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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Draft resolution

Item 3.1 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Submitted by Kazakhstan

Consideration and adoption of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4)

The General Conference,

Reaffirming the mission of UNESCO as the United Nations specialized agency to contribute to the building of peace and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information,

Noting that intercultural dialogue plays a fundamental role in promoting a culture of peace and fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and respect among peoples from different cultural and religious backgrounds,

Recalling UNESCO General Conference resolution 36 C/Resolution 40 of 10 November 2011 and United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/104 of 17 December 2012 proclaiming the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2013-2022 for which UNESCO has been designated as lead agency for the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the international forum devoted to the official launch of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures held in Astana, Kazakhstan (August 2013) which underlined the importance of the Decade in enhancing international activities aimed at promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity, rights and equal dignity between peoples, through intercultural dialogue and concrete activities,

Calls upon Member States and all intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the elaboration of an action plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures which shall complement Strategic Objective 6 of Major Programme IV of the Draft 37 C/4 – Medium-Term Strategy: Supporting inclusive social development and promoting intercultural dialogue and the rapprochement of cultures (paragraph 97), as already initiated by the Director-General;

C4-dr

37 C/4/DR.1

7 November 2013

(Joint Meeting of Commissions)

Original: English

Requests the Director-General to finalize and present the Action Plan for the International Decade of Rapprochement of cultures (2013-2022) at the 194th session of the UNESCO Executive Board.

Explanatory note

The International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)

The International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2013-2022 (IDRC) stems from the United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/104 adopted on 17 December 2012 entitled “Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace”, by which it invites UNESCO to be the lead agency for the United Nations system.

This draws on a decision of the UNESCO General Conference and the experience of the 2010 International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures.

The objective of the Decade is to promote mutual understanding and respect for diversity, rights, and equal dignity between peoples, through intercultural dialogue and concrete initiatives.

UNESCO is expected to mobilize a wide variety of actors, at all levels and in all regions, to help build bridges and promote mutual understanding conducive to harmonious coexistence among the peoples and countries of the world.

The new International Decade provides a unique occasion to reaffirm the ideals of a plural humanity where cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are mutually reinforcing, and where international cooperation can be enhanced through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information, bringing about a real rapprochement of cultures and countries.

International forum devoted to the official launch of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2013-2022 was held on 23 August 2013 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The event was intended to become a starting point for revitalizing the efforts of international community aimed at strengthening intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue in the framework of IDRC.

The forum brought together representatives of international political, academic and business communities as well as the civil society and NGOs in order to discuss different aspects of shaping global agenda for the forthcoming Decade targeted towards further encouragement of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity in the name of peace and sustainable development.

In her keynote address UNESCO Director-General Ms Irina Bokova reminded that cultural diversity serves as a foundation for all modern societies. Policy of any modern State must be based on the principles of democracy and pluralism, thus creating foundation for further advancement of tolerance, dialogue and cooperation. Despite all the differences, the international community should emphasize universal aspirations towards peaceful coexistence, prosperity and development.

United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser in his keynote address drew attention to the fact that in the modern world intolerance and rejection of other cultures deeply rooted in minds of many societies. In this regard tolerance is growing in importance as a fundamental principle for global cooperation and mutual understanding. The promotion of interreligious cooperation at interpersonal, intergovernmental levels and in all spheres of human activity serves as a major prerequisite for harmonious coexistence. This is the key for solving many complex global problems, from ensuring fundamental human rights to preventing war and genocide, it is the first step towards creating global harmony. “The international dialogue can act as a primary source for building peace and sustainable development.” Among the honorary

guests of the Astana Forum were TURKSOY Director-General Duisen Kaseinov; United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education Kishore Singh; Secretary-General of Latin Academy Candido Mendes; Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature in 1986, Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka and others.

The International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures will seek to enhance, inspire and support the intensification of long-term efforts by the international community to develop and consolidate genuine dialogues among civilizations and cultures. During the Decade, the related strategies and methodologies will be explored in the context of different international, regional and national meetings, conferences, platforms and special events.