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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

37 C/4/DR.2

7 November 2013

(Joint Meeting of Commissions)

Original: English

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

The General Conference,

Acknowledging the importance of UNESCO's role in promoting intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace and non-violence,

Referring to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/104 of 17 December 2012 proclaiming the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2013-2022,

Referring to the outcome document adopted by the International Forum on the Great Silk Roads held in Almaty, Kazakhstan (14-16 October 2013) which proclaimed the continuation of the Silk Road Online Platform by UNESCO,

Referring to Strategic Objective 6 of Major Programme IV of draft document 37 C/4 – Medium Term Strategy: Supporting inclusive social development and promoting intercultural dialogue and the rapprochement of cultures, and to Strategic Objectives 7 and 8 of the above-mentioned Strategy: Protecting, promoting and transmitting heritage and Fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions, respectively,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the Silk Roads' heritage as pioneer routes of dialogue and exchange and the role UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform plays in promoting Silk Roads' Knowledge developed by UNESCO and its Member States,

Considering the role of the Silk Road Online Platform in involving local communities, academic, cultural, and artistic circles and youth of countries alongside the historical Silk Roads in a sustainable dialogue and exchange,

Aware of the fact that the Silk Road Online Platform is entirely funded by extrabudgetary resources provided by Member States or private parties and has no impact on UNESCO's regular budget,

1. *Expresses* its satisfaction with the results achieved by the secretariat of the Silk Road Online Platform thanks to the generous contributions of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Federal Republic of Germany;
2. *Endorses* the outcome document of the above-mentioned International Forum on the Great Silk Roads to carry out this project which aims to foster dialogue and exchange between local communities along the historical Silk Roads and beyond;
3. *Requests* the Director-General to carry out this project during the medium-term period (2014-2021) and to implement activities funded from extrabudgetary resources;
4. *Encourages* Member States to continue to support this project by all appropriate means, and to mobilize partners and financial resources within the public and private sectors for the accomplishment of this project;
5. *Requests* the Director-General to continue, under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, interdisciplinary research on the Silk Roads as a unique historical phenomenon of international cooperation and dialogue.

Explanatory note

The UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform

The UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform that was adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session. Funded by extrabudgetary resources, this programme has been developed and launched thanks to the logistic and financial support provided by Member States. The platform encompassing the Silk Roads as pioneer routes of dialogue and exchange aims to compile and disseminate the world rich but dispersed knowledge on the subject as common heritage of humanity. To this effect, the outcomes of the former UNESCO Silk Road initiative titled "the Integral Study of the Silk Roads, Roads of Dialogue 1988-1997" have been converted to electronic format and integrated into this platform.

Thus this project consists of an online platform of dialogue and exchange between different cultural, artistic and academic communities for promoting and sharing their knowledge on the Silk Roads. It will also provide scholars, researchers, artists, journalists, traditional craftsmen and youth living alongside the Historical Silk Roads and beyond with an online database of the Silk Roads Heritage. This Online Platform will coordinate, support and promote different initiatives (workshops, conferences, festivals, etc.) undertaken by Member States with a view to reinforcing and promoting dialogue and peace.

The official launch of the Online Platform took place at the International Forum on the Great Silk Roads, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 14 to 16 October 2013. This Forum was organized by the National Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan for UNESCO and ISSECO with the collaboration of the UNESCO Secretariat and in the framework of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022). The Forum brought together leading researchers and experts in the field of Silk Road studies from the People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkey, the Sultanate of Oman, Germany, United Kingdom and France as well as

experts from Kazakhstan. The main objective of this Forum was revisiting the heritage of the Silk Roads in view of underlining its potentials for reinforcing intercultural dialogue in the current context of globalization.

In its final declaration, the Forum welcomed the establishment of UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform as a sustainable interactive database of the Silk Roads knowledge, and strongly recommended that the Online Platform be maintained and further developed. The Forum also recommended the Secretariat of UNESCO to continue the implementation of this project as one of the major initiatives in the framework of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures.

It is worth noting that the Silk Road Online Platform is an extrabudgetary project developed thanks to voluntary contributions of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Federal Republic of Germany. This project will be undertaken by further extrabudgetary resources received from private partners and Member States without having any impact on the regular budget of UNESCO.

In light of the above elements, the Republic of Kazakhstan presents a draft resolution on this project to be adopted in an appropriate session of the 37th General Conference. This latter would enable the continuation of Silk Road Online Platform and related initiatives during the next biennium (2014-2015).