

Hundred and sixty-ninth Session

169 EX/43
PARIS, 27 April 2004
Original: English

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Item 3.4.1 Report by the Director-General on the eighth session of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART), and report by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations thereon (169 EX/7)

1. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) examined this item of its agenda on 17 April 2004 (morning), with Mr Davidson Hepburn, the representative of the Bahamas, in the Chair. It met on 27 April 2004 in order to adopt this report.
2. Pursuant to Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations elected Mr José Israel Vargas, the representative of Brazil, as its temporary Chairperson.
3. Following a summary by the representative of ADG/ED of the programmatic and procedural aspects of 169 EX/7 and the CEART experts' report annexed to it, CR members representing 14 Member States engaged in a substantive discussion to arrive at consensus comments concerning the experts' report (whose text cannot be changed). The discussion also dealt with the dynamics of if or how the CR should deal with the programmatic issues of the report in addition to the traditional allegations-issues that normally fall to the CR. In this regard, the CR proceeded to deal, de facto, extensively with programmatic issues in their interventions, since the 1966 and 1997 Recommendations deal extensively with such issues, as does the 52-page CEART report itself. Seven members wished that the CEART experts could have gone deeper into these issues than their mandate actually allows (e.g. EFA, gender, academic freedom, HIV/AIDS, ICTs, brain drain, unqualified teachers in Third World countries, training for the labour market). Two members wished that the report had covered issues which, in fact, fell outside the text of the 1966 and 1997 Recommendations but which bore upon teacher status: indigenous peoples and social dialogue including not only governments and teachers' organizations but also parents, communities, and other stakeholders. One member asked if or how the experts' report would be used to advance UNESCO's programme and two members asked if there were overlaps or gaps among the various providers of policy-oriented teacher-statistics (ILO; UNESCO, notably UIS; OECD). In response, the representative of the Assistant Director-General stated that the report, in fact, helped form the UNESCO work plan, and that the relation among the statistical providers was complementary, to prevent overlap. One observer stated his government's difficulties with and objections to the experts' summary of allegations of non-application of certain provisions of the 1966 Recommendation, and expressed willingness to provide UNESCO and CEART with additional

information – an offer which the UNESCO representative welcomed, pointing out that CEART itself in its report had offered, if asked, to help mediate the situation. Several members suggested ways that the report, and Executive Board comments, could be as widely disseminated as possible, including in more languages than English, French and Spanish.

4. The Committee therefore recommends that the Executive Board adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 154 EX/Decision 4.4, 157 EX/Decision 6.3 and 162 EX/Decision 3.2.2,
2. Having examined document 169 EX/7,
3. Deeply concerned about the continuing decline of the overall status of teachers, which has reached alarming proportions in recent years and has had negative implications for the achievement of EFA goals, as indicated in the report of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee,
4. Takes note of the report of the eighth session of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART/8/2003/11);
5. Appreciates the work of the Joint Committee in stimulating action to promote greater awareness and wider application of the 1966 and 1997 Recommendations concerning the status of teaching personnel, and invites the Director-General to assist the Joint Committee in carrying out its next cycle of work, the report of which is foreseen for the year 2006 for submission to the Executive Board;
6. Invites the Director-General to communicate the report of the Joint Committee to Member States, their National Commissions and their partners, international teachers' organizations and other relevant international organizations having relations with UNESCO, asking them to disseminate it as widely as possible, and to encourage them to continue to intensify their efforts to apply all provisions of the 1966 and 1997 Recommendations to improve the status of the teaching profession;
7. Further invites the Director-General to take practical measures at the regional and subregional levels towards the implementation of the provisions of both normative instruments (1966 and 1997) and of the recommendations of CEART as contained in its 2003 report.