



General Conference

37th Session, Paris, 2013

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 agenda

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Submitted by **Barbados, Brazil, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Morocco, Saint Lucia, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**

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

The General Conference,

Recalling the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international, regional and national instruments that condemn all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, colour, gender, language, religion or political opinion,

Recalling 27 C/Resolution 3.13, adopted by the General Conference at its 27th session, which established the intercultural and interregional Slave Route Project,

Recalling 29 C/Resolution 40 of the General Conference proclaiming 23 August of each year the "International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition",

Recalling 30 C/Resolution 34 of the General Conference inviting the Director-General to increase the visibility of the project and to report regularly to the Executive Board on the implementation of the project, particularly on any development concerning the question of declaring the slave trade and slavery crimes against humanity,

Recalling 172 EX/Decision 59 of the Executive Board approving the Statutes of the International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project,

Recalling 181 EX/Decision 13 of the Executive Board approving the strategy defined for the Slave Route Project,

C4-dr

37 C/4/DR.5

12 November 2013

(Joint Meeting of Commissions)

Original: English/French

Recalling resolution 37 adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session, which modified the name of the Slave Route Project by adding the subheading “Resistance, Liberty, Heritage” to the existing title “Slave Route”,

Commending the recognition of slavery and the slave trade as a crime against humanity at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which took place in South Africa in 2001,

Considering the Declaration adopted by the Iberoamerican Summit in November 2011, in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, which called on the countries concerned to step up the fight against discrimination against people of African descent and to promote their social, economic, political and cultural inclusion, as well as the recommendations of the Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD), the first of which was held in Dakar, Senegal, in 2004 (CIAD I), and the second in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, in 2006 (CIAD II), and the Global Africa Diaspora Summit, held by the African Union in South Africa in May 2012,

Further considering the various decisions of the African Union concerning the African diaspora and, in particular, the decision establishing the African diaspora as the sixth region of Africa,

Bearing in mind the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly with a view to proclaiming a Decade for People of African Descent (2013-2022),

1. *Confirms* the importance of this project for the promotion of intercultural dialogue, reconciliation among nations, peace and living together, cultural diversity and the fight against racism and discrimination;
2. *Emphasizes* that this human tragedy has led to multiple and major transformations that have marked modern societies in different regions of the world and that cultural interactions have contributed to the diversity of the world and established a heritage common to all humanity;
3. *Congratulates* the Director-General for the progress made in the implementation of the Slave Route Project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage, which has contributed actively to the recognition by the United Nations of the slave trade and slavery as a crime against humanity, to the development of scientific research and educational materials on this tragedy, to the promotion of cultural heritage originating from this history and the preservation of oral and written archives and memorial sites and places;
4. *Requests* the Director-General to make every effort to ensure the continuity of this project, in particular the realization of new orientations, defined to meet the expectations expressed under the Decade for People of African Descent;
5. *Requests* the Director-General to elaborate and implement an activity programme to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the project in the different regions of the world;
6. *Calls upon* Member States to support this intersectoral and interdisciplinary project, which is at the heart of UNESCO’s mission and to provide it with the necessary financial contributions to allow the continuation of its work, and in particular the activities planned for the celebration of its twentieth anniversary and the launch of the Decade for People of African Descent;

Encourages Member States to:

- (a) adopt national and even regional legislation recognizing the slave trade and slavery as a crime against humanity;
- (b) organize meaningful activities as part of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project and the launch of the Decade for People of African Decent in 2014;

- (c) integrate the teaching of this human tragedy in formal and non-formal education programmes;
- (d) proclaim a national day for the recognition of the common heritage resulting from the contribution made by people of African descent.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. UNESCO's Slave Route Project was established by the General Conference at its 26th session (Report of Commission IV, 26 C/DR.305) and launched in 1994, pursuant to 27 C/Resolution 3.13. In 1998, the United Nations, on the initiative of UNESCO, declared 23 August the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition to offer the international community the opportunity of one international date each year – in addition to national dates – on which to come together to contemplate, exchange views on and strike a balance between the duty of remembrance and the duty of history. A new strategy to enable the Project to respond to the issues and challenges raised by the question of slavery and the slave trade was adopted by the Executive Board in 2009. The General Conference, at its 36th session, expanded the title of the Project to read: the Slave Route Project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage.

2. The significant achievements and relevance of this intersectoral and multidisciplinary Project have contributed greatly to objective efforts to raise awareness of the ramifications for modern societies generated by the tragedy, including the global changes and cultural interactions between peoples, while fostering debate on cultural pluralism, the building of new identities and new forms of citizenship and intercultural dialogue.

3. The Slave Route Project addresses the new concerns of countries where there is an African diaspora, especially in the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and Oceania. Indeed, the Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD), at its first and second sessions, has stressed the need to raise awareness of the inputs of people of African descent to modern societies and to improve mutual understanding between Africa and its diasporas.

4. The United Nations General Assembly has taken decisions welcoming UNESCO's action through the Slave Route Project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage and its contribution to the recognition of slavery and the slave trade as a crime against humanity. The United Nations accordingly mobilized UNESCO's expertise for the first phase of the International Competition for the Permanent Memorial at the United Nations to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, to be built at its headquarters in New York. The United Nations also declared 25 March the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (A/RES/62/122), and chose to proclaim 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent (A/RES/64/169). It will shortly be declaring 2013-2022 the Decade for People of African Descent.

5. Therefore, within the framework of that Decade and the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Slave Route Project in 2014, UNESCO has to be able to continue in the leadership role that it has assumed with the Project, which is generating increasing interest owing to its multidisciplinary approach and its contribution to intercultural dialogue, reconciliation and the culture of peace.

6. This resolution requests the Director-General of UNESCO to ensure the Project's sustainability by providing it with all the means required to meet the expectations raised. It also calls on Member States to provide this interregional project with the political, intellectual and budgetary support needed to enable UNESCO and its Slave Route Project to carry out activities in the different regions of the world to mark the Project's twentieth anniversary and the launch of the Decade for People of African Descent (2013-2022).