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REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY

The working group established pursuant to 192 EX/Decision 19 will review the working methods of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR).

This item has no financial and administrative implications.

1. In 192 EX/Decision 19 on the review of the working methods of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR), the Executive Board decided to establish a working group that is required to:

- agree, through consultations, on clearer rules and procedures in order to improve the work and effectiveness of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) in regard to the two aspects of the Committee's terms of reference;
- operate in a spirit of consensus;
- comprise all members of the Committee and other Member States of UNESCO wishing to attend as observers;
- report on the outcome of its work to the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations, at the latest, at the 196th session of the Executive Board.

2. At the 194th session of the Executive Board, the members of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) had recommended some topics for discussion.¹ At the end of the discussions, the Chairperson had summed up the exchange of views, stressing that members of the Committee had voiced concern about:

- the need to balance the two aspects of the CR Committee's terms of reference and the means of achieving that aim;
- the imbalance in the geographical origin of communications and the means of redressing the balance;

¹ See *Report of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations*, document 194 EX/33, paragraphs 5-7.

- the complementarity or duplication of the procedure with similar United Nations bodies responsible for protecting human rights;
- the efficiency of the CR Committee's working methods taken up in several proposals and ideas formulated during the discussion;
- the management of speaking time allotted to the various speakers;
- the sources of information about cases examined;
- the admissibility criteria.

3. The Chairperson of the Committee said that the list was not exhaustive.

4. In accordance with 194 EX/Decision 20, the working group will commence its work on the eve of the meeting of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations at the 195th session of the Executive Board, that is, on 14 October 2014, as announced in the provisional timetable of work of the 195th session of the Executive Board and in 194 EX/Decision 26.

5. The Secretariat will provide the working group with an updated version of the two-part information document 189 EX/CR/2 covering, on the one hand, procedures for the examination of Member States' reports on the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments and, on the other, procedures for the examination of communications concerning the exercise of human rights in UNESCO's fields of competence (194 EX/CR/2).