provide an international centre for capacity-building in theoretical and applied physics, through schools and workshops.
- (c) Provide permanent advanced educational training consisting of Master and Doctoral degree courses.
- (d) Establish a research and training hub and exchange platform for basic and applied physicists from the ASEAN community, as well as a special mandate to facilitate exchanges with Africa in physics.
- (e) Provide a platform for regional collaboration with large-scale facilities, such as CERN, SESAME, ALC (Asian Laser Center), JINR (Joint Institute for Nuclear Research).
- (f) Catalyse the scientific capital of the Institute of Physics, VAST and Vietnamese universities, as well as colleagues from abroad, to foster a cutting-edge scientific research environment.
- (g) Organize outreach activities such research schools, workshops and conferences, which are aligned to UNESCO programmes and regional priorities.

7. The functions of the proposed centre shall be to develop training and regional capacity-building activities, with a focus on:

- (a) **Advanced training and development through scientific research** carried out by the centre's permanent staff and by short- and long-term visitors, in cooperation with national and international institutions and through participation in international research initiatives;
- (b) **Scientific events and knowledge transfer through short-term activities**, which may include workshops, conferences or seminars on themes compatible with UNESCO programmes and developed and UNESCO category 2 centres and Chairs in physics and applications.

### **Location and infrastructure**

8. The proposed centre will have access to the infrastructure of the VAST and of the IOP which includes an auditorium with audiovisual equipment and capacity for several hundred participants, informatics equipment connected to internet, and easy access to the Library as well as the

computer centre of VAST to perform large-scale scientific calculations. All infrastructure costs will be covered by the Vietnamese Government.

9. The proposed centre will be established in a scientific area fostering collaboration and innovation at the IOP building located at the 10 Dao Tan Road, Ba Dinh District of Hanoi. In 2016, the proposed centre will move to a newly constructed IOP building.

### **Legal status and mode of operating**

10. The VICP is a research centre and has an independent legal status. The VAST will be responsible for all administrative aspects of the centre, as it is the case for the majority of research centres in Viet Nam. The IOP will provide the necessary scientific staff and will host in its premises the proposed centre. The financial resources needed for the creation, functioning and activities of the proposed centre will be provided by the Government of Viet Nam.

### **Governance**

11. The VICP will have one governing body which consist of a Governing Board. In addition, a Physics Scientific Council and a Secretariat are foreseen.

(a) The Governing Board will have a general oversight function for all activities and decides the programmes and priorities of VICP. It also shall select the members of the Scientific Council and the VICP Director. The Governing Board includes:

- one representative from the VAST;
- one representative from the IOP;
- one representative from IBSP;
- one representative from ICTP;
- one representative of the UNESCO Office in Hanoi;
- one representative from any other country involved in the centre.

All meetings of the Steering Committee shall be financially covered by the VICP.

(b) The Scientific Council shall decide upon the annual scientific activities of VICP and advice on its scientific priorities. The Council shall be composed of ten distinguished scientists who are knowledgeable about physics research performed in the region.

(c) The VICP Secretariat shall be composed of a Director responsible for supervising VICP activities and who appoints the secretarial staff and the Vice-Director in consultation with the Steering Committee.

### **Financial matters**

12. The infrastructure and permanent personnel of VICP will be provided by the Government of Viet Nam through the IOP. VICP should have access to funding from regional and international funding agencies through the submission of research or training proposals.

13. In addition to the above, the Government of Viet Nam will allocate around USD 500,000 per annum to the proposed centre for activities.

14. Donations to VICP from other national and international government bodies and private sources will be fostered by the Government of Viet Nam.

## **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

15. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the VICP and shall not provide financial support for administrative costs.

## **Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes and expected impact of the centre**

16. The VICP will cooperate with UNESCO, especially ICTP and IBSP, in developing physics activities contributing to UNESCO's actions towards building national, regional and international capacities with a priority for South-East Asia and the Pacific countries. Assistance to the least developed countries in Africa is also in the mandate of the VICP.

17. The VICP will seek to build partnerships and collaboration with relevant UNESCO partners, among these the network of UNESCO Chairs and category 2 centres, and other specialized institutions and networks of excellence in physics.

## **Proposed decision**

18. In light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XIII, which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to include the VICP, as a category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Viet Nam,
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of the centre offers in the framework of the Basic Sciences Programme,
5. Recognizing that the proposed centre meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93),
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Hanoi, Viet Nam, of an International Centre of Research and Postgraduate Training in Physics, a category 2 under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Viet Nam.



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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XIV

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN HANOI, VIET NAM, OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE TRAINING IN MATHEMATICS

##### SUMMARY

In response to a proposal by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the establishment of the Vietnam International Centre for Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics as a category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO, a mission to Viet Nam was undertaken to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed centre.

The proposed mathematics centre, to be hosted under VAST, will provide a research and training hub and exchange platform based in the ASEAN region for basic and applied mathematics. A specificity of the proposed centre is its dedication to host African researchers in mathematics through a short-term mobility programme established in collaboration with UNESCO's International Basic Sciences Programme. A commitment to women in mathematics will be one of the additional aims of the proposed centre. The distinguished historical achievements of Vietnamese mathematicians, including the 2012 Fields Medallist and twice International Mathematical Olympiad gold medallist Ngô Bảo Châu, underscores the privileged place that Viet Nam accords to mathematics research, training and regional and international exchanges. It is worth noting that in addition to supporting permanent staffing and infrastructure, the Government of Viet Nam will allocate around US \$500,000 per annum toward the activities of the proposed centre.

The present document reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the centre and provides the institutional rationale behind the proposal of the Vietnamese Government. A Draft Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Viet Nam has been prepared in conformity with the standard model agreement – approved by the General Conference at its 37th session and is available on the website of the Natural Sciences Sector (37 C/Resolution 93). The feasibility study was conducted in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93). The financial and administrative implications of this proposal are set forth in paragraphs 11 to 16.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 18.



## INTRODUCTION

1. From 4 to 11 October 2014, the Government of Viet Nam, through a delegation of its Ministry of Science and Technology, visited UNESCO, particularly its International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and the *Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)*. The delegation also visited several category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO to research the functioning of such structures. On 25 February 2015, the Government of Viet Nam submitted a proposal for the establishment of the an International Centre for Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics (VICM) of the Viet Nam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) in Hanoi, Viet Nam, to be under the auspices of UNESCO as a category 2 centre. The Vietnamese authorities requested that this item be included on the agenda of the Executive Board at its 197th session.

2. A technical mission of UNESCO to Hanoi, Viet Nam, at the location of the proposed centre was undertaken from 14 to 20 June 2015. The feasibility study has been undertaken in line with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) for category 2 institutes and centres as approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 37th session, and was carried out in consultation with the relevant Vietnamese authorities and the Scientific Board of the IBSP. At its ninth meeting, the Scientific Board of IBSP concluded that the proposal merits the Organization's support and recommended that it be considered by the Executive Board. The present document reports on the findings and conclusions of this feasibility study.

3. During the UNESCO technical mission, consultations were held with a committee that included the Minister for Science and Technology, the Vice-Minister for Science and Technology, the Secretary General of the Vietnamese National Commission for UNESCO, the Deputy Director of the Viet Nam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), the Director and research staff of the Institute of Mathematics of Viet Nam, the UNESCO Office in Hanoi and the local community of mathematicians who will be working at or would closely collaborate with the proposed centre. All confirmed full support for VICM as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

### Background

4. Following on favourable developments in the national and regional context in the field of mathematics, *inter alia*:

- Increased collaborations and reciprocal exchanges and advancements in mathematical research and training between Vietnamese mathematicians with international colleagues and institutions from Europe, North America, East Asia and the ASEAN countries, and Africa,
- Opportunities for mathematics research, training and exchanges among Viet Nam and other ASEAN Member States,
- Shared emphasis of UNESCO and the Government of Viet Nam on capacity-building for mathematics education and training, as well as the need to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the importance of mathematics in society and daily life,
- Close cooperation between Vietnamese mathematicians with the IBSP, the International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics (ICPAM) in Nice, France, the World Academy of Science for the advancement of science in developing countries, and other category 2 centres and institutes and UNESCO Chairs in the field of mathematics.

5. In order to further mathematics research, training and education in support of UNESCO programmes for mathematics in the region, the Vietnamese Government has proposed the VICM, under the auspices of UNESCO, as a category 2 centre within VAST.

### **Objectives of the centre**

6. The proposed centre will seek to contribute to the further development of pure and applied mathematics and the advancement of UNESCO programmes through mathematical research, education, training and outreach, extended at the national, regional and international levels, in particular to:

- (a) Promote sound and original research through short- and long-term academic exchanges. Cooperation with national and international institutions and participation in international research projects shall be an integral part of the VICM programme.
- (b) Mathematics research and training in forefront topics such as dynamical systems and non-smooth mechanics, and in applications to regional concerns such as modeling of nearby ocean currents.
- (c) Offer advanced mathematical training through Master and Doctoral degree courses available to national as well as foreign students, including from Africa.
- (d) Catalyse research and training capacities of the Institute of Mathematics, VAST, the Viet Nam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics (VIASM), other universities in Viet Nam, as well as institutions overseas to support the advancement of mathematics within the region and internationally.
- (e) Support young mathematicians from ASEAN Member States, particularly women mathematicians, and support young talent from Africa, in alignment with the UNESCO Global Priorities for Africa and Gender Equality.
- (f) Outreach activities will include organizing students' seminars, workshops and conferences, aligned to UNESCO programmes for mathematics education.
- (g) Dedicate to host African researchers in mathematics through a short-term mobility programme established in collaboration with IBSP.

7. The functions of the proposed centre shall be to develop training and regional capacity-building activities with a focus on:

- (a) **Advanced training and research in pure and applied mathematics**, carried out by the Centre's permanent staff and by short- and long-term visiting lecturers, in cooperation with national, regional and international institutions and research initiatives;
- (b) **Scientific events and knowledge transfer through activities** IM, VIASM, VAT and ICPAM as well as UNESCO's category 2 centres and Chairs in mathematics, and including workshops, conferences, lectures and seminars compatible with UNESCO programmes.

### **Location and infrastructure**

8. The proposed centre will be established on a site that will foster direct collaboration and innovation with the IM. The proposed centre will be provided access to the infrastructure of VAST, which includes an auditorium with audiovisual equipment and capacity for several hundred participants, informatics equipment connected to the Internet, the VAST library and computer centre to perform large-scale calculations. All infrastructure costs will be covered by VAST.

## Legal status and mode of operating

9. The centre shall be independent of UNESCO.
10. The institute shall be established by the Vietnamese Government. It shall enjoy on the territory of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam the functional autonomy and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions:
- to contract;
  - to institute legal proceedings;
  - to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

## Governance

11. The VICM will have one governing body which consists of a Governing Board. In addition, a Mathematics Council and the Centre's Secretariat are foreseen:

- (a) The Governing Board will have a general oversight function for all activities and decides the programs and priorities of the VICM. It shall determine the members of the Mathematics Council and the VICM Director. The Steering Committee includes:
- one representative from the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET);
  - one representative from the VAST;
  - one representative from the Institute of Mathematics (IM);
  - one representative from IBSP;
  - one representative from ICTP;
  - one representative of the UNESCO Office in Hanoi;
  - one representative from any other country involved in the centre.

All the meetings of the Steering Committee are financially covered by the VICM.

- (b) The Mathematics Council decides the annual research, training and educational activities of VICM and gives advice on its priorities. It is composed of ten distinguished mathematicians who are familiar with mathematical research performed in the region and internationally.
- (c) The VICM Secretariat is composed of a Director which supervises all VICM activities and appoints the secretariat staff and the VICM Vice-Director in consultation with the Steering Committee.

## Financial matters

12. The infrastructure and permanent personnel of VICM will be funded by the Government of Viet Nam. VICM should have access to funding from regional and international funding agencies through the submission of research or training projects.

13. The Government of Viet Nam will allocate around US \$500,000 per annum to the centre for activities.

14. Donations to VICM from other national and international government bodies and private sources will be fostered by the Government of Viet Nam.

### **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

15. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the VICM and shall not provide financial support for administrative costs.

### **Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes and expected impact of the Centre**

16. The VICM will cooperate with UNESCO, especially IBSP, in developing mathematics activities contributing to UNESCO's actions towards building national, regional and international capacities with a priority for South-East Asia and the Pacific countries. Assistance to the least developed countries in Africa is also in the mandate of the VICM.

17. The VICM will seek to build partnerships and collaborate with relevant UNESCO partners, among these the network of UNESCO Chairs and category 2 centres, and other specialized institutions and networks of excellence.

### **Proposed decision**

18. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XIV which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to include the Viet Nam International Centre of Mathematics, as a category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in pure and applied mathematics research, education and training,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Viet Nam,
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of the Centre offers in the framework of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposed Centre meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by the 37th session of the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93),
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Hanoi, Viet Nam, of an International Centre of Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Viet Nam.



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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XV

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION

##### SUMMARY

This document consists of a report by the Director-General assessing the feasibility of the proposal submitted by the People's Republic of China for the establishment of an International Centre for Engineering Education in Beijing. It reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Centre, and provides the scientific and institutional rationale behind China's proposal.

Financial and administrative implications of this proposal are covered in paragraphs 12 and 13 but are not of a policy nature.

Action expected by the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 25.

A draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the People's Republic of China has been drawn up in accordance with the standard model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and may be consulted on the website of the Natural Sciences Sector.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The People's Republic of China has proposed to the Director-General the creation of an International Centre for Engineering Education as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2). To date, UNESCO has not set up an international centre focused specifically on engineering education. The present document outlines the background and basis for the proposal, the objectives and programmes of the proposed centre, the centre's relevance to UNESCO's programmes, and the feasibility study of the Director-General. A decision from the Executive Board will be sought to continue the process to establish the centre under the auspices of UNESCO. This application is submitted by the People's Republic of China in partnership with Tsinghua University, recognized as one of the top universities in China, and the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), the high-level honorary and consulting academic institution of China for engineering science and technology.

2. Engineering refers to practices conducted by mankind, using scientific theory and technology to create a new world, in order to survive and develop. Engineering technology plays a decisive role in economic growth, as the development experience of both China and other emerging countries have shown.

3. Engineering education involves training engineers as well as facilitating engineering technological innovations. Engineering education is at the intersection of engineering and education, thus significant to human resources development and economic growth of a country. Engineering education plays an indispensable role in strengthening capacity-building of sustainable development.

4. Engineering education is faced with daunting challenges in terms of quality and equity around the world. If no effective measures are taken, the sustainability gap between developing and developed countries would be further widened in the new era featuring the new scientific and technical revolution.

5. The UNESCO Engineering Report (2010) stated that "Engineering and technology have played a vital role in satisfying basic human needs, reducing poverty, realizing sustainable development, and narrowing knowledge gaps". The report proposed a series of great measures to be taken to promote engineering education and innovation. However, currently, nearly a quarter of the world's population is still suffering from poverty, diseases, unemployment, environmental pollution, and energy depletion. It is estimated that about 2.5 million new engineers and technicians will be needed in sub-Saharan Africa alone if that region is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and in future the sustainable development goals (SDGs), of improved access to clean water and sanitation. In order to reach this goal, we need to train more engineers and technicians in sub-Saharan Africa.

6. In this context, the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Tsinghua University have proposed the establishment in China of the "International Centre for Engineering Education". The Centre will pursue the major path of innovation-driven and industry-university collaboration, focusing on training engineering technicians and engineers from developing countries, and thus promoting quality and equity education on a global scale. Taking into consideration the potential importance of the Centre for promoting engineering education for development, the Director-General has responded positively to the request of the Government of the People's Republic of China and requested that the Natural Sciences Sector conduct a feasibility study in close cooperation with China experts.

7. Through industry-university collaboration, the centre will be built jointly by the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Tsinghua University by relying on the current "CAE-Tsinghua Engineering Education Centre" partnership. The centre will be located in Tsinghua University and will gain constant support from the Chinese Government.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

8. A feasibility study has endeavoured to address requirements specified in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO adopted by General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93). It has also taken into account other aspects that are deemed useful for assessing the viability of the proposed Centre. The field visit of the UNESCO team for the feasibility study related to the creation of the proposed Centre was undertaken from 15 to 19 March 2015. The meetings were held with academicians and experts from the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Tsinghua University and Beihang University in Beijing, China. There were also visits arranged to research facilities and Hanergy, the largest renewable energy company in China.

### Objectives and modalities of the proposed Centre

9. The proposed Centre will act as an international engineering education centre. The main emphasis of the work of the Centre would be on its engineering expertise and technologies to promote engineering education and exchange as well as cooperation among countries around the world.

The following summarizes the overall scope of activities to be undertaken by the Centre:

- (a) **Think-tank type research and consultation centre:** The Centre will provide intellectual support for national governments and international organizations to formulate policies, strategies, standards, and rules on engineering education. This can be done following the vast experience from local and international perspectives that China has, as well as the research and successful experiences from different countries.
- (b) **Incubator for high-calibre personnel:** The Centre will capitalize on and expand the industry-university collaboration network of the Centre, innovate educational mode in industry-university collaboration and cultivate high-calibre engineering technicians for developing countries, using both traditional and emerging means of education.
- (c) **International exchange platform:** The Centre is open to all Member States of UNESCO and emphasizes UNESCO's two Global Priorities being Africa and gender equality. It seeks to expand its global exchange and cooperation network on engineering education, aiming to promote cross-border, cross-region and cross-culture sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources on engineering education.

### Legal status

10. The Centre will be an independent legally autonomous unit established in accordance with Chinese laws and regulations. It will have the status and legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings, and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. The Centre will have staff, legal qualifications and autonomous rights as required for operation and will independently make arrangements in management, budget and staff.

### Governance

11. The Centre will have a Governing Board, an Advisory Committee and within the Council are the Secretariat, Academic Committee and Project Divisions.

- (a) **The Board of Governors:** The Board of Governors is responsible for the examination and approval of the Centre's strategic planning and annual plans, as well as for directing and monitoring the Centre, whose members are re-elected every six years.
- (b) **Director:** The Director of the Centre is responsible for executing strategic planning and annual plans as approved by the Council. The Centre has one director and several

deputy directors. Both shall be appointed by President of the Board of Governors in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO.

- (c) **Academic Committee:** The Academic Committee is primarily charged with academic affairs of the Centre. The members of the Academic Board must have prominent international academic reputation. These members are to come mainly from international engineering education organizations, universities, industrial associations and professional organizations. Members from other countries than China are to account for some 50% of the make-up of the committee.
- (d) **The Secretariat:** The Secretariat of the Centre shall be responsible for implementing the strategic and annual plans that will be approved by the Board of Governors, as well as preparing annual reports. The Secretariat will be headed by a Director, responsible for the operation of the Centre.

### **Financial matters**

12. The operating costs of the Centre shall be primarily supplied by the Government of China, with contributions/donations, from intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other organizations. It is also envisaged that financing would be sought from the private sector through joint research and development, and technology transfer arrangements, and through a “core fund” to which interested participating developed countries could make contributions.

### **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

13. UNESCO will not be required to offer funds for the operation of the Centre, or provide financial support for the establishment and management of the Centre. The Government of China shall meet the cost of UNESCO staff participation in the governing body meetings or other meetings.

### **Area of cooperation with UNESCO**

14. The cooperation expected from UNESCO once the proposed Centre is established is as follows:

- (a) UNESCO may provide technical expertise as appropriate related to research, capacity-building and technical assistance on creating a knowledge base for engineering science and technology under UNESCO’s engineering programme;
- (b) UNESCO may encourage international governmental and non-governmental financial entities, as well as Member States of the Organization to provide financial and technical assistance and to propose appropriate projects to the Centre. UNESCO will facilitate contacts with other international organizations relevant to the functions of the proposed Centre; and
- (c) UNESCO may participate, when appropriate and subject to availability of funds, in the scientific, technical and training meetings held by the proposed Centre.

15. In all the cases listed above, the Member States shall meet the costs of UNESCO staff participation and assistance, as appropriate.

### **Relationship to UNESCO’s objectives and programmes**

16. The proposed International Centre would fulfil one of the main objectives of UNESCO, namely in UNESCO’s engineering programme to address major challenges in engineering, which is a major driver for social, economic and human development. The UNESCO engineering



programme, which was approved by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2011, has started several projects in partnership with several international organizations.

17. The proposed Centre will also contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's global priorities: Africa and gender equality. It will focus on the engineering talent cultivation including training teachers, students and engineers for developing countries especially for Africa countries. Also, the Centre will promote female participation in the engineering profession.

### **Regional and international impact of the Centre**

18. The report took into consideration that the "China Academy of Engineering" partner of the proposed Centre has already developed positive cooperation with a number of developed and developing countries, promoting the concepts of South-South cooperation and South-North cooperation. The proposed Centre is expected to cooperate with the established international, regional and national networks described below:

- (a) The Centre will further strengthen and deepen cooperation with other institutions and centres to build a large platform for international cooperation, so as to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- (b) The Centre will carry out cooperation with UNESCO category 1 and 2 centres under UNESCO Major Programmes I, II, IV and V, particularly in relation to engineering technologies, management of water resources, renewable energy, marine science, climate change, disaster risk and other related fields, to promote engineering education and facilitate the professional development of engineers.
- (c) The Centre will interact with the existing network associated with the Chinese Academy of Engineering, such as the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS), the Inter-Academy Medical Panel (IAMP), the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM) and the East Asia Round Table Meeting of Academies of Engineering (EA-RTM); International Federation of Engineering Societies (IFEES); European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI); African International Federation of Engineering Societies (IFEES); European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI); African Engineering Education Association (AEEA); American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE); Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET); International Society for Engineering Education (IGIP); Engineering Education Association (AEEA); American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE); Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET); and International Society for Engineering Education (IGIP).
- (d) Furthermore, the Centre will establish strong working relationships with other national academies of engineering in different countries internationally, so as to promote substantive cooperation, facilitate the development and enhance the influence of engineering science and technology throughout the world.

19. The anticipated impact of the proposed Centre on national, regional and international scientific, technical and business cooperation is expected to be significant and supportive of the United Nations objectives contained in the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Risks**

20. The risks that UNESCO would incur in the establishment of the Centre would be low. In view of the official support, the Centre will be receiving from the Chinese Government and the direct linkage between the Centre's activities and UNESCO's goals.

## SUMMARY EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED

21. The feasibility study has shown that there is sound justification for the establishment of such an international centre in the People's Republic of China. The proposal has a clear set of objectives with well-defined modalities for achieving them. During the brief consultative process with the international and regional networks, it has become clear that such an initiative is necessary. The proposed Centre conforms with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO adopted by General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93.).

22. It would help to meet several of UNESCO's objectives relating to UNESCO's engineering programme.

23. The proposed Centre will support the development of a knowledge base to share expertise and experience on engineering science and technology internationally, and will contribute to UNESCO's engineering programme in promoting the dissemination and utilization of engineering knowledge to facilitate the development of a knowledge-based society.

24. The Government of the People's Republic of China has shown strong commitment to establishing the proposed Centre. While the Centre will be autonomous, the Government of the People's Republic of China has made a commitment to providing substantial financial support through funding, for its construction and long-term running costs.

### Proposed decision

25. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO adopted by General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/18 Part I) pursuant to 37 C/Resolution 93; as well as the 37 C/18 document,
2. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of People's Republic of China to establish in its territory an International Centre for Engineering Education as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
3. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the present feasibility study;
4. Deeming the considerations and proposals contained therein to be such as to meet the requirements needed for UNESCO to grant its auspices to the International Centre, and
5. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment of the International Centre for Engineering Education in Beijing, People's Republic of China, under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) and authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

# 197 EX/16

## Part XVI

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Item 16 of the provisional agenda

### CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

#### PART XVI

### ESTABLISHMENT IN BEIJING, CHINA, OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS ASIA-PACIFIC

#### SUMMARY

In response to a proposal by the Government of China for the creation of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP), in Beijing, China, as a category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO, consultation was held with a committee that included the Director of ICTP, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC). In this context, a mission to China was undertaken to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed centre.

The present document reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Centre and provides the scientific and institutional rationale behind the proposal of the Chinese Government. A Draft Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of China has been prepared in conformity with the standard model agreement, approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93) (This is contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and is available on the Natural Sciences website.) The feasibility study was conducted in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93).

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraphs 10-13.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 16.

## INTRODUCTION

1. In May 2015, the Government of China, through the Chinese Academy of Sciences and on behalf of its Ministry of Education, the National Natural Science Foundation, and the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, submitted a proposal for the creation of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP) as a category 2 centre of UNESCO, under the auspices of UNESCO, based on a close collaboration with the ICTP (a category 1 UNESCO centre). The Chinese authorities request that this item be included on the agenda of the 197th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

2. A technical mission was conducted to the campus of the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, the location of the centre, and the feasibility study here has been undertaken in line with the guidelines and criteria for category 2 institutes and centres as approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 37th session. It was carried out in consultation with the relevant Chinese authorities and UNESCO, assisted by its Scientific Board of the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP), which is responsible for advising the Director-General on UNESCO's basic sciences activities. At its last meeting, the Scientific Board concluded that the proposal on the Centre is worthy of the Organization's support and recommended that it be considered by the Executive Board. The present document reports to the Executive Board on the findings and conclusions of the said feasibility study.

3. During the technical mission, consultations were held with a committee which principally included the Director of ICTP, Professor Fernando Quevedo, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) President Professor Chun-Li Bai, CAS Vice President Professor Ya-Ping Zhang, the National Natural Science Foundation China (NSFC) president Professor Wei Yang, as well as others. All of them have expressed support for the establishment of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP) as a category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

### Objectives of the Centre

4. The objectives of the Centre shall be to:

- (a) provide opportunities for advanced education, training and research in basic science such as frontiers of theoretical physics and the relevant interdisciplinary areas for scientists from Asia-Pacific region and other countries;
- (b) develop outreach activities in cooperation with national and international institutions, providing an international forum and enhancing collaborative networks among scientists from different countries in and out of the region.
- (c) develop and coordinate research-education-oriented advanced studies in theoretical physics and related interdisciplinary areas;
- (d) develop to be a world-class research centre, training base for talents with global eye sights and international academic exchange centre.

5. The functions of the Centre:

- (a) advanced training and development through scientific research, carried out by the Centre's permanent staff and by short and long term visitors, in cooperation with national and international institutions and with participation in international research projects;

- (b) carry-out of research, training and fellowships for graduates and post doctors in the said area in collaboration between University of Chinese Academy of Sciences and global academic institutions.
- (c) scientific events and knowledge transfer on frontier development in relevant areas through short or long-term activities such as serial world-renowned scholar lectures, fundamental courses and specialized courses to promote academic innovation, capacity building and collaboration in research.

### **Location and infrastructure**

6. The Centre will be located in Beijing, on the premises of the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and will enjoy abundant space for offices, laboratories, classrooms, and conference and exhibition rooms.

### **Legal status and mode of operating**

7. The Centre shall be established by CAS. It shall enjoy on the territory of the People's Republic of China the legal status and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions, in particular the capacity authorized by Chinese Academy of Sciences:

- to contract;
- to institute legal proceedings;
- to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

8. The Constitution of the Centre must include the following provisions:

- (a) legal status granting to the Centre, under national legislation, the autonomous legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive subventions, obtain payments for services rendered, and carry out acquisitions of all means required;
- (b) the establishment of a governing structure for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its governing bodies.

### **Governance and structure**

9. For its proper governance and functioning, the Centre will have:

- (a) **A Governing Board**, whose members will be renewed every six years, and composed of:
  - a representative of CAS, who shall be the ex officio chairperson of the Governing Board;
  - two representatives of the Director-General of UNESCO, including one from the ICTP;
  - up to three representatives from the Government (e.g. National Natural Science Fund of China, Ministry of Education, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences);
  - one representative of each of UNESCO's Member States which have sent to the Centre notifications for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 13, paragraph 2 below, and have expressed interest in being represented on the Board.

The Governing Board shall:

- (a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
- (b) approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
- (c) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- (d) adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;
- (e) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre;
- (f) convene special consultative sessions to which it shall invite, in addition to its own members, representatives of other interested countries and international organizations in order to expand the Centre's fund-raising strategy and strengthen its capacity, to review draft proposals aimed at broadening the scope of the services provided by the Centre, and to carry out its projects and activities.

The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year. It shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either at his/her own initiative, or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO, or at the request of at least half of its members.

The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules and procedures. For its first meeting, the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

**(b) An International Scientific Advisory Council**

The Centre shall have an International Scientific Committee. The Committee shall discharge the following duties:

- (a) provide scientific expertise and guidance and policy advice on the development of long- and medium-term scientific programmes of the Centre and on preparation of its annual work plan;
- (b) assist in the appraisal of activities carried out by the Centre;
- (c) make recommendations on the optimum selection of research and development institutions and/or experts that may provide services required for the Centre;
- (d) provide advice on and assistance to the development of international scientific partnerships in the framework of the Centre's programme activities;
- (e) provide guidelines on academic activities and project review; and
- (f) appraise application for the post of permanent staff.

The International Scientific Committee, whose members will be renewed every five years, shall comprise renowned scientists, from both Asia and the Pacific and other countries/regions, who are actively engaged mainly in the basic sciences that relate to the objectives of the Centre and shall assure the excellence of the required scientific expertise, including two UNESCO representatives including one from ICTP. The cost

relating to the meeting and functioning of the International Scientific Committee shall be covered the centre.

The members of the International Scientific Committee will be appointed by the Director of the Centre, pursuant to consultation with UNESCO and endorsement by the Governing Board.

The Chairperson of the International Scientific Committee presides over the meetings of International Scientific Committee regularly, and in addition he will serve as the President of the Centre, and is required to spend no less than two months each year working at the Centre.

The responsibility of the President of the Centre includes guiding and participating in various activities of the Centre, promoting collaborations among the international academic institutions and providing academic guidance to implementation of the middle and long-term research project of the Centre.

**(c) A Centre office and Centre members**

The Centre's secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.

The Director of the Centre shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Board in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO.

The other members of the office may comprise:

- (a) members of UNESCO's staff who are temporarily seconded and made available to the Centre, as provided for by UNESCO's regulations and by the decisions of its governing bodies;
- (b) any person of recognized qualifications appointed by the Director in consultation with the Governing Board;
- (c) any person appointed by the Director, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Governing Board.

**(d) The members of the Centre may comprise:**

- (a) Permanent members employed through UCAS (about 15 top-level scientists);
- (b) Centre scientists and visiting scientists;
- (c) Centre postdoctoral researchers (3-5 years);
- (d) Centre graduate students and joint-training programme students;
- (e) Guest researchers and associate members;
- (f) Visiting scholars and visiting students.

**Financial matters**

10. The government shall provide all the resources, financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre.

11. The Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Education, National Natural Science Foundation of China, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, on behalf of the government, shall be responsible for the implementation of the Centre's institutional funding, the government undertakes to:

- (a) entirely assume the costs of the facilities, including equipment, utilities, communications and maintenance of the premises;
- (b) make available to the Centre the administrative staff necessary for the performance of its functions, which shall comprise a President, a Director and secretariat staff;
- (c) make available to the Centre appropriate office space, equipment and facilities in UCAS;
- (d) assume all communication, utilities and maintenance costs for the Centre, plus all the expenses of holding the sessions of the Governing Board and special consultative sessions;
- (e) establish a fund under conditions to be determined by its Governing Board, to receive donations, gifts and bequests that will be used for the financing of all activities of the Centre in relation to supporting UNESCO's Member States and UNESCO's programmes through the use of space technologies.

#### **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

12. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the Centre and shall not provide financial support for administrative costs.

13. UNESCO may provide assistance in the form of a technical contribution for the activities of the Centre in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO, in which case UNESCO undertakes to:

- provide the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre;
- temporarily detach members of its staff. Such detachment may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a priority area as approved by UNESCO's governing bodies;
- include the Centre in various programmes which it implements and in which the participation of the latter seems necessary to them.

In all the cases listed above, such contribution shall be provided for in UNESCO's Programme and Budget (C/5).

#### **Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes and expected impact of the Centre**

14. The Centre will cooperate with UNESCO in developing activities within the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), contributing to UNESCO's actions towards building national, regional and international capacities. Overall, the Centre will strive to promote women in science in the region, noting that gender equality is a priority of UNESCO. At the programme level, the goals and the activity of the Centre will fully correspond to the mandate of IBSP (reconfirmed in document 176 EX/11, paragraph 37).

15. The Centre will seek to build partnerships and collaborate with relevant UNESCO partners; included among these are principally the ICTP and IBSP, as well as the network of UNESCO chairs and category 2 centres, and other specialized institutions and networks of excellence.



## Proposed decision

16. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XVI, which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to establish ICTP-AP, as a category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of China,
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of the Centre offers to UNESCO, in particular, to its International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO,
5. Recognizing that the proposed Centre meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by the UNESCO's General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93 and contained in document 37 C/18,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Beijing, China, of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP), based on a close collaboration with the ICTP, as a Category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Chinese Government.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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# Executive Board

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# 197 EX/16 Part XVII

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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XVII

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH (SAIFR)

##### SUMMARY

In response to a proposal by the Government of Brazil for the establishment of the South American Institute for Fundamental Research, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as a category 2 institute, under the auspices of UNESCO, consultation was held with a committee that included the Director of ICTP, the Scientific Director of the Sao Paulo State Funding Agency (FAPESP), and the Vice-Rector of the Sao Paulo State University. In this context, a mission to Brazil was undertaken to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed Institute.

The present document reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Institute and provides the scientific and institutional rationale behind the proposal of the Brazilian Government. A Draft Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Brazil has been prepared in conformity with the standard model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I and is available on the Natural Sciences website. The feasibility study was conducted in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) approved by the General Conference at its 37th session.

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraphs 14-18.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 19.

## INTRODUCTION

1. On 20 February 2015, the Government of Brazil, through its State Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, submitted a proposal for the inclusion of the South American Institute for Fundamental Research in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO, based on a close collaboration with the ICTP (a category 1 UNESCO centre). The Brazilian Authorities request that this item be included on the agenda of the Executive Board at its 197th session.

2. A technical mission of UNESCO has been conducted to Sao Paulo, the location of the Institute, and the feasibility study here has been undertaken in line with the with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (37 C/18) for category 2 institutes and centres as approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 37th session. It was carried out in consultation with the relevant Brazilian authorities and the Scientific Board of the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) which is responsible for advising the Director-General on the basic sciences. At its ninth meeting the Scientific Board of IBSP concluded that the proposal on the Institute is worthy of the Organization's support and recommended that it be considered by the Executive Board. The present document reports to the Executive Board on the findings and conclusions of the said feasibility study.

3. During the technical mission, consultations were held with a committee which included the Director of ICTP, Professor Fernando Quevedo, the Scientific Director of the Sao Paulo State Funding Agency FAPESP, Professor Carlos Brito Cruz, and the Vice-Rector of the Sao Paulo State University, Professor Marilza Vieira Rudge. All of them have expressed support for the inclusion of the South American Institute for Fundamental Research as a category 2 UNESCO institute.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE

### Background

4. In 2011, a collaboration was initiated between the UNESCO category 1 International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, the Sao Paulo State University (UNESP), and the Sao Paulo Research Funding Agency (FAPESP) to create a regional South American institute for theoretical physics. This regional institute was called the South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR) and is located on the campus of UNESP in Sao Paulo in the building of the Instituto de Física Teórica (IFT).

5. The SAIFR began its activities in February 2012 and annually organizes 10-15 schools/workshops for Ph.D. students and researchers in theoretical physics and related areas. In addition, the SAIFR hosts visiting researchers, has several postdocs and five faculty members, and has a secretarial staff including an executive manager, executive secretary, information systems manager and accountant. Financing for activities, postdocs and visitors is provided by FAPESP through a renewable five-year Thematic Grant, and financing for faculty members, secretarial staff and infrastructure is provided by UNESP. The role of the ICTP is to provide organizational support and to finance visitors to SAIFR from other South American countries. The approximate current funding levels in Brazilian reais (R\$) are displayed in the following table:

| Agency | Duration         | Annual Amount |
|--------|------------------|---------------|
| FAPESP | 5-year renewable | 1,800,000 R\$ |
| UNESP  | 5-year renewable | 1,200,000 R\$ |
| ICTP   | Year by Year     | 160,000 R\$   |
| Simons | 5-year donation  | 180,000 R\$   |
| Other  | Year by Year     | 300,000 R\$   |

6. The current steering committee of SAIFR includes the ICTP Director Fernando Quevedo, the President of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Jacob Palis, the Rector of UNESP, Julio Cezar Durigan, the Scientific Director of FAPESP, Carlos Brito Cruz, and the representative of other South American countries, Juan Maldacena. The SAIFR scientific council is chaired by the ex-Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, Peter Goddard, and includes nine other distinguished scientists associated with South America. The hiring of SAIFR faculty is aided by an International Search Committee including Nobel-Prize winning members, and SAIFR tenure-track professors receive partial financial support from a Simons Foundation donation to SAIFR.

7. In order to satisfy the requirements in the future of a regional institute of the category 1 ICTP, the SAIFR is applying for inclusion as a category 2 institute of UNESCO.

### **Objectives of the Institute**

8. The objectives of the Institute are:

- (a) Conduct theoretical physics research at the highest international standards;
- (b) Provide an international centre for schools and workshops;
- (c) Support research in those South American countries where theoretical physics research is not yet well-developed.

9. The functions of the Institute shall be to develop training and regional capacity-building activities with a focus on:

- (a) **Advanced training and development through scientific research**, carried out by the Institute permanent staff and by short/long term visitors, in cooperation with national and international institutions and with participation in international research projects;
- (b) **Scientific events and knowledge transfer through short-term activities**, developed in cooperation with the ICTP and including schools, workshops, conferences and seminars compatible with UNESCO programmes.

### **Location and infrastructure**

10. The SAIFR is located on the first floor of the Instituto de Física Teórica (IFT) building in the Barra Funda campus of the Sao Paulo State University (UNESP). The SAIFR has access to the infrastructure of the IFT which includes an auditorium with audiovisual equipment and capacity of 135 participants, a computer laboratory with 50 desktop computers, and three large classrooms. All infrastructure costs are provided by UNESP and FAPESP.

11. The Barra Funda campus of UNESP is centrally located near a major bus/metro station and the international Sao Paulo airport. It is 10 km from the University of Sao Paulo, 20 km from the Federal University of ABC, and 80 km from the University of Campinas.

### **Legal status and mode of operating**

12. The SAIFR is a research centre of the Sao Paulo State University (UNESP) and has no independent legal status. UNESP is responsible for all legal aspects of the center.

## **Governance**

13. The SAIFR has three governing bodies which consist of the Governing Board, the International Scientific Council, and the SAIFR Secretariat.

- (a) The Governing Board has a general oversight function for all activities and decides the programs and priorities of SAIFR. It also determines the members of the Scientific Council and the SAIFR Director. The Steering Committee includes one representative from ICTP and one representative from IBSP (both nominated by the Director-General), one representative from UNESP, one representative from FAPESP, one representative from the Brazilian Government or from the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, and one representative from the other South American countries involved in the Institute. All the meetings of the Steering committee are financially covered by the SAIFR. The cost relating to the meeting and functioning of the Governing Board shall be covered by the institute.
- (b) The International Scientific Council decides the annual scientific activities of SAIFR and gives advice on its scientific priorities. It is composed of ten distinguished scientists who are related to theoretical physics research performed in South America. The cost relating to the meeting and functioning of the International Scientific Council shall be covered by the institute.
- (c) The SAIFR Secretariat is composed of a Director which supervises all SAIFR activities and chooses the secretarial staff and the SAIFR vice-Director.

## **Financial matters**

14. The infrastructure and permanent personnel of SAIFR will be funded by the Sao Paulo State University (UNESP), on behalf of the Government. SAIFR also has access to funding from the Sao Paulo State Research Funding Agency (FAPESP) through proposals submitted and evaluated in a peer-reviewing system. SAIFR presently has a five-year Thematic Grant from FAPESP that can be renewed. Funds from other Brazilian research funding agencies are also accessible through the submission of proposals.

15. Donations to SAIFR from other national and international government bodies and private sources will be received by UNESP or its associated foundation Fund UNESP and passed on to SAIFR.

## **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

16. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the SAIFR and shall not provide financial support for administrative costs.

## **Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes and expected impact of the Centre**

17. The SAIFR will cooperate with UNESCO, especially ICTP and IBSP, in developing theoretical physics activities contributing to UNESCO's actions towards building national, regional and international capacities with a priority for South American countries.

18. The SAIFR will seek to build partnerships and collaborate with relevant UNESCO partners, among these the network of UNESCO Chairs and category 2 centres, and other specialized institutions and networks of excellence.

### **Proposed decision**

19. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XVII which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to include the South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR), based on a close collaboration with the ICTP, as a category 2 institute, under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Brazil,
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of the Institute offers in the framework of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposed Institute meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by the UNESCO's General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93 and contained in document 37 C/18,
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Sao Paulo, Brazil, of the South American Institute for Fundamental Research (SAIFR), as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Brazilian Government.



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Educational, Scientific and  
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# Executive Board

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# 197 EX/16 Part XVIII

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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XVIII

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, MEXICO OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

##### SUMMARY

In response to a proposal by the Government of Mexico for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Mathematics, Physics, Energy and Environment, in Chiapas, Mexico; Meso-American Institute for Science (MAIS), as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, consultation was held with the National Council of Science and Technology, as well as with the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Education, and a mission to Mexico was undertaken to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed Centre.

The present document reviews the prerequisites for the establishment of the Centre and provides the scientific and institutional rationale behind the proposal of the Mexican Government. A Draft Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Mexico has been prepared in conformity with the standard model approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93) (document 37 C/18, Part I). The feasibility study was conducted in accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93).

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraphs 15-19.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 22.

## INTRODUCTION

1. In January 2014, the Government of Mexico, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, submitted a proposal for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Mathematics, Physics, Energy and Environment, at Tuxtla Gutierrez Chiapas, Mexico, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The Mexican authorities requested that this item be included on the agenda of the Executive Board at its 197th session.

2. A technical mission of UNESCO has been conducted to Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, the location of the proposed Centre, in May 2014, and the feasibility study has been undertaken in line with the guidelines and criteria for category 2 institutes and centres as approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 37th session (document 37 C/18 Part I). It was carried out in consultation with the relevant Mexican authorities and the Scientific Board of the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP), which is responsible for advising the Director-General on the IBSP activities. The present document reports to the Executive Board on the findings and conclusions of the said feasibility study.

3. During the technical mission, meetings were held with the Secretary of State, Mr José Antonio Meade, representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Enrique Cabrero, President of the *National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico*, and M. Sc. Jaime Valls Esponda, President of the Autonomous University of Chiapas. Strong support for the proposed Centre was expressed by all three representatives.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

4. The proposal submitted by Mexico can be summarized as follows:

### Scientific objectives of the Centre

5. The purpose of the centre is to promote the advance of the basic and applied sciences in countries of the Central America, Caribbean and Mexico region, through advanced training and research and the efficient transfer of knowledge. The proposed Centre will provide facilities and opportunities for advanced training for scientists from Central America, Caribbean and Mexico, in addition to various least developed countries in Latin America, with an additional mandate to promote women, native peoples and scientists throughout its programmes. The Centre will begin its activities in physics, mathematics, energy and environment, and gradually – depending on the regional needs – will increase its activities to other scientific areas, like biology, chemistry and computation. The Centre will be part of the System of Regional Centres for Scientific Excellence, coordinated by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) – a UNESCO category 1 institute – and the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO.

6. Specifically, the Centre will:

- (a) develop and coordinate research-oriented advanced studies in Mathematics, physics, energy, environment and related interdisciplinary areas of the basic sciences;
- (b) provide expertise to decision-makers, educators and the general public to strengthen the research and development potential in the region;
- (c) develop outreach activities (seminars, conferences, schools, workshops) in cooperation with national and international institutions, providing an international forum and enhancing collaborative networks among scientists from different countries in the LAC region.



7. Training and regional capacity building activities of the Centre will focus on:
- (a) **Advanced training and development through scientific research**, carried out by the Centre's permanent staff and by short-/long-term visitors, in cooperation with national and international institutions and with participation in international research projects;
  - (b) **Diploma programmes**. The Mesoamerican Graduate Diploma in Physics and the Mesoamerican Graduate Diploma in Mathematics are intensive one year-long programmes. Their primary goal is to complement the academic training of students, providing them with the basic knowledge necessary for efficient development in international graduate programs;
  - (c) **Propaedeutic courses**. The purpose of these courses is to improve and level of the academic preparation of students interested in applying to graduate programmes in physics;
  - (d) **Doctorates**. The University Council of Central America runs a Ph.D. in Physics and a Ph.D. in mathematics. These programmes are partially sponsored by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the State University System of the Colombian Caribbean (SUE-Caribbean) and they are supported by the Mesoamerican Centre for Theoretical Physics (MCTP). These doctorates involve seven universities in Central America and 76 doctoral thesis directors from nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean;
  - (e) **Associate programmes**. The specific objective of this programme is to identify and support those members of the scientific community of the countries located in Mesoamerica noted for its activities and scientific contributions, by providing them a physical space and facilities to stay engaged in research and collaboration. The programme includes four types of associates: Junior Associate, Regular Associate, Senior Associate and Associate Groups;
  - (f) **Scientific events and knowledge transfer through short-term activities**, developed in cooperation with UNESCO's International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and ICTP, and including schools, workshops, conferences and seminars compatible with UNESCO programmes. The calendar is projected on bi-annual basis;
    - (i) Participation to events is by call. Proposals are received by completing an online form, the Scientific Council evaluates proposals, MCTP Coordination allocates a budget to each of them, the organizing committee and the staff of the MCTP coordinate preparations. The event is held according to specific protocols. At the end of the event a report is made.
    - (ii) Sponsorship: CONACYT sponsors an important part of the events, UNACH supports infrastructure, goods and personnel, and the organizing institutions also provide financial and human resources for the realization of events;
    - (iii) Participant selection: After closing the receipt of requests for each event, the selection of participants for the event is carried out according to the budget and the amount of total or partial support received. Sometimes the co-organizer requests letters of recommendation, resumes, posters or preliminary work. It seeks at all times that participants come from various regions of Mesoamerica and gender equitable.
  - (g) **Academic meetings**. These meetings are held by advisory committees of Mesoamerican scholars to plan, organize and evaluate activities of MCTP.

- (h) **Council meetings.** Each year the MCTP Advisory and Scientific councils meet at MCTP to review the overall coordination and to advise on the plans of MCTP

### **Location and infrastructure**

8. The Centre will be located at Tuxtla Guitierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, on the premises of Autonomous University of Chiapas (UNACH). The Centre is foreseen to be permanently located in a new building, sufficient for offices, laboratories, computer centre, library, technical space, conference and exhibition rooms, and in the medium future as well as a few guestrooms, and high speed communication networks and computer centres.

### **National and international institutes that support the MCTP**

9. Some institutions that have expressed their support in writing to MCTP are:

- University of Sonora,
- University of Colima,
- Center of radio astronomy and astrophysics at the UNAM,
- National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics,
- The Division of Particles and Fields of the Mexican Physical Society

### **Contribution to the region**

10. MCTP's contribution to the region involves the development of basic and applied science, particularly in physics, mathematics, energy and environment, through advanced education, research and extension of knowledge of the highest quality and excellence

### **Justification for support**

11. UNESCO, in particular, through its International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and ICTP, the Government of Mexico, the governments of various countries in Central America and the Government of the State of Chiapas give their support to the realization of this centre for sustainable and significant development that impacts on the competitiveness of the countries in the region Mesoamerica.

### **Unique identity**

12. The creation of a regional platform in Mesoamerica, specifically in Chiapas, is a hope to solve some of the biggest problems we face today regarding education, energy production, environmental protection, development of the basic sciences.

### **Legal status and mode of operating**

13. The proposed Centre will be an independent legal entity under the laws of Mexico, with the functional autonomy necessary for the exercise of its activities. It will have the status and legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings, and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. Being located on the premises of the Autonomous University of Chiapas, the Centre will benefit from all amenities thereof, including utilities, security, staffing and resources without loss of autonomy. From UNACH, it will cooperate with the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the University of Chiapas, the Science and Arts University of Chiapas (UNICACH), Polytechnic University of Chiapas, and various other Mexican and regional scientific institutions.

## **Governance**

14. The Centre will have three bodies responsible for its governance:

- (a) **A Governing Board**, composed of a representative of the National Council of Science and Technology of the Mexican Government, two representatives of UNESCO (including one from ICTP), as well as of one representative for each UNESCO Member State that has obtained full membership in the Centre, the Rector of the Autonomous University of Chiapas and the representatives of the main sponsors. The Director of the Centre will participate in the meetings of the Governing Board without voting rights. The Board will have a general overseeing function for Centre's activities; will be responsible for maintaining the international status of the Centre; for mobilizing and monitoring of Centre's funding; for approving the Centre's programmes and priorities; as well as for assessing its contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives.
- (b) **A Secretariat**, composed of the Director of the Centre, and the administrative, technical and scientific staff required is to ensure the proper execution of the day-to-day activities of the Centre. The Director of the Centre will be approved by the Chairperson of the Governing Board, in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO.

## **Financial matters and the Autonomous University of Chiapas Role**

15. The Mexican Government, through the Autonomous University of Chiapas has agreed to provide all the resources, financial or in-kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre.

16. Other national collaborating institutions are expected to make some in-kind contributions for the Centre's activities, while the Centre will be expected to undertake fund-raising activities from national and international governmental bodies, various foundations, and private sources.

17. The Autonomous University of Chiapas will provide to the Centre the funding for:

- (i) Six permanent positions for high-level researchers.
- (ii) Two bilingual secretaries, a computer associate, a driver, a librarian, academic support secretary, and a financial manager and legal advisor.
- (iii) The facilities, furniture, equipment, materials and necessary inputs for the activities of the centre and a building with a Commodatum Agreement.

## **Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO**

18. UNESCO has no financial obligations or accountability for the operation and management of the Centre and shall not provide financial support for administrative costs.

19. UNESCO may contribute financially, under a contractual agreement, to specific programmes or activities that are implemented by the Centre, if they are part of a particular UNESCO project or programme that is managed and led by UNESCO. UNESCO may also ensure the Organization's representative attendance in formal meetings of the Centre, in particular in the Governing Board.

## **Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes and expected impact of the Centre**

20. The Centre will cooperate with UNESCO in developing activities, within the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), contributing to UNESCO's actions towards building national, regional and international capacities with a priority for Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico. This is in accordance with the Strategic Objectives 4 and 5 of document 37 C/4, and the Main

Lines of Action 1 and 2 of Major Programme II of the 37 C/5. Overall, the Centre will strive to promote women in science in the region and native peoples, noting that gender equality is a global priority of UNESCO. At the programme level, the goals and the activity of the Centre will fully correspond to the mandate of IBSP.

21. The Centre will seek to build partnerships and collaborate with UNESCO including the ICTP, as well as UNESCO's partners, in particular, the network of UNESCO chairs and category 2 centres, and other specialized institutions and networks of excellence.

### **Proposed decision**

22. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XVIII, which provides an analytical outline of the proposal to establish Regional Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Physics, Mathematics, Energy and Environment as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,
2. Emphasizing the importance of international and regional cooperation for human and institutional capacity-building in the basic sciences,
3. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Mexico,
4. Highlighting important opportunities for action that the establishment of the Centre offers in relation to UNESCO's International Basic Science Programme (IBSP),
5. Recognizing that the proposed Centre meets the guidelines and criteria for the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93),
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the establishment in Chiapas, Mexico, of a Regional Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Physics, Mathematics, Energy and Environment; Meso-American Institute for Science (MAIS), as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Mexico.



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**CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES**

**PART XIX**

**ESTABLISHMENT IN THESSALONIKI, GREECE,  
OF A CENTRE ON INTEGRATED AND  
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**SUMMARY**

Following a proposal by Greece to establish a Centre on Integrated and Multi-disciplinary Water Resources Management in Thessaloniki, Greece, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, a fact-finding mission was undertaken in June 2015 to assess its feasibility. The evaluation of the proposal to establish a centre was carried out in conformity with the criteria outlined in 37 C/18 Part I concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO.

The present document includes an annex containing such provisions of the proposed draft agreements – a draft agreement drawn up between Greece and UNESCO, as well as a draft agreement to be signed by UNESCO and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – as deviate from the model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I. These draft agreements are available on the Natural Sciences web pages for consultation.

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraphs 22 and 23.

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision proposed in paragraph 26.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. On 24 June 2013, the Government of Greece submitted a formal proposal to establish a Centre on Integrated and Multi-disciplinary Water Resources Management (CIMWRM) at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. On 21 February 2014, the government submitted a note clarifying issues raised by UNESCO concerning the proposal. These together form the full proposal from the Government of Greece.

2. In accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part I, Attachment 1, paragraph 3 (ii), (c)) approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 93), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Intergovernmental Council was invited to examine whether the proposal fits within the relevant strategic programme framework. By Resolution XXI-4, the IHP Intergovernmental Council considered and endorsed the proposal at its 21st session (18-20 June 2014).

3. A feasibility study was undertaken in June 2015, to corroborate the information provided and assess the proposed Centre's specific strategies, objectives, research and dissemination infrastructures, networking capacities and resources – both human and financial – for its operations and sustainability. It sought to ascertain the commitments of both the Government of Greece and AUTH. The results and conclusions of this study are presented in the present document.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE**

4. The feasibility study has been conducted in line with 37 C/Resolution 93, by which the General Conference approved the revised integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres contained in document 37 C/18 Part I, which includes a draft model agreement to be concluded between UNESCO and a government proposing the establishment of such a centre. Moreover, the General Conference stipulated that in applying the model agreement, which shall govern the establishment of such institutes and centres, enough flexibility should be allowed in order to take into account the legal constraints of Member States in proposing the establishment of such institutes and centres.

### **Objectives and functions of the proposed centre**

5. Many South-Eastern European and Mediterranean countries need to develop more effective mechanisms for integrated water resources management, to support water efficiency strategies, reduce poverty, increase food security, foster economic growth while having to meet sustainable development goals and protecting ecosystems. Climatic changes in the region will affect the natural environment and water resources, especially in systems that are highly stressed, water scarcity, increase in the frequency of extreme weather events and, in particular, of heat waves and droughts. New modalities of managing water scarcity need to be found, taking into account the complexity, vulnerability and high uncertainty concerning future water scenarios under climate change. In such a context, innovative water resources management processes have to respond effectively to new workable paradigms, capable of adapting to new economic, social and environmental conditions.

6. Bearing in mind that solutions to future water challenges lie not within a single discipline, but mainly in the connection and complementarities of concepts between multiple academic fields, including natural sciences, social sciences, engineering and communication, and in a more effective collaboration between academics/knowledge owners and managers/policy-makers, the sustainability science approach, CIMWRM will expand the activities of the existing Centre for Integrated Water Management and will work as a platform in the region that will contribute to the

formulation of integrated strategies for water resources management, in the overall context of achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

7. The mission of CIMWRM is the advancement of the science and practice of integrated water resources management (IWRM) to address water-related challenges by regional /international/global action through:

- (a) development of knowledge and innovation through interdisciplinary scientific research focusing on freshwater-related issues;
- (b) cooperation with government agencies, NGOs, institutions, stakeholders and decision-makers in order to put the results of scientific research into practice, in particular in the context of transboundary water systems;
- (c) networking with universities, research institutions, international organizations and other UNESCO Chairs, institutes and centres in the region;
- (d) education and capacity-building in IWRM at all levels;
- (e) dissemination and transfer of technological innovation, models, toolkits and methods that enhance IWRM, through publications, scientific meetings, seminars, scientific conferences, and web platforms;
- (f) communication and awareness-raising on water resources management, environment and sustainable development.

8. The specific objectives of the centre shall be to:

- (a) develop, promote and infuse sound practices of IWRM around the Mediterranean region, South-Eastern Europe and elsewhere;
- (b) promote research and practice through integrated and multidisciplinary approaches, involving a wide range of disciplines, from natural sciences to engineering, from human sciences to art and communication, the sustainability science approach;
- (c) provide a platform to advance international cooperation among Member States and the exchange of knowledge, information and tools on IWRM, in particular in the context of transboundary water systems;
- (d) provide policy advice, training and capacity-building, technical and information support as a basis to develop and implement new integrated methods of water resources management in the region;
- (e) promote awareness of IWRM issues among governmental institutions at international, regional and local levels, the media, NGOs and the public at large.

### **Areas of cooperation with UNESCO**

9. The recognition of CIMWRM at AUTH, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, will lead to the transformation of the existing Centre on Integrated Water Management into a more explicitly international one, operating – but not exclusively – in the Mediterranean region and the Balkan Peninsula (considering its privileged geographical position in this regard). The various thematic areas related to IWRM, well covered by schools and departments of AUTH, allows it to properly address the wide range of water challenges that the region is facing.

10. There are clear, strong, and demonstrable programmatic linkages between CIMWRM objectives, activities, and the fourth medium-term strategic objective of UNESCO (SO4):

“Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally”, as well as the six themes and many focal areas of the eighth phase of the IHP. In this respect, CIMWRM has a clear vocation towards the development of integrated and multidisciplinary approaches for research, education, capacity-building, communication and policy advice activities, with a particular focus on transnational and transboundary water systems management. Although the geographic scope of the Centre is principally South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, it clearly has the capacity to serve a wider number of Member States, also in Africa. The practices within CIMWRM and the hosting university are aligned with UNESCO’s priority on Gender Equality.

### **Expected impact and relevance of the Centre for UNESCO**

11. The designation of CIMWRM as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO will allow it to make major contributions to building the capacity of Member States in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean in IWRM, involving scientists, professionals, managers and policy-makers at various levels, and to contribute to mainstream water resources management within SDGs in the region. While cooperation among various water centres should be encouraged in their specialty area, in order to avoid any risk of duplication, CIMWRM is expected to contribute specially to the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of tools, policy advice and good practices of IWRM in the region, in particular in transnational and transboundary contexts.

### **Legal status and governance**

12. Built on the basis of the existing Centre on Integrated Water Management established in 2011, CIMWRM will belong entirely to AUTH and will continue to operate under the supervision of the Senate of AUTH. The University is ready to undertake any measure that may be required for the transformation of the existing Centre into a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

13. The Centre has a seven-member Administrative Council, representatives of the different Departments engaged on water issues, which is appointed by the Rector and the Vice-Rectors and it is approved by the Senate of the University, for a time period of four years.

14. Concurrently, a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) provides advice on the strategy for the programme of the Centre, focusing on effectiveness of the Centre in aligning with and addressing its objectives. The SAC consists of 16 members in total: seven members of the Administrative Council and nine distinguished scientists of international reputation. These members represent various key thematic areas (technology, natural sciences, social sciences, etc.) and may be either experts in water resources management or be able to contribute – through their research/teaching/writing activity – to the development and promotion of an integrated approach to water management issues. The members of the SAC are appointed by the University Senate upon the recommendations of the Council. The members of the SAC may be active faculty members of AUTH, emeritus professors of AUTH or other national or international universities, as well as Greek or foreign scientists.

15. The Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is ready to appoint a Steering Committee, renewed every three years, which will steer and oversee CIMWRM operations within the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The Steering Committee will be composed of the following members:

- (a) Four representatives of relevant faculties and schools of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, one of which will be appointed as Chairperson;
- (b) Up to two representatives of Member States and/or Associate Member States of UNESCO, international organizations and academic or research centres, one from the Mediterranean region and one from the Balkans, which have expressed interest in



being represented on the Board and have sent to the Centre notification for membership;

- (c) A representative of the Director-General of UNESCO.

16. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee will prepare and submit to the Committee all documents and regular reports and statements, necessary to enable it to:

- (a) Approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of CIMWRM;
- (b) Approve the annual work plan of CIMWRM, including the staffing table;
- (c) Examine the annual reports submitted by the Chairperson, including a biennial self-assessment report of CIMWRM's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- (d) Examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of CIMWRM and monitor the provision of such accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements;
- (e) Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of CIMWRM.

17. As stipulated in document 37 C/18 Part I, the designation as a category 2 institute and centre may be granted to an existing entity or to an institution in the process of being created. In the case of CIMWRM, the Centre legally already exists. Moreover, while category 2 institutes and centres are associated with UNESCO, they are legally outside the Organization. They enjoy legal and functional autonomy. Hence, UNESCO is not legally responsible for them and it shall bear neither responsibility nor liabilities of any kind, be it managerial, financial or otherwise.

18. CIMWRM, as an integral part of the University, which itself is a public entity of Greece, will have therefore the legal status and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with Greek law, and, in particular, the capacities to contract and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property through the University. CIMWRM will maintain the legal status and capacity within Greece necessary for it to exercise its functions and to receive funds (including as contributions and as payment for services rendered) and acquire all means necessary for its functioning, through its relationship with the University.

19. On its side, the Government of Greece shall assist AUTH, as appropriate, in taking measures to establish and operate the Centre as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO, assuring in particular that the Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.

20. The draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Greece and the draft agreement between UNESCO and AUTH delineating their respective responsibilities and undertakings are available for consultation on the Natural Sciences web pages. This arrangement deviates from the model agreement.

### **Location, staff and infrastructures**

21. In itself, CIMWRM directly involves six support staff, seven members on its Administrative Council and nine scientists on its Scientific Advisory Board, and has relatively light, but complete, office facilities. CIMWRM's ability to properly meet its objectives and to implement concrete research, education, capacity-building, and policy support activities in the area of IWRM rests largely on its belonging to the AUTH, the largest university in Greece and in the region. CIMWRM can in fact rely on the research and teaching facilities of the 13 University departments and schools dealing directly with water management issues, their laboratories and their networking capacity. For the development of ad hoc e-tools and distance learning opportunities, CIMWRM can rely

entirely on the in-house capacities and infrastructure offered by the university library and IT department.

### **Financial sustainability**

22. According to the proposal, the proposed Centre will rely on the existing structure established to manage the Centre for Integrated Water Management, which has an annual budget for support staff and running costs already provided on an annual basis by AUTH, from both regular and external sources of funding. Like all universities in Greece, AUTH is financially independent, and has the full capacity to support the Centre which belongs to the University and functions under the supervision of its Senate. The University also receives more than twice its regular budget from research activities funded by donors. An important part of such extrabudgetary funding is made available to water-related departments and schools contributing to the activities of the Centre.

23. Through the University Research Committee, CIMWRM has the capacity to generate major research and international projects leading to policy advice and capacity-building in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, with a particular focus on transnational and transboundary contexts. Specific training and capacity-building programmes for policy-makers could be envisioned based on the current portfolio of the Centre's numerous transnational activities

### **Conclusions**

24. The draft agreement between UNESCO and AUTH addresses the legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed CIMWRM, taking into account the draft model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I, and applicable Greek law and regulations. Given the institutional set-up in which the category 2 centre would be established, the proposed draft agreement differs in some respects from the model agreement. The following deviations are proposed in light of paragraph A.1.7 of the integrated comprehensive strategy with respect to the agreement:

- (a) According to document 37 C/18 Part I, category 2 centres must have the autonomy necessary for the execution of their activities and the legal capacity to contract, to institute legal proceedings and to acquire and dispose of moveable and immovable property. The proposed agreement, in Article 24, indicates that CIMWRM is an entity within AUTH, which itself is an instrument of Greece. As such, CIMWRM has the legal status and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with Greek law, and, in particular, the capacities to contract and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property through AUTH. This arrangement does not provide the degree of autonomy required in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy (namely its own legal personality). However it provides the necessary operational capabilities within the existing legal and institutional setup of the host organization.
- (b) The standard model agreement envisages that the government shall provide all the resources, financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the institute/centre. In the case of CIMWRM, AUTH undertakes to provide all such assistance, as provided for in the draft agreement between UNESCO and the University. On the other hand, while the Government of Greece makes no firm funding commitments, it shall endeavour to monitor that the necessary resources, either financially or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of CIMWRM have been secured by the University.
- (c) Although the Government of Greece will provide its assistance for the establishment of the CIMWRM as a category 2 centre, the responsibility for the establishment of the Centre belongs to AUTH, and in particular its Senate. As a consequence of this, the Steering Committee proposed for the Centre will not comprise a representative of the Government.

- (d) For the same reasons as explained in points (a), (b) and (c) here above, the Steering Committee to be appointed by the University's Senate to oversee CIMWRM operations within the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki will have functions in line with the provisions of the model agreement, except for what concerns the definition and adoption of the rules and regulations, and in particular the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for CIMWRM, since these will all remain what they are today for the existing Centre, as an integral entity of AUTH.

25. Therefore, it is the Director-General's conviction, notwithstanding the deviations explained in the preceding paragraph, that CIMWRM will contribute in a meaningful way to the future activities of UNESCO's actions in the area of IWRM, as is expected from category 2 institutes and centres.

### **Proposed decision**

26. In light of the above, the Executive Board is requested to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by the General Conference at its 37th session in 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XIX,
3. Welcomes the proposal of Greece to establish in Thessaloniki a Centre on Integrated and Multi-disciplinary Water Resources Management, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
4. Takes note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study in document 197 EX/16 Part XIX;
5. Further takes note of the deviations between, on the one hand, the model agreement for category 2 centres and institutes attached to document 37 C/18 Part I and, on the other hand, the draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Greece and the draft agreement between UNESCO and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (available on the Natural Sciences web pages);
6. Recommends that the General Conference, at its 38th session, approve the designation of the Centre on Integrated and Multi-disciplinary Water Resources Management at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement with the Government of Greece and the Agreement with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

## **ANNEX**

### **PROVISIONS DEVIATING FROM THE MODEL AGREEMENT**

The order of Articles 2 and 3 have been inverted; the substance of **Article 2 – Purpose of the Agreement** is not deviating from the model agreement, but Article 3, now titled **Establishment**, is in deviation from the model agreement:

#### *Article 3 – Establishment*

The Government shall assist, as appropriate, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in taking measures to establish and operate CIMWRM as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO as provided for under this Agreement.

#### *Article 4 – Legal status*

1. CIMWRM shall be independent of UNESCO.
2. The Parties acknowledge that CIMWRM, as part of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, is an entity in the territory of Greece and, as such, CIMWRM's legal status and capacities are governed by Greek laws, regulations, and policies.

The following Articles of the model agreement have been omitted for the reasons explained in paragraph 24 of the Background Document for the Executive Board:

#### **Article 5 – Constitutive Act**

#### **Article 10 – Participation**

#### **Article 11 – Responsibility**

#### **Article 12 – Evaluation**

#### **Article 13 – Use of UNESCO name and Logo**

Consequently, starting from Article 5 the numbering of Articles in the proposed agreement differs from that of the model agreement, even if they substantially do not deviate from the model agreement. Hereafter are listed only the Articles deviating substantially from the model agreement.

#### **Article 6 – Steering Committee (formerly Article 7 in the model agreement)**

The Parties shall collaborate to facilitate CIMWRM's Steering Committee consistent with the provisions of Article [5] of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki regarding the designation of the Centre as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

#### **Article 8 – Contribution by the Government (formerly Article 9 in the model agreement)**

The Government shall endeavour to monitor that the necessary resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of CIMWRM have been secured by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

**Agreement between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki regarding the designation of the Centre on Integrated and Multidisciplinary Water Resources Management as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO**

*Whereas*, the Centre for Integrated Water Management (CIWRM) is an existing centre within the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, which functions and operates according to the decision of the University Senate, the highest administrative authority of the University;

*Whereas*, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki fully supports the designation of the Centre on Integrated and Multidisciplinary Water Resources Management (hereafter “CIMWRM”) at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (hereafter the “University”), as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,

*Whereas* the General Conference of UNESCO, in 38 C/Resolution XX, approved the designation of the Centre on Integrated and Multi-Disciplinary Water Resources Management established at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and authorized the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement;

*Whereas*, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Government of Greece have entered into an agreement on [date] concerning the establishment of CIMWRM as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO,

Therefore, in consideration of the mutual agreements hereinafter set forth, and intending to be legally bound hereby, UNESCO and the University (hereinafter referred to each as a “Party” and together as the “Parties”) agree to the following measures for the establishment of CIMWRM as category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO:

**Article 1 – Establishment of CIMWRM as a category 2 centre**

The University shall agree to take, in the course of the year following the entry into force of the present Agreement, any measure that may be required for the transformation of the existing CIWRM into a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, as provided for under this Agreement.

**Article 2 – Legal status**

The Parties understand that CIMWRM, as an integral part of the University, which itself is a public entity of Greece, has the legal status and capacity necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with Greek laws, regulations, and policies, and, in particular, the capacities to contract and to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property through the University and its legal representatives.

**Article 3 – CIMWRM Constitution**

The University will develop bylaws or other governance documents (the “Governing Documents”) which shall include provisions confirming that:

- (a) CIMWRM will maintain the legal status and capacity within Greece necessary for it to exercise its functions and to receive funds (including as contributions and as payment for services rendered) and acquire all means necessary for its functioning, through the University and the University’s administrative bodies; and
- (b) CIMWRM will maintain a governance structure which allows for UNESCO representation.

#### **Article 4 – Functions and objectives of CIMWRM**

1. The mission of CIMWRM is the advancement of the science and practice of integrated water resources management (IWRM) to address water related challenges by regional /international/global action through:

- Development of knowledge and innovation through interdisciplinary scientific research focusing on freshwater-related issues;
- Cooperation with government agencies, NGOs, institutions, stakeholders and decision-makers in order to put the results of scientific research into practice, in particular in the context of transboundary water systems;
- Networking with universities, research institutions, international organizations and other UNESCO Chairs, institutes and centres in the region;
- Education and capacity-building in IWRM at all levels;
- Dissemination and transfer of technological innovation, models, toolkits and methods that enhance IWRM, through publications, scientific meetings, seminars and scientific conferences, web platforms;
- Communication and awareness-raising on water resources management, environment and sustainable development.

2. The specific objectives of CIMWRM shall be to:

- (a) Develop, promote and infuse sound practices of IWRM around the Mediterranean region, South-Eastern Europe and elsewhere;
- (b) Promote research and practice through integrated and multidisciplinary approaches, involving a wide range of disciplines, from natural sciences to engineering, from human sciences to art and communication;
- (c) Provide a platform for advance international cooperation among Member States and the exchange of knowledge, information and tools on IWRM, in particular in the context of transboundary water systems;
- (d) Provide policy advice, training and capacity-building, technical and information support as a basis to develop and implement new integrated methods of water resources management in the region;
- (e) Promote awareness of IWRM issues among governmental institutions at central, regional and local levels, media, NGOs and the public at large.

#### **Article 5 – Steering Committee**

1. The University's Senate will appoint a Steering Committee, renewed every three years, which will steer and oversee CIMWRM operations within the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

2. The Steering Committee will be composed of the following members:

- (a) Four representatives of relevant faculties and schools of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, one of which will be appointed as Chairperson;
- (b) Up to two representatives of Member States and/or Associate Member States of UNESCO, international organizations and academic or research centres, one from the

Mediterranean region and one from the Balkans, which have expressed interest in being represented on the Steering Committee and have sent CIMWRM notification for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 8, paragraph 2 below;

- (c) A representative of the Director-General of UNESCO.

3. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee will prepare and submit to the Committee all documents and regular reports and statements, as described in paragraph 4 of the present article, for its deliberations and decisions.

4. The Steering Committee shall:

- (a) Approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of CIMWRM;
- (b) Approve the annual work plan of CIMWRM, including the staffing table;
- (c) Examine the annual reports submitted by the Chairperson, including a biennial self-assessment reports of CIMWRM's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- (d) Examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of CIMWRM and monitor the provision of such accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements;
- (e) Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of CIMWRM.

5. The Steering Committee shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of a majority of its members. Members can be physically present or participate through teleconference.

#### **Article 6 – Contribution by the University**

The University will provide all the resources, financial and in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of CIMWRM, as follows:

- (a) Fully equipped premises and facilities;
- (b) Running costs and salaries of existing administrative support personnel, which by law are covered by the Government of Greece or by external funding;
- (c) Salaries of all relevant University personnel involved in the operations of CIMWRM, which by law are covered by the Government of Greece or by external funding;
- (d) In an initial phase, operations and activities of CIMWRM will be guaranteed through ongoing projects of the University contributing to the functions and objectives of CIMWRM as described at Article 4, which will be progressively leveraged through fundraising efforts by the University.

#### **Article 7 – UNESCO's contribution**

1. UNESCO may provide assistance, as needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of CIMWRM, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO. Such assistance may be by way of:

- (a) providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of IWRM; (and/or)

- (b) engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations; (and/or)
- (c) seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.

2. In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programme and budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

#### **Article 8 – Participation**

1. CIMWRM encourages the participation of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO, international organizations and academic or research centres which, by their common interest in the objectives of CIMWRM, desire to cooperate with CIMWRM *inter alia* as Steering Committee members, consistent with Article 5 of the present Agreement. .

2. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO, international organizations and academic or research centres wishing to participate in CIMWRM's activities may send notification to CIMWRM to this. CIMWRM shall inform UNESCO of the receipt of such notifications within a reasonable time of receipt.

#### **Article 9 – Responsibility**

As CIMWRM is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for the acts or omissions of CIMWRM, and shall also not be subject to any legal process, and/or bear no liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Agreement.

#### **Article 10 – Evaluation**

1. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of CIMWRM in order to ascertain:

- (a) whether CIMWRM makes a significant contribution to the UNESCO's strategic programme objectives and expected results aligned with the four-year programmatic period of C/5 document (Programme and Budget), including the two global priorities of UNESCO, as well as related sectoral or programme priorities and themes, and;
- (b) whether the activities effectively pursued by CIMWRM are in conformity with those set out in this Agreement.

2. UNESCO undertakes to submit to the Government of Greece and the University, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted.

3. UNESCO shall, for the purpose of the review of this Agreement, conduct an evaluation of the contribution of CIMWRM to UNESCO strategic programme objectives, to be funded by the Government of Greece or by CIMWRM.

4. Following the results of an evaluation, each of the Parties shall have the option of requesting a revision of its contents or of denouncing the Agreement, as envisaged in Articles 15 and 16.

#### **Article 11 – Use of UNESCO names and logos**

1. CIMWRM may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use after its title the mention "under the auspices of UNESCO".



2. CIMWRM is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letterheaded paper and documents including electronic documents and web pages in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

#### **Article 12 – Entry into force**

The present Agreement shall enter into force following the signature by the Parties on the day of entry into force of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Greece on the establishment of CIMWRM.

#### **Article 13 – Duration**

This Agreement shall remain in force for six years, in line with the Agreement between the Government of Greece and UNESCO, unless expressly denounced by either Party as provided for in Article 15 of this Agreement.

#### **Article 14 – Notification**

Any notice or communication by any Party to any other Party shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if hand delivered, electronically mailed with receive notification requested, or mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested.

The following addresses shall be used to provide notice under this Agreement:

ON BEHALF OF UNESCO:

[•]

ON BEHALF OF THE ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI:

[•]

With copies to:

[•]

#### **Article 15 – Termination**

Any Party may terminate this Agreement for any reason by issuing written notice to the other Party ninety (90) days prior to the proposed date of termination, provided that if termination is being sought because of a breach of this Agreement, the Party alleged to have caused such breach shall have thirty (30) days in which to cure such breach.

#### **Article 16 – Revision**

This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written agreement of the Parties. To be binding, changes must be in writing and signed by duly authorized representatives/agents of each Party.

#### **Article 17 – Settlement of disputes**

In case of dispute the Parties will undertake all efforts to settle by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the Parties. If the Parties fail to settle the dispute by mutual understanding, such dispute shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) Arbitration Rules.

**Article 18 – Miscellaneous**

- (a) The present Agreement constitutes the complete understanding of the Parties and supersedes all other oral or written agreements between the Parties, if any. No modification or waiver of any provision hereof will be valid unless it is submitted in writing and signed by both Parties. Should any portion of this Agreement be found invalid by a court of law, the remaining portions of this Agreement will continue to bind the Parties.
- (b) The present Agreement shall terminate if and on the date on which the Agreement between the Government of Greece and UNESCO on the establishment of CIMWRM terminates.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Agreement on DATE

DONE in two copies in the English language.

.....

For the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

[NAME]

Director-General

.....

For the Aristotle University of  
Thessaloniki

[NAME]

Rector



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

# 197 EX/16 Part XX

PARIS, 2 September 2015  
Original: French

Item 16 of the provisional agenda

## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XX

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN MICROSCIENCE (CEM) IN YAOUNDÉ (CAMEROON)

##### SUMMARY

Following the proposal of the Government of Cameroon to establish a Centre of Excellence in Microscience, under the auspices of UNESCO, a mission from UNESCO visited Yaoundé in January 2014 to assess the feasibility of establishing the proposed Centre.

The mandate of the proposed Centre will be the promotion of experimentation in science teaching and learning, with science to be taught actively in the education systems of all the countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) as well as other African countries. The main objective will be to improve the quality of science teaching in the schools and universities of the ECCAS countries, in close collaboration with the UNESCO International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP).

The feasibility study was carried out in conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy set out in document 37 C/18 and approved by the General Conference at its 37th session. A draft agreement has been drawn up by UNESCO and the Government of Cameroon in conformity with the model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I, and this is available on the website of the Natural Sciences Sector.

The financial and administrative implications for UNESCO are presented in paragraph 20.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 28.

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The Government of the Republic of Cameroon has proposed the establishment, in Yaoundé, of the Centre of Excellence in Microscience (CEM) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO to promote experimentation in the teaching and learning of science in the education systems of all the countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) as well as other African countries. The main objective is to improve the quality of science education in the schools and universities of the ECCAS countries.
2. Established by a decision of the Ministry of National Education in 2000 with the general purpose of using low-cost experimental practices to support the teaching of sciences, the Centre of Excellence in Microscience was set up in the *lycée Général Leclerc* in Yaoundé.
3. As part of the implementation of the Global Microscience Project, UNESCO and the Cameroonian Government have signed an agreement to establish the Centre of Excellence in Microscience in Yaoundé.
4. In 2001, an international seminar on the theme “To be or not to be in favour of practical work in science in the countries of ECCAS” was held at the Yaoundé Hilton hotel, in which over 130 participants coming from South Africa, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Chad, the Central African Republic and France took part. Afterwards, all participants acknowledged the importance of developing the microsciences, and chose the Centre of Excellence in Microscience, Yaoundé as the focal point for organizing seminars to demonstrate the experience of the region’s countries in microscience.
5. On 20 August 2013, the Government of the Republic of Cameroon formally submitted a detailed proposal in conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy for the establishment and functioning of category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO.
6. At the last General Conference, held in November 2013, Cameroon’s Minister of Basic Education, Ms Youssouf, reaffirmed to UNESCO her country’s wish to make the Yaoundé Centre of Excellence in Microscience a category 2 centre, under the auspices of UNESCO. She gave a detailed account of the history and potential of the CEM, emphasizing the importance of the Centre not only for her own country but for the whole of ECCAS.
7. In response to this strong demand, the Director-General gave her approval for the feasibility study needed in order to assess the specific scope, objectives and strategies of the proposed Centre, and its cooperative relationship with UNESCO’s IBSP and other institutions.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

8. The feasibility study was carried out in accordance with the new integrated, comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres. This new strategy, set forth in document 37 C/18, contains the guidelines and criteria for the creation of such centres and a draft model agreement to be concluded between UNESCO and a government proposing to establish one. Moreover, the General Conference stipulated that in applying the model agreement, which shall govern the establishment of such institutes and centres, enough flexibility should be allowed to take account of the legal constraints on Member States in proposing the establishment of such institutes and centres.

### **Objectives, purpose and scope of the proposed category 2 centre**

9. The purpose of the proposed Centre will be the promotion of experimentation in science teaching and learning in the education systems of all the counties of ECCAS as well as other African countries, so as to improve the quality of science teaching in the schools and universities of those countries.

10. More specifically, the objectives of the proposed Centre are to:

- Encourage learners, particularly girls, to take up scientific subjects and training.
- Promote scientific innovation by developing small-scale practical tools for teaching science and technology.
- Foster the local production of low-cost scientific equipment for use in the region's primary, secondary and higher institutions.
- Put the necessary structures in place for the self-sufficient production of microscience kits, experimental equipment using local materials, and other teaching materials to make science teaching more practical.
- Train and re-train teachers in the use of these scientific materials, and expand their skills by strengthening the capacity of teaching inspectors and advisers in the science subjects.
- In collaboration with accredited training establishments, provide the students at those institutions with training in the use of this scientific equipment, and exchange information and experience with similar institutions worldwide.

#### **Name of the Centre**

11. The name of the category 2 institute will be as follows: Centre of Excellence in Microscience – category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

#### **Legal status**

12. The Centre of Excellence in Microscience, Yaoundé was set up in December 2000 by decision of the Minister of National Education, who appointed a Coordinator to manage it with the assistance of an Administrative Officer.

13. To meet the requirements for the status of a UNESCO category 2 centre, the Cameroonian Government has drawn up a new instrument in the form of a Presidential decree providing for the creation, organization and functioning of the CEM, which incorporates the characteristics required for a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. Article 2 states, among other things, that the new CEM shall be an independent public institution of a scientific, educational and professional nature, with legal personality and financial autonomy.

14. The proposed Centre shall be under the joint technical supervision of the Education Ministries and the financial supervision of the Finance Ministry. These ministries shall be represented on the Management Board of the new CEM, the body responsible for its management and control.

15. Likewise, the draft decree provides that, under the auspices of UNESCO, the new CEM shall extend its activities beyond national boundaries, on terms to be defined in the draft agreement to be signed between UNESCO and the Cameroonian Government.

#### **Governance**

16.1 The Centre shall be managed by a Management Board, renewed every six (6) years. The Management Board shall be chaired by one of the Member States designated in rotation and composed of:

- (i) One representative of the Government of Cameroon;

- (ii) Two representatives of the Ministries of Education and Finance;
- (iii) One representative per Member State that has sent to the Centre notification for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 10, paragraph 2 of the draft agreement, and that has expressed the wish to be represented on the Management Board;
- (iv) One representative of ECCAS;
- (v) One representative of the UNESCO International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO;
- (vi) One representative of the UNESCO Office in Yaoundé, appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO.

16.2 The Management Board shall:

- (i) Approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre.
- (ii) Approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table.
- (iii) Examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives, in particular those of the IBSP.
- (iv) Examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of the Centre and monitor the provision of the accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements.
- (v) Adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country.
- (vi) Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre.

16.3 The Management Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, twice in every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his or her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of two-thirds of its members. The category 2 centre shall bear the cost of organizing meetings of the Management Board.

16.4 The Management Board shall:

- (i) Adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.
- (ii) Define the criteria for nomination of, and select the members of the Scientific Committee.

17. The Scientific Committee shall:

- (i) Be chaired by a scientist of international distinction appointed by the Management Board.
- (ii) Consist of twelve (12) members nominated by the Management Board for their competence.

- (iii) Rule on the content of the training programmes, the content of experimental protocols, the standards for the teaching equipment to be purchased or manufactured locally, and the terms and conditions for setting up the training sessions.
- (iv) Contribute to developing the Centre's relations with national, regional and international institutions.
- (v) Submit its activity report to the Management Board.

18. Management

- (i) The Centre shall be under the authority of a Director who may be assisted by a Deputy Director, both appointed by the Prime Minister on the proposal of the Management Board.
- (ii) The Director shall be responsible for the management and general functioning of the Centre, under the authority and control of the Management Board to whom he or she reports.
- (iii) The organizational chart of the Centre shall be approved by the Management Board.

**Financial matters and sustainability**

19. Contribution of the Government

The Government shall:

- (i) Provide all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper operation of the Centre.
- (ii) Make available to the Centre the operating subsidies and staff salary cost subsidies granted each year by the Government (in Cameroon, public services are given access free of charge to water, electricity and telephone services, but consumption is regulated).
- (iii) Bear the full cost of providing the educational establishments with experimental equipment under the public investment budget code (PIB).
- (iv) Pay to the Centre contributions from the educational establishments' own funds for the provision of their experimental equipment.
- (v) Make available to the Centre the administrative staff necessary for the performance of its functions, which shall comprise: the Director of the Centre, the Deputy Director and the necessary technical and administrative staff.

Other sources of funding may however also be forthcoming from financial contributions, especially from States benefiting from the services of the Centre.

20. Financial and administrative implications for UNESCO

UNESCO may provide assistance, as and when needed, in the form of technical assistance for the programme activities of the Centre, in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO by:

- (i) Providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre.

- (ii) Engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations.
- (iii) Seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity/project within a strategic programme priority area.

21. In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programme and budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

### **Links and areas of cooperation with UNESCO**

#### 22. Areas of cooperation with UNESCO

The Centre will cooperate with UNESCO in developing activities in the science area, including science teaching in primary and secondary schools and universities, and in contributing to the work of the Organization in promoting science teaching at national, subregional and regional levels in order to reduce the deficit in schooling in the sciences, giving priority to Africa.

#### 23. Relation to UNESCO's objectives and programmes

The work of the proposed Centre in the region and subregion will make a substantial contribution to the strategic objectives of Major Programme II (MPII) – Natural sciences – and Main Line of Action (MLA) 2: Building institutional capacities in sciences and engineering. The Centre's activities will encompass an interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching of science that has increasingly become the basis for programme action within the context of the International Basic Sciences Programme.

24. The Centre will contribute to UNESCO's Priority Africa and its endeavour to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation and to encourage, in particular, South-South and North-South-South cooperation. It will contribute to efforts to attain the objectives and vision set out in the African Union Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology aimed at enabling Africa to harness and apply science, technology and related innovations in order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The Centre will build much needed capacity in sciences and address the priorities specific to the region especially in terms of food security and investment in research on diseases largely affecting the African countries.

25. In preparing for action, the Centre will seek to build partnerships and collaborate with relevant UNESCO partners, the UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks and the network of UNESCO category 2 centres and other specialist institutions and centres of excellence, particularly in Africa.

#### 26. Regional and international impact of the Centre

The international partnerships and activities of the new CEM will be evidenced by its close cooperation in two key areas:

- (i) Training the trainers, with the majority of the ECCAS countries, in particular Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad, as well as Burundi and Rwanda. The establishment of the CEM as a category 2 centre would enable this partnership to be extended to the whole of Africa and even to less developed countries elsewhere, mainly via the future programme of manufacturing experimental equipment from local materials.



- (ii) Designing and supplying experimental equipment, working on the one hand with the SOMERSET EDUCATIONAL company and the RADMASTE Centre (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg), based in South Africa, and on the other with the subregion's senior technical schools.

### **Conclusion: Results expected from UNESCO's contribution**

27. Where appropriate UNESCO will provide technical assistance in the form of its experts and policy advice in the specialized fields of the Centre. UNESCO will also actively promote the activities of the Centre and facilitate partnerships and cooperation with other countries in the region. The Organization will assist the Centre to achieve its objectives through fostering collaboration with its partners, UNESCO category 2 centres worldwide and other centres of excellence.

### **Proposed decision**

28. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along with the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XX,
2. Recognizing the importance of the IBSP Global Microscience Project and its positive impact on the expansion of science and sustainable development in Africa,
3. Welcomes the proposal of the Republic of Cameroon to convert the Centre of Excellence in Microscience, Yaoundé into a centre under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the integrated comprehensive strategy and the guidelines concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) in document 37 C/18 approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;
4. Recommends that the General Conference approve, at its 38th session, the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Microscience, Yaoundé (Cameroon) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement;
5. Invites all Member States interested in the Organization's science teaching programme and the Global Microscience Project to cooperate actively with the Centre of Excellence in Microscience, Yaoundé.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-seventh session

# 197 EX/16 Part XXI

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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XXI

#### ESTABLISHMENT IN BEIJING, CHINA, OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

##### SUMMARY

In conformity with 37 C/Resolution 93 by which the General Conference approved the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres, the Director-General presents a summary of a feasibility study undertaken at the request of the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning the creation of the International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (ICCSA) in Beijing as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2).

Financial and administrative implications are covered in paragraph 13.

Action expected of the Executive Board: proposed decision in paragraph 17.



## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In April 2015, the Government of the People's Republic of China submitted to the Director-General of UNESCO a request for action for the establishment of the International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (ICCSA) in Beijing as a UNESCO category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. This proposal was developed on the basis of the activities undertaken and the experience gained by the Beijing Industrial Design Centre (BIDC), operating under the Beijing Municipality Science and Technology Commission since 1995, and the activities and initiatives of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network of which Beijing is an active member and City of Design since 2012.

2. Further to the proposal from China, a feasibility study was undertaken in July 2015 to ascertain whether the ICCSD has an enabling policy and institutional environment, and to verify if the scope, focus and orientation of the ICCSD are fully aligned with the objectives of UNESCO's 37 C/4 Medium-Term Strategy and 37 C/5 Programme and Budget, particularly with regard to the Programming and Strategic Programme Objective 8 "Fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions", Main line of action 2: "Supporting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, and the development of cultural and creative industries".

3. Based on discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, as well as visits to multiple institutions, the study concluded that the ICCSD has a conducive environment for its successful, as well as technically and financially sound, establishment and long-term operation. Overall, it has a dynamic national and institutional environment that promotes openness, exchange and innovation, and strategically places quality at the centre of its cultural activities. The ICCSD is also supported by the necessary political commitment required to establish and sustain respect and credibility. The proposed mandate and activities of the ICCSD will raise awareness of and reinforce UNESCO's work in culture, creativity and sustainable development. The feasibility study may be consulted at the following webpage: [www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres](http://www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres).

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ICCSA)**

4. The overall objective of the ICCSD is:

- (a) To promote multiple cultural and creative development pathways and raise awareness among stakeholders at various levels about the relationship between culture, creativity and sustainable development, as well as human well-being and social cohesion, and to share best practices.
- (b) To carry out research about the creative economy and the nexus between culture, creativity and sustainable development, to develop related teaching materials, model studies and indicators, to collect data and statistics and undertake analysis thereof.
- (c) To support UNESCO's efforts to promote cooperation and development among and within Creative Cities pertaining to creativity and its impact for sustainable development, to contribute to capacity-building programmes strengthening human and institutional capacities in the cultural and creative industries, to foster cultural diversity, to issue periodically related thematic publications and to help unlock the creative and productive potential of cities and communities.
- (d) To promote creativity and cultural and creative expressions and to develop corresponding platforms such as publications and websites to enable the sharing of examples and information, especially for vulnerable groups, women and youth.

- (e) To facilitate the emergence of a network of relevant public and private centres, institutions and partners, induce relevant academic and scientific studies, and organize international symposiums and capacity-building activities in Asia and the Pacific and other regions.

5. ICCSD's programmes and activities can be divided into the following areas:

- (a) Raising awareness of the relationship between culture, creativity and sustainable development;
- (b) Research, information sharing, and policy development;
- (c) Capacity-building;
- (d) Building a creative network and partnerships; and
- (e) Launching pilot projects.

### **III. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT FACTORS**

6. Through this programmatic orientation, the ICCSD can make a contribution to and help advance the implementation of UNESCO's Overarching and Strategic Programme Objectives through activities and mechanisms at national, subregional, regional and international levels. It is envisaged that UNESCO's expertise will be sought regarding programme development and design so as to ensure the full alignment with UNESCO's objectives, programmes and action.

#### **Networking and synergies with other institutes and entities**

7. As outlined above, ICCSD will engage principally in national, subregional, regional and international activities and exchanges, cooperation and networking. Beyond, it will also seek collaboration at the international and interregional levels reaching out to potential partner institutions and entities, including public and private sector organizations, both in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and other regions.

8. ICCSD will also strive to actively cooperate with UNESCO, other UNESCO centres and entities in China and Asia and the Pacific, as well as with relevant international organizations, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

9. ICCSD stands to benefit also from extensive research, international cooperation and experience in culture, cultural and creative industries and sustainable development which its potential network partners, such as the Beijing Industrial Design Centre (BIDC), can furnish. This accumulated experience lays a solid basis for future work and expansion, not least from numerous contacts and partnerships established by BIDC with public and private institutions across the globe.

#### **Structure and legal status**

10. ICCSD will be established by the Beijing Municipal Government with an independent legal personality pursuant to the laws of the People's Republic of China, and registered as a non-profit organization. ICCSD will have functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity to contract, institute legal proceedings and acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property. It will be equipped with an independent budget, staff and administrative structure. The Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission (BMSTC), branch department of the Beijing Municipal Government, will provide support to ICCSD to ensure its sustainability and that it meets its commitments to UNESCO.

### **Location and premises**

11. ICCSD will be located in City of Design Mansion in Beijing. The Beijing Municipal Government will provide adequate facilities, equipment, water and electricity supply, communications, and infrastructure maintenance. In its operations, the ICCSD will further benefit from common infrastructure, including Internet connectivity, library and conference rooms.

### **The ICCSD Governing Board**

12. The Governing Board is in charge of reviewing strategic planning and formulating the annual plans of ICCSD and providing guidance and supervision of ICCSD's operations. It is envisaged that the members of the Governing Board will have an international representation, and China proposes including five members from Chinese national and municipal governments, up to three from other Member States, and one representative for the Director-General. Design of the ICCSD organizational and staffing structure will be approved by the Governing Board, and preparations for starting the ICCSD are advancing.

### **Financial and human resources**

13. The Chinese authorities reaffirmed their readiness to fully finance the ICCSD. The Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission, which is one of the departments of the Beijing Municipal Government, will provide the core financial resources to enable ICCSD to fulfil its functions. It commits to supporting ICCSDS with US \$1,000,000 annually, of which \$450,000 shall be used for staff salaries. The other \$550,000 shall be used to cover the office operations. In addition, it shall provide annual support in the amount of \$1,500,000 spreading over a period of six years, for international cooperation, as well as related projects of ICCSD, especially for research and training programmes in creativity and sustainable development in developing countries including in Africa, and will also support youth and professionals to study in China.

14. Thus, as stipulated in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Centres, UNESCO will not be called on to provide funding support for administration and institutional purposes of ICCSD.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

15. A draft agreement has been drawn up taking into account the feasibility study and in compliance with the model agreement annexed to the strategy for category 2 centres. It contains no deviation from the model agreement. The online version of the draft agreement is available for consultation on the webpage of the UNESCO Culture Sector ([www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres](http://www.unesco.org/culture/partnerships/category-2-centres)).

16. The Director-General welcomes the proposal for the establishment of the ICCSD in Beijing as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, on the ground that the feasibility study confirms that the establishment of the ICCSD complies with the guidelines and criteria set out in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres, and that the ICCSD could be of benefit to UNESCO, its Member States in the region, and to the international community.

### **Proposed decision**

17. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 93 by which the General Conference adopted an integrated comprehensive strategy for institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) as set out in document 37 C/18 Part I,
2. Having examined present document 197 EX/16 Part XXI,
3. Welcomes the proposal by the Government of the People's Republic of China to establish the International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (ICCSD) under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) in Beijing, People's Republic of China;
4. Notes that the proposal is in line with the integrated comprehensive strategy for establishing category 2 centres approved by the General Conference;
5. Recommends that the General Conference at its 38th session approve the establishment of the ICCSD under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) and authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the People's Republic of China.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

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# 197 EX/16 Part XXII

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## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

### PART XXII

#### **ESTABLISHMENT IN KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT, OF A GLOBAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)**

##### **SUMMARY**

The Government of Kuwait proposed to UNESCO the establishment in Kuwait City of a Global Centre for Excellence (GCE) for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), under the auspices of UNESCO. The Government of Kuwait requested the Director-General's assistance in preparing the necessary documentation for submission to UNESCO's governing bodies.

The present document consists of a report by the Director-General assessing the feasibility of the proposal. This feasibility assessment was undertaken in conformity with document 37 C/18 Part I, relating to the principles and guidelines for the establishment and functioning of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93. In accordance with the model agreement contained in document 37 C/18 Part I, the draft agreement on this Centre has been drawn up between Kuwait and UNESCO, and may be consulted on the website at the Communication and Information Sector website.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 35.



## I. Introduction

1. The Government of Kuwait has proposed the establishment of a Global Centre for Excellence (GCE) for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO with the aim of empowering persons with disabilities through their full inclusion in knowledge societies, achievable through universal access to information and knowledge delivered by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The Global Centre will involve the participation of the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), other UNESCO's Member States, the disability community, as well as other relevant stakeholders from around the world.

2. This document outlines the background and the nature of the proposal and the likely development of the Global Centre, especially with regard to the benefits that will accrue to Member States and, most importantly, disability community around the world.

3. The Global Centre is fully in alignment with UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4) and UNESCO's Programme and Budget for 2014-2017 (37 C/5, Major Programme V, Main Line of Action 2: Enabling Universal Access and Preservation of Information and Knowledge) and contributes to the implementation of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, especially the eradication poverty, which exacerbates the difficulties facing persons with disabilities.

4. On the basis of this document, the Executive Board may wish to approve the establishment of the Global Centre as a category 2 Centre, operating under the auspices of UNESCO, and to authorize the Director-General to sign the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Kuwait, establishing the Global Centre of Excellence, in accordance with document 37 C/Resolution 93 and document 37 C/18 of the General Conference, concerning the establishment of global, international and regional centres under the auspices of UNESCO.

## II. Context

### *Access to information and knowledge using ICTs for persons with disabilities*

5. The relevance of establishing the Centre of Excellence in Kuwait City, particularly with its proposed global scope, can be attested by concrete steps already undertaken by the Government of Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as by majority of governments globally, which have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). The national, regional and international framework summarized below will be taken into account when establishing the Global Centre:

- In 2010, the State of Kuwait adopted a new Law Number 8 for the Rights of People with Disabilities, setting up a framework for the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for persons with disabilities, in compliance with specific provisions of the UN CRPD on accessibility (Article 9), access to information (Article 21), education (Article 24). Following this, on 22 August 2013, the State of Kuwait became the 134th State Party to ratify the UN CRPD.
- With regards to the application of ICTs, the Government of Kuwait put in place a five-year development plan (2009-2014) as a national strategy that seeks to develop Kuwaiti individuals through the use of ICT-based products, networks, services and applications. The sectoral plans were prepared in public sector, education, health, trade and industry in the light of information society lines of action that outlined in the declaration of principles of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). A number of projects were implemented in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations to set up community computer centres and labs in every elementary or secondary school.

### *Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Arab States region*

- The recent document, entitled “Disability in the Arab Region. An Overview (2014). UN ESCWA and League of Arab States” produced by the United Nations states that the Arab Decade for Persons with Disabilities (2004-2013) declared at the 2004 Arab Summit in Tunis, marked a milestone for the Arab States region, as it established for the first time a set of regionally-agreed principles and objectives to guide national efforts on disability. The institutional and legal frameworks in the Arab States region have expanded significantly over recent years. According to the report, the disability prevalence in Kuwait is 1.1. In Kuwait, the national coordination mechanism in the government exist as well as focal points, articles in the constitution are in place.
- At regional level, the Cairo Declaration on Supporting Access to ICT Services for Persons with Disabilities was issued by the First Arab Regional Conference on Sharing Experience on Best Practices in ICT Services for Persons with Disabilities in November 2007. Since the adoption of the Declaration, countries in the region, including the State of Kuwait, has introduced new law that ensures the government’s commitment to provide educational and teaching services and teaching aids for persons with disabilities.

### *Linkages with international normative framework*

- At the international level, the High-Level Meeting on Disabilities and Development held on 23 September 2013 at United Nations in New York, resulted in a concise, action-oriented Outcome Document in support of the aims of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities.
- In April 2015, UNESCO’s Executive Board during its 196th session endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference, entitled “From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICTs for persons with Disabilities” and its Outcome Document, entitled “The New Delhi Declaration on Inclusion ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality”, calling on all relevant public and private stakeholders to ensure that disability issues must be prioritized across the sustainable development agenda. In this way, ICTs through the latest scientific and technological progress should benefit all citizens, including those with disabilities, offering them full enjoyment of their human rights and freedoms, including equal social, economic and political participation in society.

## **III. Consideration of the feasibility study of the proposed centre**

### *Overview of the proposal*

6. In 2013, the Government of Kuwait submitted a formal request for action to establish a Global Centre as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. Subsequently, in December of the same year, the Government of Kuwait and UNESCO signed a Framework Agreement to provide funds-in-trust for supporting and sustaining the main elements needed to set up and run the Global Centre for Excellence.

### *UNESCO’s response*

7. On the basis of the Framework Agreement signed in December 2013, the UNESCO conducted an original feasibility study for the establishment of the Global Centre; this included a technical mission to Kuwait City during 2014. The initial feasibility study was prepared, including ICT-focused research and organization of a series of external consultations with world-leading experts. This culminated in an international expert meeting in Paris in June 2015, where the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and former

Vice-President of Ecuador supported the concept of the Global Centre for Excellence in Kuwait, emphasizing its potential role in addressing the challenges identified in the Outcome Document and Declaration, which resulted from New Delhi Conference in November 2013.

#### **IV. Programmes and Activities of the Global Centre**

##### *Vision*

8. The vision of the Global Centre for Excellence is “to build inclusive, participatory and equitable societies, which respect and embrace human diversity in all spheres of life through the realization of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, in compliance with international normative instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and sustainable development goals in the post-2015 agenda.

##### *Mission*

9. As a centre for excellence and global repository of knowledge, the mission of the proposed Global Centre is to enable societies to embrace and develop the potential of all persons with disabilities through equal access to, and use of, information and knowledge through the application of appropriate inclusive, innovative and affordable solutions, especially information and communication technologies. The Global Centre will assist Member States of UNESCO in capacity-building and serving as a clearing house of knowledge sharing, regionally and internationally, as well as acting as for facilitating international action on the basis of accumulated knowledge and experience.

##### *Main objectives*

10. The main objective of the Global Centre is to empower persons with disabilities through their full inclusion in knowledge societies, achievable through universal access to information and knowledge delivered by information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda by:

- Driving a “step change” in capacity to identify, gather, assess and usefully disseminate international knowledge and best practice around technology transfer, so as to address disability issues through the creation of an international repository of expertise;
- Building enhanced capacity towards raising professional standards and developing integrated action programmes – at country, regional and global level – embracing all spheres of life where barriers block the full inclusion of persons with disability, especially in regard to access to information and knowledge;
- Creating innovative networks among stakeholders – government, educational and other professional practitioners, commercial, civil society and not least persons with disabilities and their families – so that technology transfer takes place in the most informed and systematic manner increasing the chances of success;
- Playing a major role using all ICTs and all communication media – at national, regional, international and global levels – to raise awareness of disability issues and to counter negative attitudes and prejudices.

##### *Functions*

11. The functions of the Global Centre will be tailored towards strengthening the application of ICTs to the problems faced by persons with disabilities; acting as:

- Clearing house – to map existing resources and identify good practices and appropriate ICT solutions at regional, international and global level for the establishment of an international clearing house, adding value through the practical help it can offer to the global community in addressing disability issues.
- Capacity-builder – to strengthen the ability of all relevant stakeholders to create synergies, provide guidance and advice those seeking to improve access to information and knowledge for persons with disabilities around the world using best technological solutions;
- International facilitator – to intensify knowledge exchange through dialogue among UNESCO's Member States about disability and information accessibility issues, to raise awareness as well as to build confidence and reinforce the capacity of public and private bodies to develop effective programmes that address disability issues on a coordinated basis extracting value from newly-created networks in which the Global Centre should play an important role;
- Catalyser of new ideas and joined-up thinking – to mobilize the international community to be innovative and comprehensive in addressing disability issues in terms of their linkage with other areas of disadvantage: poverty eradication, empowerment of women and elderly, and the fight against cultural and linguistic prejudice using public-private partnerships wherever possible, to support the sustainability of the Global Centre and make its resource base more robust.

## **V. The nature and legal status of the proposed Centre**

12. The Government of Kuwait shall ensure that the Global Centre enjoys within its territory the functional autonomy and legal capacity necessary for the execution of its functions in accordance with document 37 C/18 Part I.

13. The Global Centre shall be at the service of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO that wish to cooperate with the Global Centre; it shall be guided and overseen by a Governing Board renewed every two years.

14. In the framework of its functional autonomy, the Global Centre will have its own programme, budget and staff, to be approved by its governing board and determined by the objective of the Global Centre. By signing the agreement, the Government shall undertake to provide all the resources, financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre. The Government shall allocate to the Centre an annual budget to be distributed according to needs and foreseen activities.

## **VI. Organization and structure of the Global Centre**

15. The Centre will enjoy full autonomy for its operations, as required by UNESCO. This autonomy should be effectively guaranteed by the bodies assigned to the Global Centre, which will be composed of a Governing Board, an Executive Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee and a Secretariat. The members at all levels of the organizational structure of the Global Centre will reflect an appropriate gender balance.

16. The balance of roles and responsibilities between different elements of the governance structure – i.e. between Governing Board, the Executive Committee, the Director of the Global Centre with the Secretariat, and the Technical Advisory Committee – could maybe adjusted during the first six months of the Global Centre's development. So, the governance arrangements proposed in the following paragraphs should be seen as an outline proposition which may need to be substantially varied.

17. The proposed **Governing Board** will be composed of the following representatives:
- (i) representatives of the Government concerned or his/her appointed representative;
  - (ii) the Director of the Global Centre for Excellence;
  - (iii) a representative of the Kuwait Higher Council for Disabled Affairs (HADA);
  - (iv) representatives of Member State(s), which have sent to the Centre notification for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of the Article 10, paragraph 2 and have expressed interest in being represented on the Board (Ref.: Agreement between UNESCO and Kuwait);
  - (v) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
  - (vii) a representative of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
  - (viii) up to three representatives of global non-governmental organizations operating in this field.
18. The Governing Board shall:
- (a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
  - (b) approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
  - (c) examine the annual reports submitted by the director of the Centre, including biennial self-assessment reports of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
  - (d) examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of the Centre and monitor the provision of such accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements;
  - (e) adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;
  - (f) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre;
  - (g) meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year;
  - (h) meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO, or of a majority of the members;
  - (i) adopt its own rules of procedure and for its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.
19. In order to ensure the effective running of the Global Centre, the **Executive Committee** shall be established and composed of:
- (i) the Director of Global Centre or his/her appointed representative, who shall chair the Executive Committee;
  - (ii) a representative of the Government of Kuwait;

- (iii) up to three other representatives/staff members of the Global Centre;
- (iv) up to two representatives of the global non-governmental organizations operating in this field.

20. The Executive Committee will have the authority to:

- (a) Monitor the execution of the Centre's activities;
- (b) Examine the draft annual work plan and budget, including the staffing table, as well as the medium-term and long-term programmes of the Centre and submit recommendations thereon to the Governing Board;
- (c) Follow up the implementation of the Centre's activities in accordance with the annual work plan, as well as the medium-term and long-term programmes of the Centre;
- (d) Ensure that the necessary activities and actions to implement the annual work plan and budget are carried out, as well as the medium-term and long-term programmes of the Centre;
- (e) Propose to the Governing Board candidates for the post of Director of the Centre;
- (f) Adopt its own rules and procedures.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

21. The **Technical Advisory Committee** shall act as a consultative and advisory body to the Governing Board and the Executive Committee as well as provide technical advice for the planning, execution, review and monitoring of specific activities of the Centre. It should serve as contact point with latest relevant technological advancements globally. The Director of the Centre will be responsible to establish a Technical Advisory Committee and coordinate its work. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be composed of the Director of the Centre and up to five independent experts from each UNESCO's region. The Technical Advisory Committee shall the Executive Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate, as requested.

22. The **Director** will be appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Board upon recommendation of the Executive Committee and in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO. The Director will act as Head of the **Secretariat**. The duties of the Director are to:

- (a) Propose the draft workplan and budget to be submitted to the Governing Board;
- (b) Direct the workplan, as agreed with the Governing Board;
- (c) Prepare the provisional agenda for sessions of the Governing Board and the Executive Committee and submit to them any proposals that he or she may deem useful for administration of the Centre;
- (d) Prepare reports on the Centre's activities, to be submitted through the Executive Committee to the Governing Board;
- (e) Establish the Technical Advisory Committee, upon request of the Governing Board and/or Executive Committee, and
- (f) Present the Centre in law and in all civil actions.

23. The Global Centre will rely on infrastructure resources to be provided by the State of Kuwait, including human resources, equipment and information systems, as a basis from which the Centre

will be established. Equally, the Global Centre will need to have legal and functional autonomy to implement its work plan and function as an independent entity.

## **VII. Budget and resources within the proposed Phased Approach for the Strategic Road Map (see Section VIII)**

24. A draft Strategic Road Map for the activities for a period of 2016-2017 will be submitted to the Governing Board at its first meeting at the beginning of 2016. It will define the Global Centre's strategic directions, timeline and general rules and procedures, and thematic programmes. This Strategic Road Map will propose the necessary budget allocations for 2016-2017.

25. All funding for the Global Centre are covered by the Government of Kuwait that is totally self-sustainable.

## **VIII. Feasibility**

26. Based on the documentation and information received during the consultative meetings and discussions held with national officials during the above-mentioned mission to Kuwait, as well as on consultative meetings with world leading experts and additional research carried out by UNESCO, the State of Kuwait's proposal appears realistic, timely and feasible.

27. UNESCO proposes to adopt a phased approach to the establishment of the Global Centre and implementation of a Strategic Road Map (SRM) at national, regional, international and global levels. The phased approach of the SRM is structured in consecutive three stages:

- In Stage One, the Global Centre would construct a reliable basis for mapping and assessing existing resources and for identifying good practices and appropriate ICT solutions at regional, international and global levels. This will be done in the spirit of setting up an international clearing house, adding value through the practical help it can offer to the global community of nations in addressing disability issues. Furthermore, Stage One will also involve physical establishment of the Centre's site along with hiring of core staff, to be trained by UNESCO, so as to ensure that the initial elements of the roadmap are carried out to a high standard.
- In Stage Two, the Global Centre should see the development of more elaborate or complex activities in all programme areas in order to raise standards, to refine the capacity of stakeholders to make informed decisions about the value which can be derived from particular technology solutions as well as to expand the application of ICTs in such spheres as education, employment, social participation and other areas linked with access to information and knowledge by persons with disabilities. It will also include organizing large scale awareness-raising events in collaboration with UNESCO and other bodies.
- In Stage Three, the Global Centre would act as a global facilitator of knowledge transfer with a proven record in making recommendations on a suitable scale (e.g. localization, harmonization or expansion strategies) for the roll-out of particular applications or devices. By this time, the Global Centre will be expected to make a substantial contribution to international cooperation in the disability field, especially among higher educational institutions and other public-private stakeholders pursuing similar goals.

28. The main beneficiaries of the activities of the Global Centre will be national, regional and international institutions working on disability issues as well as persons with disabilities and other public and private partners.

## **IX. Cooperation with UNESCO**

29. The Centre will be able to perform the functions listed in the Section III, thereby contributing to the UNESCO's strategic programme objectives on access to information and knowledge using ICTs, building inclusive, open and pluralistic knowledge societies (37 C/4 and 37 C/5).

30. The main objectives proposed for the Global Centre are fully in line with UNESCO's strategies and objectives in the area of Communication and Information and have been synergized with UNESCO's objectives in such as Education and Social and Human Sciences, as well as with the stipulations of the UN CRPD (2006).

31. The Global Centre will serve UNESCO's wider purposes by providing a key platform for prioritizing research and then identifying and promoting activities that deliver value in terms of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in knowledge societies.

32. Additionally, the Global Centre will seek close cooperation with other UNESCO's category 2 centres and, over time, to make own contribution to this dimension of UNESCO's activities.

33. The Draft Agreement, between UNESCO and the State of Kuwait authorities which would grant UNESCO auspices and confer the Global Centre's category 2 status, fully satisfies the requirements spelled out in the document 37 C/18 Part I concerning the integrated comprehensive strategy for institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, and conforms to the standard model agreement included in attachment 2 of document 37 C/18 Part I.

34. The points listed above clearly indicate the viability of the Global Centre proposed by Kuwaiti authorities, and the benefits it may bring to UNESCO and to the State of Kuwait. The Director-General therefore welcomes the proposed establishment, of a category 2 International Centre of Excellence for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) under the auspices of UNESCO.

## **X. Proposed decision**

35. In light of the foregoing, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 93 and 37 C/18 Part I,
2. Having examined document 197 EX/16 Part XXII,
3. Taking note of the observations and conclusions of the feasibility study contained in this document,
4. Deeming the considerations and proposals contained therein to be such as to meet the requirements needed to the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2),
5. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Kuwait to establish the Global Centre for Excellence for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through ICTs, as a Global Centre of Excellence under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2),
6. Recommends that the General Conference at its 38th session approve the establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of the Global Centre for Excellence for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) under the auspices of UNESCO, and that it authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.