

Hundred and sixty-fifth Session

165 EX/47 Rev.
PARIS, 16 October 2002
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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Item 6.2 Proposals by the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations on the conditions and procedures applicable to the examination of questions relating to the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments (165 EX/21)

1. The Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) examined this item of its agenda on 3 and 4 October 2002, with Mr Louis Peter Van Vliet, the representative of the Netherlands, in the Chair. It met on 15 October 2002 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 Abdelwahab Bouhdiba, the representative of Tunisia, as its temporary Chairperson.
3. By 162 EX/Decision 5.4(I)1, the Executive Board had requested "the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations to submit to the Executive Board at its 164th session proposals on the conditions and procedures applicable to the examination of questions relating to the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments", expressing the view that there was a need to improve the effectiveness of the Committee's mandate in that domain.
4. At the meeting which was held during the 164th session of the Executive Board, the members of the Committee began debating the question by identifying a number of problems and several measures that might improve the procedure for examining reports. Following the debate, they considered that it was necessary to continue to examine that complex issue at the 165th session of the Board (164 EX/Decision 5.2). However, they also expressed the desire to have informal exchanges of points of view before their next meeting on the options and proposals contained in document 165 EX/21 (see previous report of the Committee, document 164 EX/49).
5. In keeping with the wishes expressed by the Committee at its 164th session, the Chairperson of the CR consulted the members of the Committee and organized an informal working group for the purpose of examining the options and proposals. The conclusions of the working group and the observations of the Chairperson of the committee on the subject are to be found in document 165 EX/CR/4.

6. At the present session, the Committee first of all reviewed the situation in the light of the conclusions of the informal working group. It then decided to create an informal drafting group (composed of Benin, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, Slovakia and Vanuatu) in order to formalize the opinions expressed in a draft decision.

7. Upon completing its examination of the item, the Committee recommended to the Executive Board that it adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling its decision 164 EX/5.2,
2. Having examined document 165 EX/21,
3. Considering the proposals submitted to it by the CR on the conditions and procedures applicable to the examination of questions relating to the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments,
4. Mindful of the need for improving the effectiveness of the Committee's mandate as well as of the reporting system on UNESCO conventions and recommendations in general,
5. Reminds Member States to respect their legal obligations under the UNESCO Constitution concerning periodic reports on the follow-up to conventions and recommendations;
6. Calls upon the Secretariat to assist Member States in the preparation and follow-up of their periodic reports;
7. Recommends to the General Conference, in order to rationalize such reporting procedures, to establish new procedures for reporting by Member States making a clear distinction between conventions and recommendations. To this end, a revision of Section VI of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution should be undertaken;
8. Decides in the light of such revision to examine the possibility of preparing a set of rules of procedure for the CR concerning the examination of reports on conventions and recommendations;
9. Pending the adoption of new reporting procedures by the General Conference, decides to:
 - (a) request the Secretariat to rationalize the guidelines submitted to Member States for periodic reports having regard also to already existing information monitored by other treaty bodies in the United Nations system as well as by international statistical offices, in particular by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics;
 - (b) invite the Director-General to organize on the sidelines of the General Conference, a meeting of State Parties to conventions on which reports are due in the near future (for example in 2003, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property; in 2005, the Convention of 1960 against Discrimination in Education) so

that they can adopt appropriate measures to improve the reporting procedures on the conventions;

- (c) suggest, with regard to recommendations, that requests for submission of periodic reports by Member States should be organized by sector and in a manner which reflects the policy priorities of the Organization;
 - (d) call upon the Secretariat to use all avenues available to inform Member States about the most relevant aspects of the recommendations and to sensitize them to the importance of such reports;
10. Decides that the above-mentioned measures will be applicable only to the conventions and recommendations entrusted to the CR until an appropriate decision of the General Conference:
- the Convention (and Recommendation) of 1960 against Discrimination in Education;
 - the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers;
 - the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
 - the 2001 Revised Recommendation concerning Technical Vocational Education;
 - the 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (including follow-up instruments);
 - the 1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education;
11. Decides that UNESCO should continue to work with other institutions of the United Nations system with the aim of standardizing the procedure for the submission and examination of Member States' reports;
12. Decides to re-examine this item in 2006 in light of the results achieved on the implementation of the above-mentioned measures.