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PROPOSALS BY MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARIES IN 2010-2011 WITH WHICH UNESCO COULD BE ASSOCIATED

SUMMARY

Pursuant to 159 EX/Decision 7.5, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2010-2011 with which UNESCO could be associated.

The financial and administrative implications of the activities presented fall within the parameters of document C/5.

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision in paragraph 11.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 154 EX/Decision 7.7, the Executive Board adopted the criteria and procedures for considering the proposals by Member States relating to the celebration of anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated in each biennium, which were further developed by 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and amended at the 166th (166 EX/Decision 9.3), 176th (176 EX/Decision 47) and 179th (179 EX/Decision 37) sessions of the Executive Board.

2. In accordance with those arrangements, the Director-General, in a letter dated 22 August 2008, invited the National Commissions for UNESCO to transmit to him their proposals for 2010-2011 for the celebration of the anniversaries of eminent personalities and historic events with which the Organization could be associated, the deadline being 15 January 2009.

3. As at 10 February 2009, the Secretariat had received 90 requests, of which **51 have been selected** and form the subject of this document, in accordance with the established criteria.

4. The Secretariat's intersectoral selection committee considered all the requests received and drew up the preliminary list of those meeting the criteria adopted. It also ensured, insofar as possible, a geographical and gender balance when it drew up the list, provided that the criteria were met.

5. In relation to the total of 90 requests, some Member States failed either to follow the procedure for submission of proposals or to provide all the necessary information within the time-limits. As a result, 39 requests could not be selected as they did not meet the criteria in force.

6. The Member States concerned do have a new statutory period of two months as of this session of the Executive Board to revise, if appropriate, the proposals that have not been selected, in accordance with 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and 166 EX/Decision 9.3. The intersectoral committee will re-examine the appeals, which may only concern proposals submitted before 15 January 2009. The revised proposals **must be submitted by 15 June 2009 at the latest** and will be submitted to the Executive Board at its 182nd session if they meet the criteria in force.

7. A new edition of the publication listing the anniversaries with which UNESCO was associated during the period 2008-2009 was produced and distributed to Member States after the 34th session of the General Conference to meet their request for information on UNESCO's association with such celebrations, publicize the programme more effectively and thereby encourage Member States to enhance their historical and cultural wealth.

8. The Executive Board is now called upon to consider the list of requests for 2010-2011, deemed admissible under the following selection criteria that have been approved by the governing bodies:

- (a) each proposed anniversary should be indisputably linked to the Organization's ideals and missions in the fields of education, science, culture, social and human sciences and communication and should promote closer relations among peoples, tolerance and the ideals of peace, cultural dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples;
- (b) commemorations of the birth, independence or institutional regime of a State will not be eligible for consideration; similarly the anniversaries of military events will be excluded;
- (c) the anniversary should concern personalities of genuinely universal stature, nominated posthumously only, and works or events of genuinely worldwide or at least regional significance in order to reflect the ideals, the values, the cultural diversity and the universality of the Organization;
- (d) the anniversary should be a fiftieth anniversary, a centenary, or a multiple thereof; some flexibility should nevertheless be used in applying this criterion;

- (e) the anniversary should be the occasion for nationwide events already planned and for the organization of which certain resources have been allocated in the Member State or group of Member States directly concerned;
- (f) any anniversary proposal involving more than one State should be submitted by all;
- (g) requests relating to works of the intangible heritage – which comprise oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices and rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship – will not be taken into consideration since they cannot be dated in time.

9. The Director-General submits to the Executive Board, for its decision, the proposals contained in paragraph 11, the descriptions of each anniversary selected together with the relevant historical and biographical information relating thereto being set out in document 181 EX/INF.8.

10. Given the poor representation of some regions and of eminent women among the proposals submitted, the Secretariat encourages Member States to correct this imbalance, with a view to ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance, within the framework of the above-mentioned criteria, as they are invited to do by 34 C/Resolution 56.

Action expected of the Executive Board

11. At the close of its discussion, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined documents 181 EX/45 and Add. and 181 EX/INF.8,
2. Noting that the proposals sent by Member States to the Director-General listed below comply with the statutory criteria,
3. Encourages the Member States of all regions to make proposals with a view to ensuring an improved geographical distribution and gender balance;
4. Recommends to the General Conference:
 - (a) that UNESCO should be associated in 2010-2011 with the following celebrations:
 - (1) 100th anniversary of the first independent periodical (Seraj-ul-akhbar) created in 1911 by its founder-editor Mahmud Tarzi, the father of journalism in Afghanistan (Afghanistan)
 - (2) 800th anniversary of the birth of Toros Roslin, manuscript illuminator (1210-1270) (Armenia)
 - (3) 1600th anniversary of the birth of Movses Khorenatsi, historian (c. 410-493) (Armenia)
 - (4) 200th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Khrutsky, painter (1810–1885) (Belarus)
 - (5) 200th anniversary of the birth of Zachari Zographe, representative of Bulgarian Renaissance art (1810–1853) (Bulgaria)
 - (6) 100th anniversary of the birth of Roberto Matta Echaurren, painter (1911-2002) (Chile)

- (7) 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Mohorovičić Discontinuity by Andrija Mohorovičić (1910) (Croatia)
- (8) 300th anniversary of the birth of Ruđer Josip Bošković, physicist, astronomer, mathematician (1711-1787) (Croatia)
- (9) 450th anniversary of the birth of Marko Antun de Dominis, philosopher and scientist (1560-1624) (Croatia)
- (10) 100th anniversary of the birth of José Lezama Lima, writer (1910-1976) (Cuba)
- (11) 100th anniversary of the birth of Karel Zeman, film-maker (1910-1989) (Czech Republic)
- (12) 50th anniversary of the University of Kisangani (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- (13) 100th anniversary of the birth of Monseñor Leonidas Proaño (1910-1988) (Ecuador)
- (14) 500th anniversary of the publication of Praise of Folly by Erasmus (1511) (France)
- (15) 1100th anniversary of the foundation of the Abbey of Cluny (910) France
- (16) 150th anniversary of the birth of Vazha Pshavela, writer (1861-1915) (Georgia)
- (17) 100th anniversary of the birth of Vakhtang Chabukiani, ballet dancer, choreographer and teacher (1910-1992) (Georgia)
- (18) 1000th anniversary of the commencement of construction of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral (Georgia)
- (19) 550th anniversary of the birth of Tilman Riemenschneider, sculptor (c.1460-1531) (Germany)
- (20) 150th anniversary of the death of Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher (1788-1860) (Germany)
- (21) 200th anniversary of the death of Heinrich von Kleist, writer (1777-1811) (Germany)
- (22) 200th anniversary of the birth of Robert Schumann, music composer (1810-1856) (Germany)
- (23) 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt, composer (1811-1896) (Hungary, supported by France)
- (24) 150th anniversary of the birth of Rabindranath Tagore, thinker, philosopher and poet (1861-1941) (India)
- (25) 1250th anniversary of the birth of Farsi Beyzavi, known as Sibouyeh, philologist (761-796) (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

- (26) 1000th anniversary of the composition of the “Shahnameh” (Book of the Kings) (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
- (27) 750th anniversary of the active life of Khaje Nasirodin Toosi, scientist (1201-1274) (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
- (28) 700th anniversary of the death of Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi, scientist (1236-1311) (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
- (29) 1300th anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital (710) (Japan)
- (30) 100th anniversary of the death of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, painter (1875-1911) (Lithuania)
- (31) 100th anniversary of the birth of Czeslaw Milosz, writer (1911-2004) (Lithuania and Poland)
- (32) 150th anniversary of the birth of Fridtjof Nansen, explorer, and the 100th anniversary of Roald Amundsen, explorer, reaching the South Pole (Norway)
- (33) 400th anniversary of the University of Santo Tomas (1611) (Philippines)
- (34) 150th anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, pianist and politician (1860-1941) (Poland)
- (35) 200th anniversary of the birth of Frédéric Chopin, composer (1810-1849) (Poland, supported by France)
- (36) 50th anniversary of the death of Simion Stoilow, mathematician (1887-1961) (Romania)
- (37) 50th anniversary of the death of Lucian Blaga, poet (1895-1961) (Romania)
- (38) 50th anniversary of the death of Mihail Sadoveanu, writer (1880-1961) (Romania)
- (39) 1000th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Yaroslavl (1010) (Russian Federation)
- (40) 50th anniversary of the first manned mission to space (1961) (Russian Federation)
- (41) 150th anniversary of the birth of Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, writer (1860-1904) (Russian Federation)
- (42) 300th anniversary of the birth of Mikhail Lomonosov, scientist and writer (1711-1765) (Russian Federation)
- (43) 100th anniversary of the birth of Jan Cikker, composer (1911-1989) (Slovakia)
- (44) 150th anniversary of the birth of Martin Kukučín, writer (1860-1928) (Slovakia)
- (45) 100th anniversary of the birth of Mirzo Turzun-Zade, poet (1911-1977) (Tajikistan)

- (46) 100th anniversary of the birth of Kukrit Pramoj (1911-1995) (Thailand)
 - (47) 50th anniversary of the first holding of the International Festival “Struga Poetry Evenings” (SPE) (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
 - (48) 100th anniversary of the death of Osman Hamdi Bey, painter, archaeologist and art expert (1842-1910) (Turkey)
 - (49) 400th anniversary of the birth of Evliya Çelebi, writer (1611-1682) (Turkey)
 - (50) 450th anniversary of the birth of Francis Bacon, writer and philosopher (1561-1626) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
 - (51) 1000th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Thang Long Ha Noi (1010) (Viet Nam)
- (b) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations will be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that programme.

ANNEX

Composition of the Intersectoral Committee established to consider proposals

The Intersectoral Committee established within the Secretariat to consider, in accordance with the criteria and procedures adopted, the list of proposals by the Member States concerning the celebration of anniversaries shall be composed as follows (references: 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and document 159 EX/32):

- (a) one focal point from each programme sector:

Education Sector (ED);
Natural Sciences Sector (SC);
Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS);
Culture Sector (CLT);
Communication and Information Sector;(CI);

- (b) the relevant units of the Sector for External Relations and Cooperation (ERC);

- (c) a representative of the central services:

Africa Department (AFR);
Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP);
Bureau of Field Coordination (BFC);
Bureau of Public Information (BPI);
Secretariat of the Executive Board (GBS/SCX);
Secretariat of the General Conference (GBS/SCG).



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REVISED ADDENDUM

SUMMARY

This addendum to documents 181 EX/45 and 181 EX/INF.8 sets out the most recent developments concerning the agenda item on proposals by Member States for the celebration of anniversaries in 2010-2011 with which UNESCO could be associated.

This document contains the proposal of the Republic of India to include the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mother Teresa in the list of celebrations to be recommended for adoption by the General Conference at its forthcoming session.

The financial and administrative implications of the activities presented fall within the parameters of the C/5 document.

Action expected of the Executive Board: decision in paragraph 10.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the procedure for drawing up the list of anniversaries proposed by Member States with which UNESCO could be associated, adopted in 159 EX/Decision 7.5 and amended at the 166th (166 EX/Decision 9.3), 176th (176 EX/Decision 47) and 179th (179 EX/Decision 37) sessions of the Executive Board, documents 181 EX/45 and 181 EX/INF.8 present to the Executive Board the 51 proposals concerning the celebration of anniversaries in 2010-2011 deemed admissible because they meet the selection criteria in force.

2. As not all the information required for the consideration of certain proposals reached the Secretariat in time, a second meeting of the intersectoral selection committee was held on 4 March 2009 to examine the relevant requests.

3. Accordingly, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board for decision five proposals that might be added to the list contained in document 181 EX/45. The proposals are set out below together with the relevant historical and biographical information.

Member States' requests deemed admissible by the Director-General

4. The **Côte d'Ivoire National Commission for UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the celebration of the **50th anniversary of the beginning of the intellectual career of Professor Harris Memel-Fotê (1930-2008)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request complies with the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Professor Memel-Fotê, a citizen of Côte d'Ivoire, anthropologist and eminent African intellectual (1930-2008) made a major contribution to the development of the social sciences. At the Institute of Ethno-Sociology of Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) he contributed to the development of the discipline and to bringing together sociology, anthropology, ethnology and history. He also brought about fundamental changes in approaches to the problem of slavery by going further than a purely economic perspective and looking to its political and ideological dimensions and emphasizing the interaction between social processes within Africa (domestic slavery) and outside the continent (the slave trade). In this way his work sheds light on the dialogue of civilizations built on violence, resistance and cultural, scientific and technological fusion. Professor Memel-Fotê, a pan-Africanist, was one of the African intellectuals who fought colonization and actively contributed to the formation of young people in Africa and to African thinking on freedom, dignity and independence.

He was a founding member of numerous institutions and research groups in the social sciences in Africa, President of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) from 1979-1982, and he also occupied academic posts as a lecturer and researcher at the Ecole de Hautes études en sciences sociales, where he was associate director of studies, and the Collège de France, where he held an international Chair. He contributed to the foundation of the Academy of Sciences of Africa and the African Diaspora (ASCAD) (AFR).

5. The **Permanent Delegation of Senegal to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the celebration of the **100th anniversary of the birth of Alioune Diop, Senegalese intellectual (1910-1980)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request complies with the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Alioune Diop (1910-1980) was a Senegalese intellectual who played a prominent role in the emancipation of African cultures. In 1947 he founded the journal *Présence africaine*, followed by the Society of African Culture, which has now become the African Community of Culture (CAC).

In 1956 he organized the First International Congress of Negro Writers and Artists, held at the Sorbonne in Paris and bringing together intellectuals and artists from many countries. Its 50th anniversary was celebrated at the Sorbonne and at UNESCO in 2006. In 1966, Alioune Diop, together with Léopold Sédar Senghor, organized the first World Festival of Negro Arts, held in Dakar. In the newly independent Senegal, this unique event also provided a first opportunity to commemorate the memory of slavery in the world and was the place where first the question of reparations was raised.

As an editor, Alioune Diop inspired a forum and created an intellectual movement of cultural demands known as *négritude*. He played a prominent role alongside other intellectuals in favour of the recognition and dissemination of the thought, cultures and arts of Africa and the Diaspora.

This anniversary will provide the artistic and cultural community, including the African and Africophile publishing world, with the opportunity to revisit the body of work of this illustrious figure in African civil society. The international community will be encouraged to support celebrations of Alioune Diop as part of the follow-up to the World Festival of Black Arts (FESMAN) and the Pan-African Cultural Festival, milestone events in placing culture at the heart of development (AFR and CLT).

6. The **Permanent Delegation of the Swiss Confederation to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the celebration of the **100th anniversary of the birth of Jeanne Hersch, philosopher (1910-2000)**, in 2010. The Director-General considers that this request complies with the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Jeanne Hersch, a well-known philosopher with exemplary philosophical and academic credentials, marked her passage at UNESCO by being the first director of the Division of Philosophy, created in 1966. She was constantly searching for meaning, and embodied a powerful ambition for UNESCO to act in the field of philosophy, which she considered to be a stimulant and unique way of connecting the Organization's varied and numerous activities. She thus played a key role in driving reflection in the twentieth century on freedom and human rights, and in this context she published a major work entitled *The Right to Be a Man*, which was translated into seven languages. She also played a significant role in enhancing the value of education, which she saw as an essential element of the human being. She excelled at explaining the most complex concepts in simple terms accessible to all (SHS).

7. The **Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **1000th anniversary of St Sophia Cathedral Foundation in Kyiv (1011)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Kiev's Saint-Sophia Cathedral symbolizes the "new Constantinople", capital of the Christian principality of Kiev, which was created in the 11th century. It belongs to the most outstanding monuments of Byzantine area. The cathedral has the most complete ensemble of authentic mosaics and frescoes of the beginning of the 11th century, which are considered to be outstanding artistic masterpieces. The spiritual and intellectual influence of Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Complex contributed to an important interchange of human values. As a spiritual centre of the East Slavs, the cathedral has played a major role in the

development of science, art, education in Ukraine and all over the world. Today, it is one of the city's best known landmarks and the first Ukrainian cultural property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List (CLT).

8. The **Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to UNESCO** requested that UNESCO should be associated with the **150th anniversary of the death of Taras Shevchenko, writer (1814-1861)**, in 2011. The Director-General considers that this request meets the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Executive Board and proposes that UNESCO be associated with the celebration of this anniversary, whose description appears hereafter:

Taras Hryhorovych Shevchenko (1814 –1861) was a Ukrainian poet, artist and humanist. His literary heritage is regarded to be the foundation of modern Ukrainian literature and, to a large extent, the modern Ukrainian language. Shevchenko also wrote in Russian and left many masterpieces as a painter and an illustrator. His poetry contributed greatly to the growth of Ukrainian national consciousness, and his influence on various facets of Ukrainian intellectual, literary and national life is still felt to this day. Influenced by Romanticism, Shevchenko managed to find his own manner of poetic expression. A great number of his pictures, drawings and etchings preserved to this day testify to his unique artistic talent. He also experimented with photography and may be considered to have pioneered the art of etching in the Russian Empire. In 1860 he was awarded the title of Academician in the Imperial Academy of Arts specifically for his achievements in etching (CLT).

9. The Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO requested that UNESCO should be associated with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mother Teresa in 2010 (1910-1997).

Mother Teresa, the renowned Roman Catholic nun and missionary, was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in 1910. In 1928 she went to India, where she devoted herself to helping the destitute. In 1948 she became an Indian citizen and founded the order of Missionaries of Charity in Kolkota (Calcutta) in 1950, which became noted for its work among the poor and the dying in that city. For over 45 years she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned and dying, while guiding the Missionaries of Charity's expansion, first in India and then in other countries, including hospices and homes for the poorest and homeless. Mother Teresa's work has been recognized and acclaimed throughout the world and she has received a number of awards and distinctions, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 1980 for her humanitarian work, the Pope John XXIII Peace Prize (1971), the Nehru Prize for her promotion of international peace and understanding (1972) and the Balzan Prize (1979). Following her death she was beatified by Pope John Paul II and given the title Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. She had always stated, "By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world". Her tomb in the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity quickly became a place of pilgrimage and prayer for people of all faiths, rich and poor alike. Mother Teresa left a testament of unshakeable faith, invincible hope and extraordinary charity as a "mother of the poor". She became a living symbol of compassion to the world, and a living witness to the thirsting love of God.

Mother Teresa's message is fully in accordance with the UNESCO Constitution, and this celebration in 2010 will be a good opportunity to explain to young generations her message of compassion, tolerance, mutual respect, solidarity and peace. The commemoration of this anniversary would help to further disseminate globally Mother Teresa's universal message (SHS).

Action expected of the Executive Board

10. At the close of its discussion, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 181 EX/45 Add.Rev.,
2. Recommends to the General Conference:
 - (a) that the following celebrations be added to the list of celebrations of anniversaries with which UNESCO should be associated in 2010-2011 contained in document 181 EX/45:
 - (1) 50th anniversary of the beginning of the intellectual career of Professor Harris Memel-Fotê (1930-2008) (Côte d'Ivoire);
 - (2) 100th anniversary of the birth of Alioune Diop, Senegalese intellectual (1910-1980) (Senegal);
 - (3) 100th anniversary of the birth of Jeanne Hersch, philosopher (1910-2000) (Switzerland);
 - (4) 1000th anniversary of St Sophia Cathedral Foundation in Kyiv (1011) (Ukraine);
 - (5) 150th anniversary of the death of Taras Shevchenko, writer (1814-1861) (Ukraine);
 - (6) 100th anniversary of the birth of Mother Teresa in 2010 (1910-1997) (Republic of India);
 - (b) that any contribution by the Organization to these celebrations will be financed under the Participation Programme, in accordance with the rules governing that programme.