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Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART I

### PROGRAMME ISSUES

#### SUMMARY

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of the progress achieved in the follow-up to the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions.

Part I of this document contains information on the following programme issues:

#### A. Sharing of good practices in education

#### B. Report on the outcomes of the Third International Conference on SIDS and proposed follow-up within the Organization's programme and budget for 2014-2017

The 37th session of the General Conference approved the resolution on *Reinforcing UNESCO's strategy on small island developing States* (Part V – paragraph 1.e) that invites the Director-General: (e) to develop an action plan for implementing the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in the areas relevant to UNESCO's mandate.

The present document is the Director-General proposal in this regard.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 9.

#### C. UNESCO Global Geoparks Initiative

This document is based on the outcome of seven meetings of the Working Group on Geoparks held since 2013 with Member States, National Commissions, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and proposes the parameters of possible UNESCO Global Geopark activities within an International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP).

As requested by 195 EX/Decision 5 (I, A), this document presents to the Executive Board draft statutes of the proposed IGGP and draft Guidelines of UNESCO Global Geoparks, as finalized by the Working Group, and relevant information on financial implications of such a proposed programme (see Annexes 1, 2, 3). The Director-General was invited to:

- Consider forming a formal partnership with the GGN based on its added value;
- Report on any decision taken by IUGS at their Executive Committee meeting in January 2015 on proposed changes to the existing IGCP, and amend the partnership with IUGS as appropriate;

- Convene further meetings of the Working Group on UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- Prepare statutes of an International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme;
- Finalize the Working Group's recommendations and present the complete proposal, including the draft operational guidelines;
- Examine, if necessary, how to align the calendars of the IGCP and the GGN with those of UNESCO's governing bodies;
- Provide all relevant information on the financial implications of an IGGP.

The financial and administrative implications of the proposed IGGP fall within the parameters of the current C/5 document.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** proposed decision in paragraph 15.

**D. Protection of Iraqi heritage**

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

**E. Implementation of the activities related to the preparation and publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa***

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 13.

**F. Internet-related issues: including access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy and ethical dimensions of the information society**

By Resolution 52 adopted at its 37th session, the General Conference requested the preparation of a comprehensive study on Internet-related issues, within the mandate of UNESCO, produced through an inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process, the results of which should inform the Organization's reporting to the General Conference at its 38th session, on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes.

By way of this report, the Director-General informs the Executive Board about the results of this ongoing process (including the Outcome Document contained in document 196 EX/5 Part I Addendum).

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** proposed decision in paragraph 6.

**G. Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO**

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## A. Sharing of good practices in education

(Follow-up to 194 EX/Decision 5 (I, B))

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### Introduction

1. This document presents the progress made as requested by the Executive Board decision (194 EX/Dec.5 (I, B) on UNESCO's role in sharing of good practices in education in view of promoting South-South and North-South-South cooperation.

2. UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4, 2014-2021), approved by the General Conference at its 37th session and validated by the Executive Board at its 194th session, explicitly recognized the substantial changes that have occurred in the international development architecture over the past fifteen years. The new architecture allows new forms of South-South cooperation that put a premium on peer-to-peer transfer of resources and expertise among countries, and the participation of a broader array of actors. The rise of information and communications technologies has also opened up vast opportunities for regional and cross-regional collaboration, knowledge and technology sharing and partnerships with non-traditional development actors. In this global context UNESCO's role as a convener of development partners from north and south, as a facilitator of cross-border coordination frameworks, networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and as a clearing house for good practices is more important than ever.

### Progress registered

3. To respond to Member States' request to encourage the exchange of good practices in education and promote South-South and North-South-South cooperation, including formulating a strategy for such exchanges, the Education Sector has consulted staff at Headquarters, field offices and institutes, in view of collecting available good practices both from within and outside of UNESCO. It has also reviewed all the key mechanisms and networks that it is currently using for the delivery of the Sector's technical support to Member States, in view of further expanding South-South and North-South-South (triangular cooperation). These mechanisms include, among others, the E9 Initiative, a forum through which Member States are regularly consulted on promotion and exchange of good practices.

4. The current document therefore provides a brief outline of the Education Sector's strategy for promoting South-South and triangular cooperation through both sharing of good practices and making full use of its coordination frameworks, networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

5. One of the Sector's key strategies for encouraging the exchange of good practices has been to collect and facilitate access to these good practices by developing a dedicated website with updated information and reference materials: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-in-education/>

6. In this first phase of development, given time and financial constraints, it was not possible to distinguish governmental from non-governmental sources. However, during the next phase, the website will be further programmed to include more categorization, including a search engine to facilitate search options by governmental and non-governmental sources.

7. The current version of the website was launched on 19 January 2015 with an announcement on the UNESCO Education Sector website. It comprises two parts: (A) a repository of good practices in education organized by themes and (B) an overview of key mechanisms in support of UNESCO's work in South-South and triangular cooperation.

- (i) The "repository of good practices" in education contains a vast amount of information. It is structured around 13 thematic categories. These categories are: Assessment and Quality Assurance, Early Childhood Care and Education, Education for Sustainable Development, Education policies and plans, Global Citizenship Education, Women and

Girls' Education, Higher Education, HIV and AIDS education, ICT in Education, Inclusive Education, Literacy and non-formal Education, Teachers and Technical and Vocational Education and Training. Through the repository, visitors are guided to relevant online education databases, information portals and knowledge sharing platforms where they can search for, and access, examples of good practice in education. Furthermore, direct links are provided to a selection of thematic guidelines, implementation tools, reports and policy reviews.

- (ii) The part related to "key support mechanisms" presents some of the coordination mechanisms that have allowed the Education Sector to reinforce its strategic functions as a platform for policy dialogue between countries of the South and encouraging international cooperation in education. Visitors are guided to online conference websites, global and regional coordination frameworks, networks, and specific information on programmes where they can learn more about UNESCO's work in different thematic areas. The EFA Steering Committee and the Global EFA Meeting are key examples of high-level mechanisms for facilitating international policy dialogue and cross-regional exchange among governments, bi- and multilateral agencies, civil society groups and the private sector.
- (iii) As the Sector steps up its efforts to work with Member States on the elaboration, and subsequent implementation of the post-2015 global education agenda, a key strategic action of the Sector will consist in strongly promoting the high-level fora and networks, through which it is working, in view of further strengthening South-South and North-South-South cooperation, so as to make headway in addressing post-2015 challenges in education.

8. Beyond the availability of the new website, the products and outcomes of UNESCO's country, regional and cross-regional technical support programmes and research projects, which consist of many valuable thematic publications, guidelines and reports (available in both paper and electronic versions), UNESCO will pursue the efforts of wide-scale dissemination to key public stakeholders including through e-publishing, and open access.

### **Next steps**

9. One major axis of UNESCO's education programme is the promotion of partnerships for, and coordination of education, and more particularly South-South and North-South-South cooperation by leveraging the principle functions of UNESCO as a convener of development partners, a clearing house for new ideas and as a facilitator of cross-border coordination frameworks, networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships. These functions will be consistently promoted in view of enriching the discussions with UNESCO's development partners on how to address education challenges post-2015, as well as identifying new collaborative regional and cross-regional networks and alliances. The ongoing dialogue has already helped to ensure that technical support and capacity development and the design of tools and guidelines within specific EFA focus areas, can build upon evidence and lessons learned at country level. The Education Sector will continue to pay careful attention to these collaborative mechanisms and networks in view of expanding South-South and North-South-South cooperation in education.

10. In addition, UNESCO will endeavor to expand and regularly update the repository of good practices in education, including translating it into at least one additional language, in view of making the site accessible to a larger public.

**B. Report on the outcomes of the Third International Conference on SIDS and proposed follow-up within the Organization’s programme and budget for 2014-2017**  
(Follow-up to 37 C/Resolution 1 (V))

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**Introduction**

1. The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was held in Apia, Samoa, from 1 to 4 September 2014 to assess progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPOA 1994), and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (2005).
2. UNESCO contributed actively to the International Year of SIDS and the Samoa Conference, across all of its mandated areas and through multiple modalities. The Director-General led the UNESCO Delegation to the Conference and spoke alongside the United Nations Secretary-General and other CEB Executive Heads at the high-level event on the “The UN System Partnering for the Peoples of SIDS”. She was supported by staff from UNESCO Offices in Apia and Bangkok, as well as from Headquarters.
3. In addition to statements in the Plenary, UNESCO actively contributed to a number of Multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogue sessions. Panelist at the Dialogue session on Social Development, the Director-General profiled a number of UNESCO’s key contributions within its mandated areas of work, such as the role of culture in development, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, inclusiveness in education, gender equality and youth opportunities for development. UNESCO also profiled new and ongoing partnerships in the Dialogue sessions on “Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management”, on “Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity” and on “Water and Sanitation”. Furthermore, UNESCO co-organized side and parallel events covering a wide range of issues including: “Promoting Career Prospects for Young Scientists in the Sciences”, “Coping with and Adapting to Ocean Threats”, “Education for Sustainable Development”, “Culture and Development”, “Intangible Cultural heritage” and “Underwater Cultural Heritage”. UNESCO also played a central role at the pre-conference TALAVOU Youth Forum, and contributed to the United Nations Exhibition for the International Year of SIDS, with the UNESCO-Magnum photo exhibition as well as a display of images from World Heritage sites in SIDS. Finally, UNESCO’s ongoing activities in favour of SIDS were reflected through documents distributed to delegates, including the booklet “Islands of the Future” highlighting recent contributions to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.
4. The outcome document from the Third International Conference on SIDS – the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, seeks a renewed commitment from the international community to take appropriate action to further pursue the sustainable development of SIDS and address their specific vulnerabilities. Reaffirming the issues identified in the BPOA and the Mauritius Strategy, the SAMOA Pathway also identifies new and emerging challenges and opportunities as well as ways and means to address them.
5. The SAMOA Pathway was adopted by consensus by the United Nations General Assembly at its 69th session on 14 November 2014 (A/RES/69/15).
6. The General Conference resolution on *Reinforcing UNESCO’s strategy on small island developing States* (Part V – paragraph 1.e), approved at its 37th session, invites the Director-General: (e) to develop an action plan for implementing the outcome of the Third International Conference on SIDS in the areas relevant to UNESCO’s mandate.
7. The Director-General organized a consultation meeting with Permanent Delegations and Observers on 1 April 2014 on UNESCO preparations for the Samoa Conference. An Information Meeting with Permanent Delegations was held on 11 September 2014 to report on Samoa Conference outcomes. Finally, an Information Meeting was organized on 19 February 2015 on

UNESCO in the Pacific, with a report on the meeting of the Pacific National Commissions in Auckland, New Zealand (26-28 January 2015), funded through a regional PP request, to identify subregional priorities for the UNESCO Action Plan for SIDS.

8. A zero draft of the SIDS Action Plan was prepared by the Secretariat based on the elements of the SAMOA Pathway that relate to the Organization's mandate, and anchoring the document in the current Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4) and its Programme and Budget for 2014-15 (37 C/5) and 2016-2017 (38 C/5). Revisions and comments received from SIDS Member States from all regions were incorporated into the final draft version of the SIDS Action Plan that is presented here.

### **Proposed Decision**

9. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 1 (V),
2. Having examined document 196 EX/5 Part I (B) and its Annex,
3. Recalls the special status conferred by the Organization upon SIDS as an Overarching Objective in its Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2014-2021;
4. Acknowledges the major contributions that UNESCO has made to the International Year of SIDS and the Third International Conference on SIDS (Samoa, 1-4 September 2014) and its preparatory process;
5. Recognizes UNESCO's role in contributing to the identification of priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, especially in the formulation of sustainable development goals with respect to inclusive and equitable quality education, climate change, oceans, freshwater, social and cultural well-being, among others;
6. Welcomes with satisfaction the adoption by the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;
7. Expresses its appreciation for the draft Action Plan for SIDS presented by the Director-General;
8. Approves the draft Action Plan for the period of the current Medium-Term Strategy (2014 to 2021)
9. Invites UNESCO Member States to establish a wide range of partnerships to implement the Action Plan for SIDS, as a contribution to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway;
10. Further invites all Member States and relevant organizations and institutions to draw on this Action Plan with a view to furthering commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS, when developing their own priorities;
11. Requests the Director-General to pursue her efforts to build awareness of the SIDS Action Plan among all partners and to mobilize extrabudgetary funding in order to fully attain its objectives and implement its actions;
12. Further requests the Director-General to present a report on the implementation of this Action Plan at its 202nd session.

## ANNEX

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR SIDS

The General Conference resolution on *Reinforcing UNESCO's strategy on small island developing States* (Part V – paragraph 1.e) was approved at its 37th session in November 2013. Initiated by New Zealand and Saint Kitts & Nevis and co-sponsored by over 20 Member States, the resolution invites the Director-General “(e) to develop an action plan for implementing the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the areas relevant to UNESCO's mandate”.

On 14 November 2014, at its 69th session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on SIDS held in Apia, Samoa, from 1 to 4 September 2014. The SAMOA Pathway provides a renewed set of priorities to be addressed by the international community to support SIDS in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by SIDS are also being taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda. Efforts are ongoing to anchor SIDS priorities in the emerging Sustainable Development Goals, including among others: *Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all; Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; and Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.*

In response to the General Conference resolution, this document aims at developing a Plan of Action for UNESCO's engagement, across all of its mandated programme areas, in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. With a focus on five priority areas, this action plan proposes a set of fundamental objectives and follow-up actions to support the sustainable development of SIDS. The proposed actions require an integrated and intersectoral engagement across UNESCO programme areas, as well as the mobilization of a wide range of partners and stakeholders in SIDS as well as in other countries worldwide, including through an inter-institutional and inter-agency collaboration.



## Priority 1

### Enhancing island capacities to achieve sustainable development through education and the reinforcement of human and institutional capacities

As highlighted in the SAMOA Pathway, the focus on quality education, as well as Education for Sustainable Development, is essential to achieve sustainable development in SIDS. Reflection and action that is innovative and transformative requires a better understanding, in contexts specific to SIDS, of the complex interplay between the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Five priority areas in education are particularly relevant to address sustainable development in SIDS: (i) policy development, including equity measures; (ii) curriculum development – formal and non-formal; (iii) transforming and marketing of technical and vocational education and training (TVET); (iv) teacher education and professional development; and (v) inter-ministerial collaboration and stronger public private partnerships.

#### Objectives:

- Enhance national policy and legal frameworks for lifelong learning for sustainable development;
- Improve the quality and relevance of education in SIDS so that every learner acquires the knowledge, skills, attitudes, competencies and values required for addressing both global citizenship and local contextual challenges of the present and the future to contribute to sustainable development ;
- Improve understanding of the complex interplay in SIDS between the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;
- Support human and institutional capacity development for effective education and lifelong learning in SIDS;
- Enhance social, cultural and scientific learning opportunities in SIDS by integrating formal, non-formal and informal learning practices relevant for sustainable development, based on experiences from best and promising practices as well as indigenous knowledge (e.g. effective flexible learning strategies targeted at reaching the most marginalized, and equivalency programmes that enable learners to gain equivalent qualifications to formal education and support their reintegration into the formal system);
- Promote TVET and lifelong learning opportunities for all women and men, aligned with labour market needs and which facilitate mobility.

#### Main actions:

- Support SIDS in implementing the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the follow-up to the United Nations Decade of ESD. Ensure that SIDS are a key part of the global community of practice through which UNESCO facilitates the implementation of the GAP, including through exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer on ESD;
- Provide technical support to SIDS to enhance policy and legal frameworks for lifelong learning for sustainable development;

- Provide technical support to SIDS to reinforce teacher education and professional development on quality education and priority thematic areas, whilst ensuring quality of learning environments and approaches;
- Strengthen the capacities of SIDS Member States to integrate Disaster Risk Education and Climate Change Education into education policies, plans and programmes;
- Reinforce teacher education and professional development on quality education, including equity measures, and priority thematic areas whilst ensuring quality of learning environments and approaches;
- Support the transformation of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in SIDS, through promoting TVET policy review and development, inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral policy dialogue, capacity building, networking and partnerships based on the principles of inclusion, gender equality and sustainability, to support youth transitions and an integrated approach to lifelong learning;
- Encourage the promotion of TVET to key stakeholders, including through marketing, as a means of supporting youth transitions and enhancing socio-economic mobility in the context of the increasingly service-oriented economies of SIDS, and as a central vehicle for sustainable development;
- Facilitate wider regional and international recognition of local TVET qualifications.

## Priority 2

### Enhancing SIDS resilience towards environmental, ocean, freshwater and natural resources sustainability

SIDS are Big Ocean Sustainable States (BOSS). Protecting their terrestrial, aquatic and marine biodiversity and heritage, and securing equitable access to land and ocean resources is essential for their sustainable development. In terms of natural resources, SIDS face numerous challenges due to their bio-physical settings, which leave them vulnerable not only to extreme climatological and seismic events but also other adverse environmental impacts, including pollution of groundwater and surface water resources, saline intrusion, soil and coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, amongst others. For instance, in many SIDS, groundwater quality and quantity are threatened by population growth, urbanization and climate change. Supporting SIDS to overcome these challenges is a priority which can be advanced through capacity enhancement in biodiversity, marine, natural and social sciences, as well as through research and technology transfer and the application of traditional and non-traditional knowledge, tools and approaches.

#### Objectives:

- Develop and implement national science, technology and innovation (STI) policies, strategies and action plans that promote the use of STI as a driver for achieving sustainable development in SIDS, most notably to preserve and sustain the environment and natural resources.
- Enhance the capacity of SIDS to generate data for the sustainable development of their bio-cultural resources, freshwater and oceans, and ensure access to data and information for supporting climate change adaptation and local decision-making;
- Increase SIDS's community resilience to climate change associated hazards/impacts including on biodiversity, freshwater, sea-level rise and ocean acidification;
- Harness the potential of ecological sciences, water sciences and technologies, and ocean sciences, alongside local and indigenous knowledge systems, to sustain healthy terrestrial systems, freshwater bodies and oceans;
- Ensure increased technical capacities and knowledge for sustainable management of coastal systems, biodiversity, water and other natural resources;
- Develop sustainable management strategies based on building synergies between indigenous and scientific knowledge and practices;
- Increase access to technical assistance, training and institutional and human capacity building on tsunami early warning systems, preparedness, response and mitigation;
- Enhance capacities for protecting, managing and inventorying marine and underwater cultural heritage to foster sustainable development and promote sites as potential areas of responsible heritage tourism, with a responsible public access.

#### Main actions:

- Assist decision-makers in designing transversal STI policies, institutional frameworks and policy instruments in STI, and in setting-up monitoring and evaluation systems, that adequately acknowledge the gains from biodiversity and ecosystem services, and includes these measures in national sustainable development processes.

- Promote science education and its role in development, enhance public (especially youth) interest in science, and strengthen scientific capacity through science teacher's training, e-learning and updated science education curriculum material, in cooperation with partners well-established in open and distance learning;
- Upgrade scientific institutions, in the fields of the environmental, earth, ocean, hydrological and climate system sciences, as well as in the management of natural resources, through strengthening universities and research centres and mobilizing international science cooperation;
- Further assess SIDS groundwater systems for analyzing groundwater resources data, availability and quality, challenges and providing recommendations to improve coastal management, water-use efficiency, and to mitigate the effects of seawater intrusion.
- Integrate climate change knowledge and action, including its influences on freshwater, in policies, development programmes and school curricula through climate change education for sustainable development and the Sandwatch programme;
- Improve understanding, knowledge sharing and capacities to deal with disasters and the reduction of loss and damage;
- Study and disseminate island and coastal strategies to preserve biodiversity and heritage, promote sustainable development, and adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, in particular through the World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves;
- Encourage the development of biosphere reserves across SIDS regions as learning sites for promoting and disseminating new socio-economic activities based on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Strengthen the capacities of marine heritage site managers through UNESCO's World Heritage Marine Programme (five marine World Heritage sites are located in SIDS, two sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger);
- Increase support to SIDS through the following programmes and activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC):
  - Supporting SIDS capacities to manage and sustainably use the oceans, seas and their marine resources through marine spatial planning, integrated coastal management and other decision support tools;
  - Further developing and coordinating the establishment of tsunamis and other coastal hazards early warning systems;
  - Monitoring sea level rise with both real-time applications, like in the case of tsunami early warning systems, and adaptation to coastal changes in the long-term through the sea level stations of the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS);
  - Broadening awareness of ocean acidification and its impacts on SIDS and increase cooperation and collaboration in order to detect local impacts of ocean acidification via the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) at SIDS;
  - Strengthening SIDS capacities through promotion of the participation of SIDS in the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), and ensure access to data and

information for supporting climate change adaptation and local decision measures;

- Assisting SIDS in developing a global network of training centres to increase national capacity in coastal and marine knowledge and management and to facilitate transfer of marine technology, based on local needs, in particular through the Ocean Teacher Global Academy programme;
- Assisting SIDS in identifying the most vulnerable species and habitats in need of protection through the collection of marine biodiversity data, building on global databases such as the IOC's Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS);
- Assisting in broadening the knowledge and creating capacity to protect and to manage sustainably coastal carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrasses, through the Blue Carbon Initiative.

## Priority 3

### Preserving Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage and Promoting Culture for Island Sustainable Development

The SAMOA Pathway calls upon the international community to support SIDS in designing and implementing their own innovative cultural policies to strengthen heritage and creativity to leverage the economic, social and natural benefits of culture. It further reaffirmed that “indigenous bio-cultural heritage recognizes the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, and can meaningfully advance sustainable development”. In this context, protecting and safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage, promoting responsible tourism, boosting creative industries, and transmitting traditional knowledge is crucial. It also implies adopting a holistic approach to the cultural heritage of SIDS, in the specific context of the relationship of these human settlements to the land and the sea. SIDS are especially rich in marine and underwater cultural heritage, which requires high levels of protection and whose potential for driving sustainable development is as yet relatively underexplored. Thirty-seven SIDS are State Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (some 19% of UNESCO’s 195 Member States have ratified the Convention), which promulgates a specific World Heritage Programme for SIDS, as well as a World Heritage Tourism Programme that encourages sustainable tourism in World Heritage areas. There are to date 32 sites located in SIDS out of a total of 1007 World Heritage Sites worldwide (approximately 3% of the total).

#### Objectives:

- Enhance the capacities of SIDS to safeguard their cultural and natural heritage – in all its forms – and to develop a dynamic culture sector that fully harnesses the power of culture for sustainable development;
- Support SIDS in the adoption or revision of national laws for implementing the UNESCO Culture Conventions;
- Strengthen capacities and knowledge about legal and practical means and tools to fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and encourage restitution of stolen or illicitly exported cultural objects;
- Facilitate the management and development of sustainable tourism at heritage sites in SIDS;
- Support the design and implementation of participatory measures to enhance employment opportunities, in particular of youth, through partnerships and capacity development, while conserving their cultural and natural heritage, especially ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Recognizing the limited institutional capacities in SIDS, assist them in (i) identifying, inventorying and proposing potential heritage sites of historical and cultural interest to the UNESCO Tentative List, and (ii) fulfilling the compliance requirements associated with being listed on the World Heritage list, such as reporting.

#### Main actions:

- Encourage the ratification by SIDS of all six UNESCO Culture Conventions;

- Provide training on the implementation on all six UNESCO Culture Conventions and share best practices in this regard. Support SIDS in the establishment and adoption of national laws implementing the UNESCO Culture Conventions;
- Encourage SIDS, as they deem necessary, to apply for international assistance mechanisms available through the UNESCO Culture Conventions;
- Use tangible and intangible heritage as a vehicle for poverty alleviation in SIDS through capacity development, promotion of traditional knowledge (including craftsmanship) and encouraging young people's participation in heritage preservation, presentation and tourism;
- Promote and document island cultures, nature, heritage and traditional knowledge, recognizing the tourism potential but emphasizing values of sustainability in tourism promotion efforts, in close collaboration with local communities and ensure they derive direct economic benefits from tourism activities;
- Enhance SIDS capacities to inventory, manage and protect underwater cultural heritage and foster responsible public access to it, as a means of promoting heritage based sustainable development;
- Strengthen national and regional capacities and build technical skills to conserve and manage terrestrial and underwater heritage sites by fostering the exchange of best management practices and communicating the specific conservation challenges SIDS are facing;
- Enhance coordination and cooperation in the management (including risk management) and conservation of World Heritage cultural and natural sites in SIDS, as well as in sustainable tourism, by taking into account the involvement of youth, women and paying attention to biodiversity;
- Support the development and implementation of national cultural policies, strengthening capacities of countries to safeguard tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as developing cultural industries as a way of tackling youth unemployment and enhanced access to international markets for creative industry professionals. This includes fostering the international mobility of local artists, creators and cultural professionals and the facilitation of access to global markets for cultural goods and services from SIDS;
- Support SIDS in enhancing their tourism product based on promotion of culture and heritage;
- Support SIDS in fostering regional capacity in resilience, preservation and promotion of museums and collections, notably through the inventorying of collections, management of storage, and the establishment of risk analysis and emergency response in case of natural disaster;
- Integrate the holistic approach to cultural heritage preservation, carried by the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011), into the development policies and planning strategies.
- Encourage SIDS, as they deem opportune, to submit candidatures to the 2015 Call for applications of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, following the example of the city of Nassau, which has been designated as a UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts and Folk Arts in 2014. Cities from the SIDS could thus engage in exchange programmes and partnership initiatives at the international and local levels intended to promote creativity as a strategic factor of their urban sustainable development.

## Priority 4

### Supporting SIDS in the management of social transformations and the promotion of social inclusion and social justice

As indicated in the SAMOA Pathway, SIDS continue to face numerous challenges to achieving sustainable development, due to their unique geographical, biological and historical legacies, as well as their social and economic characteristics, including their limited size, high levels of population displacement, vulnerability to natural and human-made disasters and high exposure to economic fluctuations and geopolitical circumstances. SIDS also experience severe capacity and resource constraints to implement national development goals, particularly to address global challenges for which SIDS do not bear main responsibilities. Providing support for the collective action of young people, women, civil society and vulnerable groups are critical to the attainment of productive and healthy livelihood outcomes for the SIDS communities. Promoting social justice, empowerment and strengthened capacity of all segments of society in SIDS to increase their level of participation in developing and implementing national social and other related policies is thus crucial to achieving sustainability and improved quality of life in SIDS communities.

#### Objectives:

- Enhance advocacy for decent employment, sustainable consumption patterns, social protection floors and the reduction of inequalities to eradicate poverty and improve social inclusion, with special attention to the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged sectors of the population;
- Assist SIDS Member States in mobilizing knowledge – scientific and non-codified – that may be relevant to strengthen policy-making processes, including foresight capabilities and futures literacy, improved data collection systems and upgraded analytical skills;
- Improve data and data collection methodologies for the assessment and development of social inclusion policies;
- Enhance the capabilities of SIDS Member States to address the social, cultural, legal and ethical implications of the progress of life sciences under the framework of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights, as well as to design and implement ethically- informed environmental policies;
- Advance knowledge standards and intellectual cooperation, taking into account issues related to ethics, human rights, peace and security, poverty alleviation, gender, youth and especially the impact of the rapid social changes on the customary ways;
- Support youth development through the three axes of improved public policy, capacity development and civic engagement;
- Provide support to countries to address gender inequalities;
- Enhance the role of cultural institutions and intercultural dialogue in the context of public policy debates and as a vehicle to facilitate the contribution of SIDS to the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures and in accordance to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Main actions:

- Enhance the capacity and involvement of local communities, including youth, in contributing to plans and policies;
- Develop capacities for defending the fruitful diversity of cultures in SIDS facing the globalization trend;
- Organize MOST interregional dialogues at both ministerial level and policy level focusing on key themes from the SAMOA Pathway such as Decent Employment, Reduction of Inequalities and Poverty Eradication in SIDS; intercultural dialogue as a way contribute to conflict-resolution and peaceful societies; and social implications of climate change;
- Support collaborative MOST “sustainability science” pilot projects in the three SIDS groupings: Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS, with emphasis on implementation at the level of local communities and with special attention to gender equality issues;
- Organization of MOST Schools and MOST Futures Literacy Knowledge Labs (both short courses at university level) in the three SIDS groupings, with emphasis on the promotion of social inclusion and social justice; and implementation of MOST online courses on “Introduction to social transformations in the context of the SAMOA Pathway” (e-learning through Massive Open Online Courses, MOOC);
- Strengthen national and regional capacities, through the MOST Programme, to assess and reform national policies and regulatory frameworks regarding social inclusion, gender equality, youth and science policy and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable;
- Organization of activities on bioethics training in the three SIDS groupings;
- Support research on the social implications and responses to climate change, including gender and youth dimensions; informed by ethical values;
- Reinforce UNESCO’s support for youth participation and capacity building through addressing the challenges and needs of out-of-school youth violence in schools, livelihood skills for young people, school-related gender based violence (SRGBV), prevention of violence among youth through sports and physical education, and promote programmes that foster young people’s creative potential, taking into account the different needs of young men and young women in SIDS;
- Engage youth directly in implementing the SAMOA Pathway through a range of youth-friendly face-to-face, web- and app-based technologies that provide opportunities to increase awareness of sustainability issues; build capacity to participate in sustainable development dialogues; and build sustainable networks of youth organizations across SIDS;
- Encourage the ratification and the promotion of the International Convention against Doping in Sport;
- Provide support to SIDS countries to enhance intercultural competencies and respond to cultural barriers to gender equality in appropriate ways.

## Priority 5

### Increasing connectivity, information management and knowledge sharing

In the context of SIDS, a greater access to communication and information technologies (ICTs) and an increased connectivity to enable education, especially through an increased use of ICTs, and training opportunities for those living in remote places is very pertinent. The promotion of a policy dialogue among multiple stakeholders, institutions, decision makers and community members is a way to induce the transformative changes needed to address the complex and inter-related challenges that SIDS are encountering on their way to greater knowledge-sharing.

#### Objectives:

- Reinforce the capacities to develop dynamic open ICT and mobile apps to mitigate local issues of sustainable development;
- Increase access to high-quality educational and scientific opportunities through the use of open educational and ICT solutions;
- Improve knowledge-sharing to guide scientific, technological, institutional and human capacity development, allowing exchange of human resources to build local capacities, construction of interconnected, inclusive, open and participatory knowledge societies within and between islands;
- Enhance interregional and international collaboration between academic research institutions (universities, centers ...) particularly relevant in the context of SIDS;
- Ensure greater access to ICTs platforms to enable higher education opportunities for those living in remote places;
- Assist SIDS in their efforts to construct inclusive knowledge societies and enhance the ability of all persons, particular young women and men, to effectively use information & communication technologies (ICT) for development and to address current and emerging ethical challenges

#### Main actions:

- Use ICTs as a tool of empowerment, namely for strengthening capacity-building opportunities, improving accessibility, preserving and protecting documentary heritage as well as for promoting local content, freedom of expression, multilingualism and the ethical dimension in the knowledge societies.
- Foster the use of open solutions and Open Access by actively participating in implementing UNESCO's global strategy for Open Access to scientific research and scholarly communication.
- Develop comprehensive localized training programmes for effective skills transfer in mobile apps development as well as conduct a multi-lingual social media campaign to build a vibrant, inclusive community of practice to ensure young people from all communities and all abilities are fully involved;
- Enable access by learners to relevant, high-quality educational opportunities such as Open Educational Resources (OERs) and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs);

- Promote experimentation, innovation and diffusion and sharing, on and offline, of information and best practices and policy dialogue in education, science, culture and social sciences;
- Ensure access to data and information for supporting climate change adaptation and local decision measures;
- Disseminate knowledge and information about UNESCO's Culture Conventions, including best practices on tangible and intangible heritage safeguarding and management;
- Support SIDS' cultural institutions (such as museums and heritage institutions) to establish sound inventory systems and to increase opportunities for disseminating knowledge about the cultural and natural heritage of SIDS. Facilitate cooperation between scientists and transfer of knowledge and technology;
- Support SIDS in establishing media and information literacy as a means to intercultural dialogue, peace, and sustainable development among various stakeholders, including young journalists, journalism educators, as well as media and information specialists;
- Enhance inter-agency and inter-institution collaboration for integrated data management, sharing and analysis of environmental, socio-economic data sets;
- Support a sustainable development statistics and information programme for SIDS through UNESCO Institute for Statistics and IOC.

## **C. UNESCO Global Geoparks Initiative**

(Follow-up to 194 EX/Decision 5 (I, G), 195 EX/Decision 5 (I, A))

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Since the creation of the GGN in 2004, Global Geoparks have gained momentum and their achievements have attracted the attention of an increasing number of Member States. Global Geopark activities have been part of the UNESCO work plan since 2001 and, since 2004, UNESCO has offered ad-hoc support to Global Geoparks upon requests from individual Member States. However, the role of UNESCO in supporting the worldwide activities is limited and 'Geoparks' are not a programme of UNESCO per se. Through the current document the Director-General proposes to introduce UNESCO Global Geopark as a tool of excellence for areas that meet the criteria set by the proposed draft operational guidelines. UNESCO Global Geoparks could strongly contribute to raising UNESCO's visibility in the world and allow UNESCO to take the lead in high-quality public outreach on sustainable development linked to issues on geodiversity, the environment, geohazards, climate change and the sustainable use of natural resources. Moreover, it has been identified that this label could also be of clear advantage for the development of Global Geoparks in those regions where none currently exist and for the Secretariat's fundraising scheme which will be the main source to assist countries in the development of Global Geoparks.

2. Global Geoparks are areas with the core criterion of having geological heritage of international importance, as peer-reviewed by the international geological academic community in association with IUGS. Global Geoparks have an important role to inform about current climate change as the rocks of each Global Geopark holds the record of past climate change. Global Geoparks work with local communities in tectonically active areas of the world to inform and prepare local people about the risks of geohazards and they also work with the extraction industry to help ensure a more equitable and sustainable use of our planet's natural resources. Through their combination of activities in science, education and culture, Global Geoparks offer empowerment to local communities by developing activities in these three topics that support sustainable economic development.

3. The General Assembly of the GGN voted unanimously in September 2014 to establish themselves as a not-for-profit legal association which is now created and based in France. The GGN also agreed that the new association will donate a sum totalling no less than US \$1,000 per Global Geopark to UNESCO annually to assist the Organization in capacity building activities for Global Geoparks. The GGN has grown steadily worldwide and today has 111 members in 32 countries which work together in multiple partnerships and common projects for the wellbeing of their local people.

4. IUGS at its Executive Committee meeting in January 2015 decided to accept the changes to the existing International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) by the proposed documents and wishes to amend the partnership with UNESCO as appropriate.

### **II. INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE AND GEOPARKS PROGRAMME**

5. Considerable progress has been reached by the seven meetings of the Working Group on Geoparks about the possibility of formalizing Global Geoparks within UNESCO. Over the course of these meetings, many Member States have supported the idea of integrating Global Geopark activities with the existing IGCP under a proposed International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). Representatives of IUGS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the GGN participated in the Working Group meetings and contributed to the writing of the draft operational guidelines for possible UNESCO Global Geoparks and the draft Statutes of a possible IGGP. Member States, especially in Africa, Arab countries and Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed their wish to strengthen capacity-building and establish Global Geoparks,

and the creation of the UNESCO Global Geopark label could contribute to this aim and guarantee quality and intergovernmental oversight.

6. It is proposed that the IGGP be implemented through parallel activities following the proposed draft statutes of the new Programme: the International Geoscience Programme (keeping the acronym "IGCP"), a cooperative venture with the IUGS, and the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Both shall coordinate their work through a shared UNESCO Secretariat and joint coordination meetings of their respective Bureaux which will convene as necessary as described in the attached draft statutes.

7. The proposed IGGP could be an excellent model to focus UNESCO's work on Earth Science. UNESCO being the only United Nations organization with such a mandate, the proposed IGGP could help to ensure synergy and cooperation between the existing Geoscience programme and Global Geoparks. With the annual donation from the Global Geoparks, there is a method to ensure that UNESCO Global Geopark activities can succeed on a basis of no additional cost to the Organization. An IGGP could, under the IGCP activity, fund geoscientific projects under the existing and highly-renowned peer review process in cooperation with IUGS and other possible partners. It could also, under the UNESCO Global Geoparks activity, allow the Organization to formally support the highly-valued bottom-up nature of Global Geoparks, managed by the lightest possible administrative structure and built on existing structures within UNESCO.

8. The proposed IGGP will be supported within the frame of the financial and administrative implications in the current C/5 document, with no additional costs to UNESCO. The main financial resources for the proposed UNESCO Global Geopark activities will continue to be based on contributions from UNESCO Global Geoparks through the GGN and, once accepted under the umbrella of UNESCO, attract other potential donors to contribute.

### **III. INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMME**

9. The International Geoscience Programme could be based on the existing structures of the International Geoscience Programme and could keep the acronym "IGCP". The governing structure of this new IGCP could have a Scientific Board of 50 members, communicating via e-media, assessing project proposals and reports on scientific merit. A Scientific Council of six members coming together in Paris at an annual statutory meeting could make recommendations on funding based on these reviews and the final decision-making could be undertaken by a Bureau composed of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the Council of the IGCP. The Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of IUGS or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Bureau without the right to vote. This corresponds to the way the International Geoscience Programme has functioned for the past number of years and keeps the working calendar unchanged.

### **IV. UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS**

10. The structure of the UNESCO Global Geoparks could be also based on existing structures with a Global Geoparks Evaluation Team responsible for the field evaluation missions and a Geoparks Council of 12 members deciding on new UNESCO Global Geopark nominations and revalidations. Both could be governed by a Bureau consisting of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the Council of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Director-General of UNESCO and the President of the GGN or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Bureau without the right to vote. The intergovernmental check of nominations for UNESCO Global Geoparks was an important point during the discussions with Member States and could be provided at several stages during the nomination process allowing Member States to review aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks applications. Once received at the UNESCO Secretariat through appropriate government bodies, candidates could be first published on the

website (December to January). Member States could then be informed at the spring meeting of the IGCP Council (February) and the scientific assessment for proposed sites could only begin where no problems had been identified through Member States.

11. The calendar of the application and revalidation process will remain unchanged regarding the date of submission (October to November), desk-top reviews (November to January), presentation at the annual meeting of the IGCP (February), evaluation and revalidation missions (May to August), and Global Geopark Council meeting (September year 1). The only difference compared to the former procedure would be the final endorsement of nominations, so far done by the GGN Bureau each September, which could now be done by the Executive Board of UNESCO (April year 2) prolonging the procedure by some six months.

12. After a positive assessment of the applications by the evaluation teams and the decision of the Council, the Bureau will recommend to the UNESCO Secretariat to include an item on the agenda of the Executive Board of UNESCO. This item will submit to the consideration of the Executive Board the nominations as decided upon by the Council for endorsement by the Executive Board. The details of the nominations will be contained in an Information document for the Executive Board.

13. Financial implications for IGCP and Global Geopark activities during 2014 were as follows:

(a) Regular budget:

- \$369,200 for Global Geoparks, including \$344,200 in staff costs and \$25,000 for programme activities from the regular budget under the 37 C/5 post-prioritization budget scenario of \$507 million;
- \$438,526 for IGCP, including \$370,150 in staff costs and \$68,376 for programme activities from the regular budget under the 37 C/5 post-prioritization budget scenario of \$507 million;

(b) Additional appropriations and in-kind contributions;

- \$80,139 as additional appropriations to the regular budget for Global Geopark activities and \$3,014,520 in-kind contributions from Global Geoparks;
- \$20,000 as additional appropriations to the regular budget from China for IGCP activities and an estimated \$3,167,520 in-kind contributions supported IGCP project activities,

(c) \$70,000 was contributed by IUGS to help fund IGCP projects;

(d) Total expenditure for IGCP and Global Geopark activities during 2014 was an estimated \$7,159,905 of which \$807,726 came from UNESCO's regular budget.

14. Projected costs for 2016, under the same budget scenario, would again amount to similar figures, but with growing additional appropriations from UNESCO Global Geoparks. Furthermore, under a revitalized IGCP programme it is anticipated that a major extrabudgetary fundraising exercise would augment these income figures. All external funds received by UNESCO for IGCP would be placed in a special account.

## V. PROPOSED DECISION

15. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 196 EX/5 (C),
2. Recalling 195 EX/Decision 5 (I, A) to present to the 196th session of the Executive Board draft statutes of the proposed International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), and draft Guidelines of UNESCO Global Geoparks,
3. Taking into account the considerable advancement made by the seven meetings of the Working Groups on Geoparks since 2013 on the formalizing of UNESCO Global Geoparks, resulting in a complete proposal,
4. Expressing its appreciation to the important contribution by the GGN to Global Geopark activities and cooperation for sustainable development worldwide and further appreciating the added value brought by the GGN being the most capable and experienced association dealing with Global Geoparks,
5. Recognizing the need for UNESCO to increase the focus of its programme and ensure its cost-effectiveness,
6. Considering that the proposed IGGP and its Secretariat will be supported within the frame of the financial and administrative implications in the current C/5 document, with no additional costs to UNESCO,
7. Noting that UNESCO Global Geoparks will be entitled to use a “linked logo” to be developed for UNESCO Global Geoparks, and governed under the 2007 “Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO” or by any subsequent directive,
8. Recalling the importance of the provision of intergovernmental checks of nominations of UNESCO Global Geoparks,
9. Invites the Director-General to take into account the proposed IGGP in the preparation of the work plan and budget for the 38 C/5;
10. Recommends to the General Conference at its 38th session to:
  - (a) approve the statutes of the IGGP as well as the operational Guidelines of the UNESCO Global Geoparks which will permit the use of a linked logo and the name UNESCO Global Geoparks in accordance with the 2007 “Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO”;
  - (b) replace the statutes of the International Geoscience Programme adopted through Resolution 20 by the General Conference at its 32nd session (32 C/Res.20) by those of the IGGP presented in the current document;
  - (c) approve all existing Global Geoparks as UNESCO Global Geoparks subject to a letter of support from the National Commission for UNESCO or the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO in each Member State as appropriate, bearing in mind the existing criteria for Global Geoparks, at the level of scientific quality and content, are essentially the same as those proposed for UNESCO Global Geoparks and recalling the ongoing four-year revalidation process which will see all Global Geoparks reviewed, in line with the established frequency also under the new system at the latest by 2020.

## ANNEX 1

### DRAFT STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE AND GEOPARKS PROGRAMME

The International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) shall be implemented through two activities: the International Geoscience Programme, a co-operative venture with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), and the UNESCO Global Geoparks. They shall coordinate their work through a shared UNESCO Secretariat and joint coordination meetings of their respective Bureaux which will convene as necessary. The chairpersons of the two respective Councils will co-chair the IGGP.

These Statutes may be amended by the General Conference of UNESCO on its own initiative or on the proposal of the Director-General of UNESCO.

#### Part A: The International Geoscience Programme

##### Article 1: International Geoscience Programme

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) as part of the IGGP fosters interdisciplinary geoscientific research among researchers internationally, through joint research work, meetings and workshops. Since its creation in 1972, IGCP has supported over 350 projects in about 150 countries. IGCP brings together scientists from around the world, and provides them with seed money to devise and conduct joint international research and to collectively publish the results. High on the list of selection criteria are scientific quality and the extent of the international, multidisciplinary cooperation likely to be generated by a proposed project.

##### Article 2: International Geoscience Programme Council

- 2.1 A Council is hereby set up for the International Geoscience Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "IGCP").
- 2.2 The Council shall be composed of six ordinary members, with the right to vote, appointed by mutual agreement by the Director-General of UNESCO and the President of the IUGS. The Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of the IUGS or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Council without the right to vote.
- 2.3 Ordinary members appointed to the Council shall be high-level experts actively engaged in scientific research related to the objectives of the IGCP, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution and gender equality. They shall serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective states or any other affiliated entities. They will be required to ensure that they have no conflict of interest and that they will not seek or accept instructions from governments or other authorities.
- 2.4 Ordinary members of the Council shall be appointed for a term of four years, renewable once. Every two years, half the membership of the Council shall be renewed. When appointing the initial members of the Council, the Director-General of UNESCO shall indicate those whose initial term shall expire after two years.
- 2.5 In case an ordinary member resigns or is unable to serve, she/he may be replaced for the remainder of her/his term in accordance with the procedure defined above.



- 2.6 The Council shall be responsible for advising the Director-General of UNESCO and the President of IUGS on the strategy, planning and implementation of the IGCP and specifically for:
- (a) supervising the implementation of IGCP from the organizational and from the scientific points of view;
  - (b) studying proposals concerning developments and modifications of the programme,
  - (c) recommending scientific projects of interest to IGCP member countries;
  - (d) coordinating international cooperation in the framework of IGCP;
  - (e) assisting in the development of national and regional projects related to IGCP;
  - (f) recommending any measures that may be required for the successful implementation of the programme;
  - (g) coordinating IGCP with related international programmes.
- 2.7 In carrying out its activities, the Council may make full use of the facilities offered by UNESCO, IUGS, other international organizations, governments and foundations. The Council may also consult on scientific questions all appropriate international or national governmental or non-governmental scientific organizations and, in particular, the International Council for Science (ICSU).
- 2.8 After each session, the Council shall present a report on its work and its recommendations to the Bureau referred to in Article 4 below. The report will be circulated to IUGS, Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.
- 2.9 The Council shall submit a report, on the progress of the IGCP, for each session of the General Conference of UNESCO, as part of a joint report of the IGCP, and shall report annually to the Executive Committee of IUGS.
- 2.10 The Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

### **Article 3: International Geoscience Programme Council Sessions**

- 3.1 The Council shall meet at least once a year at the invitation of UNESCO and the IUGS. The meetings of the Council shall, unless the Council decides otherwise, be held in public.
- 3.2 Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO and adhering bodies of the IUGS will be invited to send observers to the public sessions of the Council.
- 3.3 The United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may be represented at sessions of the Council.
- 3.4 The Director-General of UNESCO may extend invitations to send observers to sessions of the Council to:
- (a) organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements;
  - (b) intergovernmental organizations;
  - (c) international non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations.

- 3.5 Representatives of the Scientific Board referred to in Article 5 below may also attend sessions of the Council in accordance with arrangements to be made by UNESCO and the IUGS.
- 3.6 Observers of interested international scientific organizations may be invited to attend sessions of the Council in accordance with the regulations and rules in force in UNESCO and in the IUGS.
- 3.7 Representatives and observers referred to in Articles 3.2 to 3.6 above shall not have the right to vote.
- 3.8 At the beginning of its ordinary session subsequent to the appointment of new members in accordance with Article 2.4 above, the Council shall elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur who shall remain in office for two years.

#### **Article 4: International Geoscience Programme Bureau**

- 4.1 A Bureau is hereby set up for the IGCP.
- 4.2 The Bureau will consist of five members: the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the Council of the IGCP. The Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of IUGS or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Bureau without the right to vote.
- 4.3 Its duties will be:
  - (a) to make the final decisions on IGCP project proposals and levels of funding;
  - (b) to hold joint coordination meetings as required with the Bureau of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- 4.4 The Bureau shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
- 4.5 The report of the sessions of the Bureau will be circulated to the Council and to Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

#### **Article 5: Scientific Board**

- 5.1 The Council shall be assisted in its scientific duties by a Scientific Board established for this purpose jointly by UNESCO and IUGS on the recommendation of the Council.
- 5.2 The functions of the Scientific Board shall be to evaluate project proposals in terms of their scientific merit, their financial needs, their economic and social interest and their appropriateness to the general scope of the programme, and to make recommendations concerning them to the Council. The Council shall define the terms of reference of the Scientific Board.

#### **Article 6: Secretariat**

- 6.1 The secretariat for the IGCP shall be provided by UNESCO and by IUGS, if the latter so desires, and shall furnish the necessary services for all sessions of the Council and of its Bureau.
- 6.2 The Director-General of UNESCO shall take the steps required for the convening of the sessions of the Council.

## Part B: UNESCO Global Geoparks

### Article 1: UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks, within the IGGP, are the mechanism of international cooperation by which areas of geological heritage of international value, through a bottom-up approach to conserving that heritage, support each other to engage with local communities to promote awareness of that heritage and adopt a sustainable approach to the development of the area. Through the IGGP, these areas can apply to UNESCO, for designation as a “UNESCO Global Geopark”, drawing upon the broader mandate of the Organization.

### Article 2: UNESCO Global Geoparks Council

- 2.1 A Council is hereby set up for the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- 2.2 The Council shall be composed of 12 ordinary members, with the right to vote, who shall be individuals appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on recommendation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and of Member States. In addition the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of the GGN, the Secretary-General of the IUGS, the Director-General of the IUCN or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Council without the right to vote.
- 2.3 Ordinary Members appointed to the Council shall be high-profile experts chosen for their proven experience, scientific or professional qualifications in relevant fields, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution and gender equality. They shall serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective States or any other affiliated entities. They will be required to ensure that they have no conflict of interest and that they will not seek or accept instructions from governments or other authorities.
- 2.4 The term of office of ordinary members of the Council shall be four years, renewable once. Every two years, half the membership of the Council shall be renewed. When appointing the initial members of the Council, the Director-General of UNESCO shall indicate those whose initial term shall expire after two years.
- 2.5 In case an ordinary member resigns or is unable to serve, she/he may be replaced for the remainder of her/his term in accordance with the procedure defined above.
- 2.6 The Council shall be responsible for advising the Director-General of UNESCO on the strategy, planning and implementation of UNESCO Global Geoparks and specifically:
  - (a) raising and allocating funds;
  - (b) cooperation among the UNESCO Global Geoparks and with other relevant programmes.
- 2.7 The Council shall be responsible for assessing revalidated and new UNESCO Global Geopark nominations received from designated bodies in Member States as described in the operational guidelines. It shall also be responsible for making decisions on whether new applications should be forwarded to the Executive Board for endorsement. The Council decisions concerning new UNESCO Global Geopark nominations will be submitted to the UNESCO Executive Board for their endorsement in a document prepared by the Bureau of the Geoparks Council together with the UNESCO Secretariat. All extensions will follow the same procedure for endorsement as a new nomination.
- 2.8 The Council shall be responsible to accredit extensions for revalidated UNESCO Global Geoparks.

- 2.9 Decisions of the Council are not open for appeal.
- 2.10 After each session, the Council shall present a report on its work and its decisions to the Bureau, referred to in Article 4 below. The report will be circulated to Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.
- 2.11 The Council shall submit a report, on the progress of the UNESCO Global Geoparks for each session of the General Conference of UNESCO, as part of a joint report of the IGGP.
- 2.12 The Council shall establish its own rules of procedure.

### **Article 3: UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Sessions**

- 3.1 The Council will meet annually in ordinary session, when possible during a regional or international conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. All costs related to the sessions of the Council will be borne by the inviting UNESCO Global Geopark or any other conference organizers. In the event of no such conference the session will either be deferred, held remotely or held at UNESCO Headquarters subject to available resources.
- 3.2 The Council may convene extraordinary sessions, the costs of which will be covered by extrabudgetary resources.
- 3.3 Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO will be able to send observers to sessions of the Council.
- 3.4 The United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may be represented at sessions of the Council.
- 3.5 The Director-General of UNESCO may extend invitations to send observers to sessions of the Council to:
- (a) organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements;
  - (b) intergovernmental organizations;
  - (c) international non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations.
- 3.6 Representatives and observers referred to in Articles 3.3 to 3.5 above shall not have the right to vote.
- 3.7 At the beginning of its ordinary sessions subsequent the appointment of new members in accordance with Article 2.4 above, the Council shall elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur who shall remain in office for two years.

### **Article 4: UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau**

- 4.1 A Bureau is hereby setup for the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- 4.2 The Bureau will consist of five members: the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the Council of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Director-General of UNESCO and the President of the GGN or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Bureau without the right to vote.

4.3 Its duties will be:

- (a) to prepare with the Secretariat the necessary documentation for the Executive Board of UNESCO in order for it to be able to provide a final endorsement of new UNESCO Global Geoparks nominations and extensions based on decisions of the Council;
- (b) to hold joint coordination meetings as required with the Bureau of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP);
- (c) to select the evaluation team for each application and revalidation.

4.4 The Bureau shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

4.5 The report of the sessions of the Bureau will be circulated to the Council and to Member States and Associate Member States of UNESCO.

**Article 5: Evaluation Teams**

5.1 Evaluation Teams shall independently:

- (a) evaluate applications, extensions and revalidations for UNESCO Global Geoparks on the basis of the strict guidelines provided by the Council;
- (b) prepare a report to the Council on the applications, extensions and revalidations evaluated.

5.2 The Secretariat in conjunction with GGN shall maintain a roster of evaluators.

5.3 Members of each Evaluation Team will be chosen by the Bureau from the roster of evaluators.

5.4 Evaluators will serve in their personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective States or any other affiliated entities. The GGN will be required to ensure that evaluators have no conflict of interest regarding new UNESCO Global Geopark applications or those requiring revalidation. Evaluators will not seek or accept instructions from governments or other authorities and will not conduct missions in their own country.

**Article 6: Secretariat**

6.1 The Secretariat of the UNESCO Global Geoparks shall be provided by UNESCO.

6.2 The Director-General shall take the steps required for the convening of the sessions of the Council.

## **ANNEX 2**

### **DRAFT PROPOSED OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Geopark concept arose in the mid-1990s as a response to the need to conserve and enhance the value of areas of geological significance in Earth history. Landscapes and geological formations are key witnesses to the evolution of our planet and determinants for our future sustainable development. From the outset, Geoparks adopted a “bottom-up” or community-led approach to ensure that an area’s geological significance could be conserved and promoted for science, education and culture, in addition to being used as a sustainable economic asset such as through the development of responsible tourism. In 2004, with the support of UNESCO, 17 members of the European Geoparks Network and eight Chinese Geoparks came together to create the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) which, with then more than 100 Global Geoparks as members, acquired legal status in 2014.

A UNESCO Global Geopark must contain geology of international significance. It is independently evaluated by scientific professionals in the relevant discipline of Earth Science. UNESCO Global Geoparks are living, working landscapes where science and local communities engage in a mutually beneficial way.

Education at all levels is at the core of the UNESCO Global Geopark concept. From university researchers to local community groups, UNESCO Global Geoparks encourage awareness of the story of the planet as read in the rocks, landscape and ongoing geological processes. UNESCO Global Geoparks also promote the links between geological heritage and all other aspects of the area’s natural and cultural heritage, clearly demonstrating that geodiversity is the foundation of all ecosystems and the basis of human interaction with the landscape.

UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute to achieving UNESCO’s objectives by promoting geology and science in general through a wider contribution to UNESCO’s mandate while cutting across education, culture and communication.

## **2. THE BASIC CONCEPTS**

### **2.1 UNESCO Global Geoparks within UNESCO’s International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme**

UNESCO Global Geoparks, within UNESCO’s International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), encourage international cooperation between areas with geological heritage of international value, through a bottom-up approach to conservation, local community support, promotion of heritage and sustainable development of the area. Through the IGGP, these areas apply to UNESCO as the only United Nations organization with a remit in the Earth Sciences to designate as a “UNESCO Global Geopark”, which draws upon the broader mandate of the Organization.

### **2.2 UNESCO Global Geoparks**

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. The international geological significance of a UNESCO Global Geopark is determined by scientific professionals, as part of a “UNESCO Global Geopark Evaluation Team”, who make a globally comparative assessment based on the peer-reviewed, published research conducted on geological sites within the area. UNESCO Global Geoparks use geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of that area’s natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society in the context of the dynamic planet we all live on.

### 2.3 Use of Logos

UNESCO Global Geoparks will be entitled to use a “linked logo” to be developed for UNESCO Global Geoparks. This use will be governed under the 2007 “Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names of UNESCO” or by any subsequent directive.

### 2.4 Geographical Representation

As part of UNESCO, the IGGP is committed to promote balanced global geographical representation for UNESCO Global Geoparks.

## 3. CRITERIA FOR UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

- (i) UNESCO Global Geoparks must be single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, research and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark must have a clearly defined border, be of adequate size to fulfil its functions and contain geological heritage of international significance as independently verified by scientific professionals.
- (ii) UNESCO Global Geoparks should use that heritage, in connection with all other aspects of that area’s natural and cultural heritage, to promote awareness of key issues facing society in the context of the dynamic planet we all live on, including but not limited to increasing knowledge and understanding of: geoprocesses; geohazards; climate change; the need for the sustainable use of Earth’s natural resources; the evolution of life and the empowerment of indigenous peoples.
- (iii) UNESCO Global Geoparks should be areas with a management body having legal existence recognized under national legislation. The management bodies should be appropriately equipped to adequately address the area of the UNESCO Global Geopark in its entirety.
- (iv) In the case where an applying area overlaps with another UNESCO designated site, such as a World Heritage Site or Biosphere Reserve, the request must be clearly justified and evidence must be provided for how UNESCO Global Geopark status will add value by being both independently branded and in synergy with the other designations.
- (v) UNESCO Global Geoparks should actively involve local communities and indigenous peoples as key stakeholders in the Geopark. In partnership with local communities, a co-management plan needs to be drafted and implemented that provides for the social and economic needs of local populations, protects the landscape in which they live and conserves their cultural identity. It is recommended that all relevant local and regional actors and authorities be represented in the management of a UNESCO Global Geopark. Local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems should be included, alongside science, in the planning and management of the area.
- (vi) UNESCO Global Geoparks are encouraged to share their experience and advice and to undertake joint projects within the GGN. Membership of GGN is obligatory.
- (vii) A UNESCO Global Geopark must respect local and national laws relating to the protection of geological heritage. The defining geological heritage sites within a UNESCO Global Geopark must be legally protected in advance of any application. At the same time, a UNESCO Global Geopark should be used as leverage for promoting the protection of geological heritage locally and nationally. The management body must not participate directly in the sale of geological objects such



as fossils, minerals, polished rocks and ornamental rocks of the type normally found in so-called rock-shops within the UNESCO Global Geopark (regardless of their origin) and should actively discourage unsustainable trade in geological materials as a whole. Where clearly justified as a responsible activity and as part of delivering the most effective and sustainable means of site management, it may permit sustainable collecting of geological materials for scientific and educational purposes from naturally renewable sites within the UNESCO Global Geopark. Trade of geological materials based on such a system may be tolerated in exceptional circumstances, provided it is clearly and publicly explained, justified and monitored as the best option for the Geopark in relation to local circumstances. Such circumstances will be subject to approval by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council on a case by case basis.

(viii) These criteria are verified through checklists for evaluation and revalidation.

## **4. THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS**

### **4.1 UNESCO Global Geoparks Council**

The Council is the decision-making body for new UNESCO Global Geopark applications and revalidations and it is responsible for advising the Director-General on the strategy planning and implementation of the Global Geoparks activity of the IGGP. The Council is composed of 12 ordinary members, with the right to vote, who are individuals appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on recommendation of GGN and Member States. In addition, the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of GGN, the Secretary-General of IUGS, the Director-General of IUCN or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Council without the right to vote. Ordinary Members appointed to the Council shall be high-profile experts chosen for their proven experience, scientific or professional qualification in relevant fields, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution and gender equality. Ordinary members will serve in their personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective States or any other affiliated entities. Council members will have to agree in writing that they will abstain in cases of conflict of interest regarding new UNESCO Global Geopark applications or those requiring revalidation.

### **4.2 UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau**

The Bureau will consist of five members: the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the Council of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Director-General of UNESCO and the President of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) or their representatives shall be *ex officio* members of the Bureau without the right to vote.

Its main duty will be to prepare with the secretariat the necessary documentation for the Executive Board of UNESCO to provide a final endorsement of new UNESCO Global Geopark nominations based on decisions of the Council. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau will hold joint coordination meetings with the Bureau of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP).

### **4.3 UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluation Team**

UNESCO Global Geoparks will be evaluated – both during the initial application and during revalidation – by an independent team composed of desk-top advisors and evaluators carrying out field missions.

The international significance of the geological heritage of each new UNESCO Global Geopark application will be assessed by desk-top advisors following specific and publicly available scientific criteria. IUGS will be asked to coordinate this role and to ensure that all statements on the scientific value and international significance of the geological heritage of an aspiring UNESCO Global

Geopark are available annually in time so that evaluators can access them ahead of the field evaluation mission. Other organizations may also be involved as appropriate.

The UNESCO Secretariat in conjunction with the GGN will establish and maintain a roster of evaluators who will undertake field evaluations of new applications for aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks. These evaluators will have combined and proven professional experience relevant for geopark development (geological heritage, conservation, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, and environmental issues). These evaluators will also conduct revalidation missions.

Evaluators for UNESCO Global Geoparks must follow strict guidelines provided by the Council for new application and revalidation missions. These evaluators will serve in their personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective States or any other affiliated entities. GGN will be required to ensure that evaluators have no conflict of interest regarding new UNESCO Global Geopark applications or those requiring revalidation. Evaluators will not seek or accept instructions from governments or other authorities and will not conduct missions in their own country. If any National Geopark Committee seeks to observe an evaluation or revalidation mission, it will be fully up to the evaluators which observations and information provided they will include into their final reports. They are expected to submit their reports to UNESCO in a timely manner. Evaluators will not have the status of “experts on mission” pursuant to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 1946.

#### **4.4 National Geopark Committees**

Member States should play an active role in the development of their UNESCO Global Geoparks. As such, and only if the Member State wishes to do so, the creation of a National Geopark Committee is recommended. These “National Committees” could be named differently, for example, National Forum, National Task Force or Task Group. These committees may be created by the competent entity in charge of Geoparks in that Member State. The committees must be recognized by that Member State’s National Commission for UNESCO or the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO. These committees should also liaise with existing national committees for the IGCP where applicable.

Possible balanced National Geopark Committee composition:

- Representative(s) of the National Commission for UNESCO and/or the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO;
- Representative(s) of the national geological organization or survey;
- Representative(s) of the national environmental/protected area organization;
- Representative(s) of the national cultural heritage body;
- Representative(s) of the national tourism organization;
- Representative(s) of the national committee for IGCP;
- Representatives from UNESCO Global Geoparks, where they exist, in that Member State (possibly rotating in countries with many UNESCO Global Geoparks); and
- Different and additional members may be included as seen appropriate to fit the particular national context.

Its work at national level may consist of:

- Coordinating the national contribution to UNESCO Global Geoparks within the IGGP;
- Identifying the geological heritage and raising public awareness of its importance;
- Promoting the development of new UNESCO Global Geoparks, assessing and endorsing applications, revalidations and extensions;
- Observing any evaluation or revalidation mission in that Member State should they wish to;
- Presenting to that Member State's National Commission for UNESCO or the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO all UNESCO Global Geopark applications, which will then be forwarded to UNESCO.
- Ensuring the proper withdrawal of the area as a UNESCO Global Geopark within the IGGP, should the area so wish or should they fail the revalidation process;
- Promoting international cooperation between UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- Providing information at the national level about the global and regional networks of UNESCO Global Geoparks;
- Initiating and supporting strategies and actions for sustainable development in and among UNESCO Global Geoparks.

These Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks represent best practice. Member States through their National Geopark Committees are entitled to formulate additional, more specific guidelines on a national basis to fit a particular national context.

The UNESCO Secretariat will liaise closely with National Geopark Committees and Member State's National Commission for UNESCO or the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO at all stages during the evaluation and revalidation processes of aspiring and existing UNESCO Global Geoparks.

All applications and revalidations must be accompanied by a letter of support from the National Commission for UNESCO or the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO.

#### **4.5 Regional and Global Geopark Networks**

From the start of the development of the concept, networking has been one of the core principles of Geoparks. Networking strongly contributes to the success of the Geoparks movement and plays a valuable role in facilitating the sharing of experience, quality management, formation of joint initiatives and projects and capacity-building. UNESCO encourages the strengthening of regional Geopark networks and the GGN. UNESCO, inspired by the work of Geopark networks, will continue to offer its support and assistance to such networks, will coordinate capacity-building for UNESCO Global Geoparks and will encourage exchange of best practice between UNESCO Global Geoparks.

### **5. THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

An aspiring Global Geopark can apply to UNESCO for designation through a rigorous procedure, the precise details and deadlines of which are available on the UNESCO website.

## 5.2 Nomination

Ahead of any formal application, any aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark should submit an expression of interest via the official channel as defined by the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO, involving, if applicable, the National Geoparks Committee.

A comprehensive and carefully formatted application dossier (including supporting material to demonstrate that the area has already been functioning as a *de facto* Global Geopark for at least one year) should be submitted through the official channel as defined by the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO to the UNESCO Secretariat involving, if applicable, the National Geoparks Committee. This should be accompanied by an explicit endorsement of any relevant local and regional authorities and a letter of support from the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO. The UNESCO Secretariat shall involve the main national contact point in all communication with the aspiring Global Geopark, including the findings of the field evaluation mission, the outcome of the decisions of the Council, and the endorsement by the UNESCO Executive Board.

In order to ensure a balanced geographical representation of UNESCO Global Geoparks, the number of “active” applications is limited to two per Member State. An application is considered “active” upon receipt of the dossier by the UNESCO Secretariat and ceases to be active once a final decision is made regarding its designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark, or if the application is suspended. Only applications from UNESCO Member States will be considered for designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

## 5.3 Evaluation

The UNESCO Secretariat will check the completeness of each new application. If incomplete or incorrectly formatted, the UNESCO Secretariat will ask for a revised application. Once an application is considered complete, the UNESCO Secretariat will send the geological section of each new application to IUGS for a desk-top assessment.

At the same time, the Global Geoparks Bureau will assign a maximum of two evaluators to undertake a field mission. The costs of travel and accommodation for the evaluators must be borne by the management body of the applying area. Additional participants to these missions, including representatives of National Geopark Committees, may participate as observers and without a role in the compilation of the mission report. Observers will be responsible for funding their participation in the mission.

Upon completion of the field evaluation mission, a report must be prepared by the evaluators and submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat, which will then make the report available to the Council for review. The report must follow a template prepared by the Council.

Documentation related to a UNESCO Global Geopark application, including the reports of the desk-top assessment and the evaluators, will be made publicly available on the UNESCO website.

## 5.4 Applications review

Only applications from UNESCO Member States will be considered for evaluation as UNESCO Global Geoparks. As a designation of an intergovernmental organization, applications and revalidations for UNESCO Global Geoparks will be subject to a series of checks to enable Member States to exercise their oversight responsibility:

- (i) At the national level, any application from an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark must be reviewed and submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat through the official channel as

defined by the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO involving the National Geoparks Committee, if applicable.

- (ii) Upon receipt of complete applications, the UNESCO Secretariat will prepare a summary document describing all aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark applications (one page summary per application including a detailed map) received and make it available online for Member State review in the two working languages for a 3-month grace period.
- (iii) At the annual open meeting of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the UNESCO Secretariat will make a brief public presentation describing the applications received from aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- (iv) In the event that a written objection by a Member State is received concerning a proposed Global Geopark during the periods or events mentioned under (ii) and (iii) above, the nomination will not proceed to scientific evaluation and it will be up to the Member States concerned to seek a resolution to the issue.

## **5.5 Recommendations and Decisions**

The Council will review each application, the desk-top assessment of the geological heritage and the field evaluation report on the basis of criteria as explained on the website.

The Council may recommend to accept an application, reject an application or defer it for a maximum of two years to allow for improvements to be made to the quality of the application. In case of deferral, there is no need to repeat the field evaluation during this time.

Decisions of the Council are not open for appeal

After positive assessment of the applications by the evaluation teams and the decision of the Council, the Bureau will recommend to the Director-General to include an item on the agenda of the Executive Board of UNESCO. This item will propose that the Executive Board endorse the nominations decided upon by the Council. The details of nominations will be contained in an Information Document for the Executive Board.

The UNESCO Secretariat shall notify the applicant and the responsible national authority of the Executive Board decision.

Upon acceptance as a UNESCO Global Geopark, the management body of all new UNESCO Global Geoparks will be asked to sign a legal disclaimer removing UNESCO from any legal or financial responsibilities over the territory of the UNESCO Global Geopark or associated activities within it.

## 5.6 Revalidation process

In order to ensure the continuing high quality of UNESCO Global Geoparks within the IGGP, including the quality of the management of each UNESCO Global Geopark, the status of each UNESCO Global Geopark shall be subject to a thorough revalidation every 4 years as follows:

- (i) One year prior to the revalidation, a one-page summary of the UNESCO Global Geopark undergoing revalidation shall be submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat, to be checked and forwarded to the Council.
- (ii) A progress report is prepared by the management body of the UNESCO Global Geopark undergoing revalidation and submitted three months prior to the field inspection to the UNESCO Secretariat through the official channel as defined by the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO involving, as applicable, the National Geopark Committees. The reports should comment on actions taken to address recommendations made after a previous revalidation; they must conform to a template prepared by the Council.
- (iii) The UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau will send up to two evaluators on a mission to revalidate the quality of the UNESCO Global Geopark. All costs associated with this mission will be paid for by the UNESCO Global Geopark that is subject to the revalidation.
- (iv) Additional participants to revalidation missions including representatives of National Geopark Committees may participate as observers and without a role in the compilation of the mission report. Observers will be responsible for funding their own participation in the revalidation mission.
- (v) A report from this mission is submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat for distribution to the Council, to be considered at its annual meeting.
- (vi) If, on the basis of this report, the Council considers that UNESCO Global Geopark continues to fulfil the criteria set-out in Section 3 of these guidelines, in particular that the quality and management of the area have improved or at least continues to be satisfactory since designation or last revalidation, it may decide that the area will continue as a UNESCO Global Geopark for a further four-year period (so-called "green card").
- (vii) If, on the basis of this report, the Council considers that the UNESCO Global Geopark no longer fulfils the criteria, it may decide to inform the management body of the UNESCO Global Geopark to take appropriate steps within a two-year period to ensure that the criteria will be met and maintained. In such instances, the status of the area as UNESCO Global Geopark will be renewed only for a two-year period after which a new revalidation report and a new field mission will be undertaken with the same conditions referred to in (ii), (iii) and (iv) above (so-called "yellow card").
- (viii) Should the UNESCO Global Geopark not fulfil the criteria within two years after receiving a "yellow card", the Council will decide as appropriate that the area concerned should lose its status as a UNESCO Global Geopark and all relevant entitlements (so-called "red card").
- (ix) The Council can revoke the status at any time to any UNESCO Global Geopark if that UNESCO Global Geopark is unable, for whatever reason, to undergo the revalidation process according to the rules specified here or if a UNESCO Global Geopark is in clear breach of the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

- (x) Should an existing UNESCO Global Geopark wish to change its size, provided that any change amounts to less than 10% of the existing area, then the Council may be informed about the change by a letter through the official channel as defined by the National Commission for UNESCO or the government body in charge of relations with UNESCO to the UNESCO Secretariat involving, if applicable, the National Geoparks Committee outlining the reasons for the change and outlining how the new area still fulfils the criteria for a UNESCO Global Geopark. The Council can approve or reject the change.
- (xi) Should an existing UNESCO Global Geopark wish to change its size, but the proposed change amounts to more than 10% of the existing area, a new application must be made following the procedure described above. The same applies where new international boundaries cross a UNESCO Global Geopark. Such applications are exempt from the restriction on the number of “active” applications per Member State at any one time.
- (xii) All extensions are subject to the intergovernmental check as described in Section 5.4.
- (xiii) Decisions of the Council are not open for appeal.

Should a Member State wish to withdraw a UNESCO Global Geopark, it shall notify the UNESCO Secretariat who will forward the intention to the Council. Upon notification of receipt of the intention by the Secretariat, the UNESCO Global Geopark will then cease to benefit from all relevant entitlements and be free from relevant obligations.

The Criteria and Application Guidelines as part of the Operational Guidelines are subject to change by the General Conference upon the recommendation of the Council.

## **6. FINANCING**

UNESCO's Global Geoparks will be financed primarily from extrabudgetary sources with no additional financial costs to UNESCO.

The GGN will make a voluntary annual contribution to UNESCO equivalent to at least US \$1,000 per Global Geopark to allow UNESCO to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks and to organize, facilitate and support capacity-building activities, especially in regions of the world where none or few UNESCO Global Geoparks exist. These funds will be placed in a UNESCO Special Account.

Additional extrabudgetary fundraising activities to assist with further capacity building will be actively pursued, with the aim to place funds raised also in the Special Account for UNESCO Global Geoparks.

All costs related to evaluation and revalidation missions for two evaluators will be borne by the management body of the applying area. Observers will be responsible for obtaining their own funding to participate in the field mission.

In exceptional circumstances, and for developing countries only, a request may be made to the UNESCO Secretariat for financial assistance to prepare an application dossier and/or the costs of an evaluation mission be covered by UNESCO from extrabudgetary sources. Similarly, and for developing countries only, a request may be made so that the costs of a revalidation mission are covered by GGN or UNESCO from extrabudgetary sources. No UNESCO Global Geopark will be entitled to more than two such requests to UNESCO.

All costs related to the meetings of the Council and the Bureau will be borne by the inviting UNESCO Global Geopark or any other conference organizers. In the event of no such conference coinciding with the annual meeting of the Council, holding the meeting by remote means will be considered. As an exceptional alternative, the Council may opt to have its meeting at UNESCO

Headquarters, with costs borne by UNESCO subject to available funds in the Special Account, or the Council and Bureau may choose to defer the meeting.

As the number of UNESCO Global Geoparks rise, so will the level of income to the Special Account on UNESCO Global Geoparks. Furthermore, individual UNESCO Global Geoparks will be encouraged to make further contributions if the income they receive from being a UNESCO Global Geopark allows it. As UNESCO Global Geoparks will continue to fund all evaluation and revalidation missions with which they are concerned, the increased income from greater membership will release more funds for capacity-building. Furthermore, as the number of UNESCO Global Geoparks grows, more professional experts will fulfil the criteria for joining the Evaluation Team, which means a continuing and growing supply of experts to undertake evaluation and revalidation missions.

## **7. SECRETARIAT**

UNESCO shall act as the Secretariat for UNESCO Global Geoparks and be responsible for its functioning and promotion. The UNESCO Secretariat shall manage the applications process of aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks and the revalidation process of existing UNESCO Global Geoparks. The UNESCO Secretariat shall liaise with IUGS and other organizations, as appropriate, to obtain independent, desk-top scientific assessments. The UNESCO Secretariat shall liaise with GGN and other organizations, as appropriate, to obtain independent, field evaluations. The UNESCO Secretariat shall prepare the agenda and the documentation of the Bureau and Council meetings and shall ensure follow up to their recommendations, including preparing the appropriate documents for meetings of UNESCO's Executive Board as outlined in Sections 4 and 5. The UNESCO Secretariat shall liaise with individual UNESCO Global Geoparks to facilitate activities towards sustainable development and international cooperation.

The UNESCO Secretariat shall keep UNESCO Global Geoparks, Member States, National Commissions for UNESCO, National Geopark Committees and the public informed of the activities of UNESCO Global Geoparks, individually and as a network, focusing on best practice with regard to UNESCO's objectives. This will include updating a list of UNESCO Global Geoparks published on the UNESCO website and regular reporting to the UNESCO governing bodies.

## **8. CAPACITY-BUILDING**

Networking and balanced geographical representation across all Member States are fundamental principles of Global Geoparks. Recognizing the very strong role networking has played in the success of Global Geoparks and recognizing the valuable role it plays in facilitating the sharing of experience, formation of joint initiatives and projects and the highly significant role it plays in capacity-building, UNESCO through its IGGP will encourage the strengthening of regional networks and of the GGN.

It is through working with these networks that the IGGP can fulfil its role in capacity-building at regional and national levels for UNESCO Global Geoparks, aspiring Geoparks and any other interested Member States, especially in those areas of the world where few or none exist. Specifically, UNESCO will seek to support at least one annual regional workshop for capacity-building in under-represented regions. This will be facilitated using funds in the Special Account for UNESCO Global Geoparks. Additionally, the IGGP will play an active role in nurturing partnerships and the sharing of best practice between existing UNESCO Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks and, where possible, help fund an exchange of expertise between them. In addition, the IGGP will seek to support one annual training course for new members of GGN's evaluator roster.

The IGGP may also operate or support other training courses, conferences and workshops relevant to the UNESCO Global Geoparks on a case-by-case basis and if sufficient funds exist. These initiatives may be organized in collaboration with relevant public or private organizations.



The IGGP will investigate the establishment of a web-based tool to document and exchange experiences and best practice of the Geopark community.

## ANNEX 3

<b>Financial Implications of IGGP - 2014 data</b>							
<i>UNESCO COSTS AFTER THE 2013 PRIORITISATION EXERCISE</i>							
<b>UNESCO CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				<b>INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>			
<i>Global Geoparks</i>				<i>Global Geoparks</i>			
<b>ACTIVITY COSTS (Regular Programme)</b>			25 000	<b>GGN Income</b>			80 139
<b>STAFF COSTS</b>				<b>GGN In-kind Income</b>			3 014 520
P5	x 0.35	142 100					
P3	x 0.5	144 500					
G4	x 0.4	57 600					
			<b>TOTAL = 369 200</b>				<b>TOTAL = 3 094 659</b>
<i>IGCP</i>				<i>IGCP</i>			
<b>ACTIVITY COSTS (Regular Programme)</b>			68 376	<b>IUGS Income</b>			70 000
<b>STAFF COSTS</b>				<b>China Income</b>			20 000
P5	x 0.3	121 800		<b>Estimated other project funds</b>			
P3	x 0.25	72 250		<b>(multiplier effect of 1:20)</b>			3 167 520
P1/2	x 0.5	118 500					
G4	x 0.4	57 600					
			<b>TOTAL = 438 526</b>				<b>TOTAL = 3 257 520</b>
			<b>TOTAL UNESCO = 807 726</b>				<b>TOTAL OTHER = 6 352 179</b>
			<b>TOTAL IGGP = 7 159 905</b>				

<b>Financial Implications of IGGP - Projected 2016 data</b>							
<i>UNESCO COSTS AFTER THE 2013 PRIORITISATION EXERCISE</i>							
<b>UNESCO CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				<b>INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>			
<i>Global Geoparks</i>				<i>Global Geoparks</i>			
<b>ACTIVITY COSTS (Regular Programme)</b>			25 000	<b>GGN Income</b>			135 000
<b>STAFF COSTS</b>				<b>GGN In-kind Income</b>			3 250 000
P5	x 0.35	142 100		<b>Other?</b>			?
P3	x 0.5	144 500					
G4	x 0.4	57 600					
			<b>TOTAL = 369 200</b>				<b>TOTAL = 3 385 000</b>
<i>IGCP</i>				<i>IGCP</i>			
<b>ACTIVITY COSTS (Regular Programme)</b>			68 376	<b>IUGS Income</b>			70 000
<b>STAFF COSTS</b>				<b>China Income</b>			20 000
P5	x 0.3	121 800		<b>Other ?</b>			?
P3	x 0.25	72 250		<b>Estimated other project funds</b>			3 167 520
P1/2	x 0.5	118 500		<b>(multiplier effect of 1:20)</b>			
G4	x 0.4	57 600					
			<b>TOTAL = 438 526</b>				<b>TOTAL = 3 257 520</b>
			<b>TOTAL UNESCO = 807 726</b>				<b>TOTAL OTHER = 6 642 520</b>
			<b>TOTAL IGGP = 7 450 246</b>				

**D. Protection of Iraqi Heritage**  
(Implementation of 195 EX/Decision 31)

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1. By 195 EX/Decision 31, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to dispatch a mission to Iraq aimed to assess the extent of the damage to the cultural heritage, as well as to identify urgent needs in terms of conservation and safeguarding. The Executive Board requested a report on the findings of a mission to be presented at its 196th session.
2. A technical mission to the areas of the country affected by the current conflict, and where damage to cultural heritage has occurred, could not be sent at the time of drafting the present report (January 2015), due to the prevailing security situation on the ground. However, the Secretariat stands ready to field the mission once the security situation permits, in close cooperation with the Iraqi authorities.
3. UNESCO, through its Office for Iraq, is monitoring the situation in close cooperation with the Iraqi authorities. Reliable information on the nature and extent of damage is very difficult to obtain. A damages and threat chart is being kept and continuously updated by the World Heritage Centre in order to monitor damage and risks to the Listed World Heritage Sites, Tentative World Heritage Sites, religious heritage, as well as museums in Iraq. UNESCO has established contacts with UNOSAT to monitor cultural heritage through satellite imagery. Furthermore, the Secretariat of the 1970 Convention works continuously to obtain as much information as possible regarding thefts of cultural artefacts and illicit excavations at archaeological sites. UNESCO has also called on humanitarian actors operating in Iraq for assistance in the systematic recording of damages to the country's cultural heritage through the use of a Rapid Assessment and Monitoring Form, especially in areas under threat.
4. The situation of the cultural heritage remains highly preoccupying, particularly in Mosul and Tel Afar (Governorate of Ninewah) and some areas of the Governorate of Salaheddine. Information regarding the situation of the World Heritage properties of Hatra and Ashur remains scarce, and reports about their use by the "Islamic State" (IS) for military purposes could not be confirmed. The World Heritage Site of Samarra may also be under threat due to its relative proximity to the conflict areas. Unconfirmed reports about the site of Ancient Ninewa, which is on the Tentative List, include information on the possibility of the site being booby trapped. Cultural heritage of religious significance remains at high risk with reports about deliberate damage to religious buildings, including historical ones such as the Shrine of al-Douri from the eleventh century BC. On 31 December 2014, the ancient site of Tel Afar, an Ottoman Fortress, which is known for its remains that date back to the Assyrian period, was attacked and completely destroyed, according to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The Director-General made a statement condemning these destructions on 6 January 2015.
5. On 2 November 2014, the Director-General visited Baghdad and Erbil to express solidarity with the people and Government of Iraq and to advocate for the protection of cultural diversity and heritage. The Director-General held meetings in Baghdad with Iraq's President, H.E. Mr Fuad Masum, as well as with H.E. Mr Haider al-Abadi, Prime Minister of Iraq. She informed them about UNESCO's Emergency Response Action Plan for Iraq's heritage and discussed urgent priorities for enhanced cooperation for the protection of cultural heritage at risk. She also visited the National Museum in Baghdad. In Erbil, she handed over the inscription certificate for the Erbil Citadel to H.E. Mr Nechirran Barzani, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), and discussed cooperation for cultural heritage and cultural diversity protection in KRG. While in Erbil, the Director-General also met representatives of Iraqi minorities – including Assyrian, Chaldean, Yezidi, Turkomen, Shabak, Baha'i, Sabean Mandaean and Kaka'i communities, to address the on-going persecution of cultural communities and attempts on Iraq's cultural diversity.
6. On 3 December 2014, UNESCO organized an international conference on the "Protection of Heritage and Cultural Diversity at Risk in Iraq and Syria" at Headquarters, with financial support from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The aim of the conference was to address the impact on culture of

armed conflict in Iraq and Syria. The event brought together stakeholders from a wide variety of sectors to sensitize them on the need to better integrate the cultural dimension into security, conflict resolution, humanitarian aid and development policies and actions. The Conference benefited from the presence of high-level representatives of the United Nations, including the two Special Representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General for Syria and Iraq, as well as senior representatives of other international organizations, law enforcement and development institutions (international police and customs, art market and museums, including the Louvre, the Metropolitan Museum and the Pergamon Museum), as well as the first Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, Hon. Sheikh Hamoudi. The conference laid the foundation for a stronger cooperation between UNESCO and these institutions on concrete initiatives to integrate consideration for culture and heritage in their policies and actions. The conference brought together some 500 decision-makers, experts and representatives from both Iraq and Syria, as well as international curators, academics and members of the public. Among the concrete measures and recommendations proposed during the Conference were:

- A ban on illegal trade in cultural objects from Syria, based on similar measures taken for Iraq through United Nations Security Council Resolution 1483 (2003), and in line with the recommendation of the Sanctions Monitoring Team of the United Nations Security Council, also part of the Conference.
- The creation of “protected cultural zones” around heritage sites in Syria and Iraq, starting with the city of Aleppo, and especially the Omayyad Mosque, a highly iconic site located in the Syrian World Heritage site of the old city of Aleppo.
- The ratification and implementation of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its additional protocols.
- The Conference also called for further elaboration of the notion of “cultural cleansing” as proposed by the Director General, in order to strengthen the legal and technical basis for this concept. During the Conference, Mr Adama Dieng, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, supported this concept.

7. A special webpage concerning the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property in Iraq has been created<sup>1</sup>, and a multidirectional outreach campaign for the protection of Syrian and Iraqi cultural heritage was launched in late 2014. This campaign uses different means of communication – from social media to the production of audio-visual materials – in order to broadly disseminate UNESCO’s message. Two clips (one for each country) were produced, highlighting the links between the illicit trafficking in cultural property and armed conflict<sup>2</sup>. This campaign also taps into the network of high-visibility museums (for instance the Louvre in Paris), auction houses (such as Christie’s), as well as national and international media through the production of joint materials and social media campaigns.

8. At the operational level, UNESCO has continued supporting the Iraqi authorities in their effort to protect the country’s cultural heritage and safeguard its cultural diversity. Fundraising efforts by the Secretariat to implement the Emergency Response Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Iraq’s Cultural Heritage, adopted in 2014, have been intensively pursued. On 4 December 2014, UNESCO and Norway signed an agreement through which Norway will provide US \$170,000 in support of the UNESCO Action Plan for Iraq to protect its built and movable heritage and fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property. Moreover, on 9 January 2015, the Japanese authorities approved a \$1.5 million project for the preventive conservation of Iraq’s museum collections and cultural heritage sites at imminent risk. Under this project, UNESCO will considerably strengthen in its capacity to monitor and assess the state of the cultural heritage in the areas of Iraq affected by

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/emergency-actions/iraq/>

<sup>2</sup> For Iraq : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOMsz5XuUYo&feature=youtu.be>  
For Syria: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_cUh4Ma0Doc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_cUh4Ma0Doc)

the conflict, notably through the analysis of satellite images. The implementation of these projects will begin as soon as possible.

9. Progress in ongoing projects and initiatives since the 195th session of the Executive Board is as follows:

- (a) Through the “Erbil Citadel Revitalization Project”, progress has been made towards achieving the conservation of the Citadel’s most vulnerable features through the implementation of conservation works of six buildings at the Citadel. The “Planning and Design for the Interpretation Center at Erbil Citadel, Iraq” is also currently in its finalization stage. This interpretation center will be the prime venue at Erbil Citadel to present and provide information about the Citadel and its significance;
- (b) Within the framework of the project for “Safeguarding Najaf’s Cultural Heritage and Promoting its International Visibility”, a round table on “The Contribution of Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib’s Thought to a Culture of Peace and Intercultural Dialogue” took place on 20 November 2014 at UNESCO Headquarters in collaboration with the Iraqi Permanent Delegation. It was organized in conjunction with the celebrations of World Philosophy Day 2014. Eight presenters, in addition to a moderator, participated in the round table, which was attended by an audience of around 100 persons, some of whom participated in the discussion. The round table was followed by the launch of the book *Najaf: the Gate of Wisdom* that was published (UNESCO publishing 2014) in English and Arabic within the framework of the project;
- (c) An academic study comprising 15 contributions by Iraqi and international scholars on the history and development of the city of Najaf is in the process of being published in English and Arabic. Two publishers have been identified and agreements with them are underway to make the book available in early 2015;
- (d) In the framework of the implementation of the 1483 United Nations Security Council of 2003 Resolution banning trade of Iraqi cultural objects with respect to which reasonable suspicion exists that they have been illegally removed, the Secretariat ensures a monitoring of virtual and traditional sales and public auctions within the limits of its capacities, and traces artifacts without clear provenance indications in close cooperation with INTERPOL and the WCO. Following the recent adoption by the United Nations Security Council of a similar resolution for Syria (2199/2015), under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, UNESCO will work to assist Member States in its implementation.

### **Proposed decision**

10. In the light of the above, the Executive Board might wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Takes note of the report presented by the Secretariat on the progress achieved in implementing 195 EX/Decision 31;
2. Reaffirms its deepest concern for the situation of the immovable and movable Iraqi heritage, as well as for the impact of the conflict on social practices, rituals and cultural expressions recreated by Iraqi communities in their diversity;
3. Welcomes the initiatives taken by the Secretariat to draw attention to the strong links between attacks on culture and the security and humanitarian dimensions of the conflict, as well as to the urgent need to integrate consideration for culture within humanitarian and peace-building strategies and actions;

4. Further welcomes the advances made in mobilising resources to support the Iraqi authorities in their effort to protect the country's cultural heritage and safeguard its cultural diversity, as well as the progress achieved in strengthening cooperation with humanitarian actors and in implementing the Emergency Response Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Iraq's Cultural Heritage;
5. Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to ensure that the Secretariat continues to implement and strengthen the Emergency Response Action Plan through extra-budgetary resources;
6. Further invites the Director-General of UNESCO to ensure that the Secretariat continues to monitor the situation, to send the mission requested by 195 EX/ Dec. 31 as soon as the security permits and to report to the Executive Board at the session immediately following the mission;
7. Reiterates its invitation to Member States to make voluntary contributions for this purpose.

**E. Implementation of the activities related to the preparation and publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa***  
(Follow-up to 195 EX/Decision 17)

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By 195 EX/Decision 17, approving the Statutes of the International Scientific Committee for the Preparation and Publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa* (GHA), the Executive Board requested the Director-General to present to it at its 196th session a progress report on the implementation of the activities related to the preparation and publication of the said volume.

**BACKGROUND**

1. The decision to prepare Volume IX of the GHA stems from a number of expert recommendations emphasizing the need to update the collection in the light of recent research. It also responds to a decision by an African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Syrte (Libya) in 2009 calling for the development of a “Ninth Volume of the General History of Africa covering the recent history of decolonization, end of Apartheid and Africa’s position in the World”, for which UNESCO was requested to provide assistance, as well as the initiatives of a number of governments in the Latin America and the Caribbean region seeking to enhance and promote their African heritage. Furthermore, the publication and dissemination of Volume IX will represent a major contribution on the part of UNESCO to the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly.

2. The aims of Volume IX are (i) to update the content of the existing eight volumes of the GHA in the light of recent developments; (ii) to map and analyse the various African diasporas and their contributions to modern societies and to Africa’s emancipation and development; and (iii) to analyse the new challenges now facing Africa and its diasporas and the new opportunities that are open to them.

3. The Volume IX project has received initial funding from the Brazilian Ministry of Education. However, a significant share of the budget remains to be mobilized in order to ensure its effective implementation and success.

**Progress made**

4. On receiving the first tranche of funding in November 2012, the project secretariat began organizing a consultative meeting of experts, to determine the main themes and general thrust of Volume IX. The meeting took place in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 20 to 22 May 2013, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity.

5. In the tradition of UNESCO’s regional and general histories, the Director-General established an international scientific committee to assume the scientific and intellectual responsibility. The Committee’s Statutes were adopted at the 195th session of the Executive Board (195 EX/Decision 17).

6. The Scientific Committee has already met on three occasions: (i) in Salvador (Brazil) from 20 to 24 November 2013, as part of an international conference on the theme of “Africa and the African diaspora: Opportunities for the development of the continent”, (Salvador, Brazil, 21-23 November 2013); (ii) at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France) from 16 to 19 June 2014; and (iii) in San Carlos (Brazil) from 27 to 30 August 2014. Those three meetings made it possible to set up the new Committee, select the editorial teams, reach agreement on the structure of Volume IX (in three books), and set clear guidelines for selecting the authors and putting into practice the Global Africa concept.

7. The Scientific Committee has decided to draft a history of Africa and African diasporas around the world based on the pioneering concept of “Global Africa” and, in so doing, to open up new paths for the updating of knowledge on the relationship between Africa and its diasporas. That

concept will make it possible to give serious consideration to the initial spread of humanity across the continent and the subsequent waves of diasporas through to the present day. It will help to gain insight into the African diasporas from the point of view of their long-term history and great diversity, to revisit views on the slavery period and to assess their contributions to pan-Africanism.

8. The finalized structure of Volume IX will be as follows:

- Book 1, which will break down into four parts, will be devoted to the updating of the previous volumes of the GHA in the light of the latest scientific developments, especially the parts on theories on the origins of humanity and the first human civilizations (800 pages);
- Book 2 (also four parts) will look into the manifold aspects of Global Africa through an examination of the world's various African diasporas (800 pages);
- Book 3 (three parts) will focus on contemporary Global Africa via Africa's place in the world and the new challenges confronting the continent and its diasporas (750 pages).

9. A shortlist of potential authors, comprising 379 senior international researchers, was drawn up on the basis of the recommendations of Committee members and project partners. The 250 authors selected to write the three books of Volume IX have been contacted and most have expressed their interest and confirmed their availability to contribute to the work.

### **Upcoming activities**

10. Given the delays in launching the project due to the late availability of funding, the project secretariat and Brazilian Ministry of Education have agreed to extend implementation of the first phase to late 2016.

11. The original budget of the project (\$1.4 million) was programmed based on the production of two 750-page books. The Scientific Committee, however, has since decided to produce three books. Furthermore, the fluctuating exchange rate of the Brazilian real against the United States dollar has, in real terms, led to a budget reduction. Aware of these difficulties, UNESCO has already started raising awareness among a number of Member States in order to mobilize additional funding to ensure the project's effective implementation and success.

12. The planned schedule, should the fundraising efforts prove fruitful, will be as follows:

#### 2015

- Drawing up of contracts for authors
- Fourth meeting of the Scientific Committee (November/December): approval of 30% of contributions
- Translation of approved contributions

#### 2016

- Fifth meeting of the Scientific Committee (May/June): approval of 60% of contributions
- Translation of approved contributions
- Sixth meeting of the Committee (October/November): approval of 100% of contributions
- Finalization of translations



- Finalization of Volume IX manuscript

2017

- Launch, promotion and dissemination of Volume IX
- Preparation of an abridged version for general release

### **Proposed decision**

13. After examining the report on the implementation of [the] activities related to the preparation and publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa*, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Taking into consideration 195 EX/Decision 17 approving the Statutes of the International Scientific Committee for the Preparation and Publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa*,
2. Having examined the report on the implementation of activities related to the preparation and publication of Volume IX of the *General History of Africa*,
3. Commends the Director-General for the progress made;
4. Thanks the Government of Brazil for the generous contribution that has enabled the initiation of a project of such importance to Africa and its diasporas;
5. Requests the Director-General to continue her efforts to mobilize the funding required for the preparation, publication and promotion of Volume IX.

**F. Internet-related issues: including access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy and ethical dimensions of the information society**  
(Follow-up to 37 C/Resolution 52)

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**Background**

1. The draft comprehensive study covers Internet-related issues within the mandate of UNESCO, including access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy, and the ethical dimensions of the information society. The draft study was prepared through a comprehensive, inclusive, multi-stakeholder consultation process in 2014-15. The participants in the consultations further recognized that a conference on the draft study would be an important step to secure external input and expertise before its finalization.

2. UNESCO convened on 3 and 4 March 2015 the “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” Conference in order to incorporate comments and feedback on the study and its recommendations ahead of reporting about progress on the Study to the present session of the Executive Board. The conclusions of this process will be presented to the General Conference at its 38th session, in November 2015, within the framework of UNESCO’s report on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

**Process**

3. As per the provisions contained in 37 C/Resolution 52, the modality for the preparation of this study is essentially consultative, incorporating “an inclusive multi-stakeholder process which includes governments, private sector, civil society, international organizations and the technical community.” As such, the consultation involved meetings with Member States as well as thematic debates organized during the meetings of the governing Councils of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

4. Furthermore, in order to consolidate the findings of the study, the concepts reflecting these important issues were also debated in other United Nations facilitated fora, such as the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), the Internet Governance Forum, the WSIS Forum 2014 and the Broadband Commission for Digital Development. Consultations were also conducted through UNESCO’s participation in various international conferences and relevant major events.

5. By the preparation of this study, UNESCO manifests its major role in, and relevance to, key debates concerning the Internet within the mandate of UNESCO. Based on the Organization’s consensus-building track record about Internet-related issues, and the extensive consultation process described above, UNESCO is successfully fostering a common purpose among stakeholders about the role of Internet in contributing to sustainable development and in achieving the shared vision of inclusive knowledge societies.

6. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 52,
2. Having examined document 196 EX/5 Part I (F) and 196 EX/5 Part I Addendum,
3. Acknowledging the growing importance and the positive potential of the Internet for sustainable development in all fields of UNESCO’s mandate,

4. Recognizing the insights of the “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” Conference, organized by UNESCO in March 2015,
5. Endorses the Outcome Document adopted by this conference;
6. Requests the Director-General to forward the Outcome Document as an input to the post-2015 development agenda process, the UNGA overall WSIS review process, as well as to the inter-governmentally agreed outcome document which will be adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in December 2015.

## G. Recent decisions and activities of the organizations of the United Nations system of relevance to the work of UNESCO

(Follow-up to 124 EX/Decision 6.1)

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### 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

1. UNESCO participated in the sixty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York, under the chairmanship of H.E. Sam K. Kutesa, President of the United Nations General Assembly, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda.

2. The opening of the session took place on 16 September 2014, one year before the 2015 deadline of the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, its theme – “Delivering on and implementing a transformative post-2015 development agenda” – underscored the need to focus both on the effective implementation of the MDG agenda as well as to prepare for the future post-2015 development agenda. The opening of the General Assembly occurred also in the context of intense discussions about international responses to extremist groups and terrorism as well as the need to address the Ebola crisis affecting West Africa. In addition, the United Nations Secretary-General held a major climate summit on 23 September, with highest-level participation.

3. Within this context, the Director-General raised the banner for UNESCO’s messages at major events organized as part, or at the margins, of the high-level segment of the General Assembly. These included: the event on “Children in the Age of Sustainable Development”; the event entitled “Towards inclusive societies: empowerment and education as a strategy to prevent genocide”; the “HeForShe” event of UN Women; the Thematic Discussion on Climate Science co-organized by UNESCO, WMO and UNITAR within the framework of the Climate Summit; the International Launch of the Global Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Alliance; and the annual meeting of the Broadband Commission. The Director-General also participated in the event on “Heritage in Peril; Iraq and Syria” at the Metropolitan Museum, in the Press Event on the Permanent Memorial for the Slavery Victims and in the 10th plenary of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) and CGI plenary session on girls’ education.

4. In addition, the special event marking the second anniversary of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) offered an opportunity for UNESCO to further develop the education agenda globally, particularly in terms of commitments of Member States. Specifically, the Director-General led the “Quality Education for the World We Want” high-level event on 24 September.

5. As in previous years, UNESCO presented to the Assembly substantive reports on agenda items for which the Organization has a specific mandate or responsibility. The following reports were submitted and examined at this session:

- Report on Literacy for Life: Shaping the future agenda
- Report on Culture and Development
- Report on Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system.

6. The Assembly adopted so far the following resolutions which make a reference to UNESCO’s programmes and/or assign specific action(s) to the Organization:

- **Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace (Res. 69/6)** – The Assembly makes reference to the Declaration of Berlin, adopted by UNESCO in 2013, “as an essential guideline for strengthening the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education and for developing an international sport and physical education policy...”, and invites “Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system [...] sport-related organizations, [...] to

collaborate with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace to promote greater awareness and action to foster peace and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through sport-based initiatives ...”.

- **Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (Res. 69/16)** – The Assembly requests “the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and regional and subregional organizations, to launch an awareness-raising campaign to inform the general public of the history, contributions, including to global development, challenges, contemporary experiences and situation of human rights of people of African descent”.
- **Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade (Res. 69/19)** – The Assembly recalls “that the permanent memorial initiative complements the work being done at UNESCO on the Slave Route Project...” and “the establishment of a committee of interested States to oversee the permanent memorial project, drawn from all geographical regions of the world, [...] with Member States from the Caribbean Community and the African Union playing a primary role, in collaboration with UNESCO....”.
- **Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe (Res. 69/83)** – The Assembly “encourages UNESCO and the Alliance of Civilizations on the one hand, and the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre on the other, to pursue their developing and fruitful collaboration in the field of intercultural dialogue” and “notes the cooperation between the Council of Europe and UNESCO in the field of education, and encourages the extension of this cooperation, which should continue to focus on the role of education in developing just and humane societies....”.
- **Questions relating to information – A. Information in the service of humanity - B. United Nations public information policies and activities (Res. 69/96)** – The Assembly “urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, [...] to provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of UNESCO” and “encourages continued collaboration between the Department of Public Information and UNESCO in the promotion of culture and in the fields of education and communication, bridging the existing gap between the developed and the developing countries”. It also “requests the Secretariat, especially the Department of Public Information, to contribute to the observance of International Mother Language Day on 21 February, as proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO...”.
- **Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (Res. 69/139)** – By recalling the proclamation by UNESCO of 21 February as International Mother Language Day, “which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding”, as well as of 30 April as International Jazz Day, “which aims to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension, tolerance and the promotion of a culture of peace”, the Assembly “commends UNESCO for strengthening efforts to mobilize all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website and in the context of the celebration of its seventieth anniversary”.
- **Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace (Res. 69/140)** – The Assembly “recognizes the leading role of

UNESCO on intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels”. It also “welcomes the adoption of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)” and “encourages Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to carry out activities in support of the Action Plan”.

- **Literacy for life: Shaping future agendas (Res. 69/141)** – Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General on this topic and commending the efforts made “by Member States, [...] and the organizations of the United Nations system, including the lead organization of the United Nations Literacy Decade, UNESCO, in promoting the right to education”, the Assembly “requests UNESCO to continue its coordinating and catalysing role in the fight against illiteracy through developing Member States’ capacities in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessments, scaling up literacy actions for girls and women, ...” and “requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of UNESCO to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution”.
- **The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (Res. 69/185)** – Taking note with appreciation of the 2014 UNESCO report entitled World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development and “commending the role and the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNESCO with regard to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, and their facilitation of the commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists”, the Assembly requests UNESCO “to continue facilitating the implementation of the International Day” in collaboration with Governments and relevant stakeholders” and “invites the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to actively exchange information about the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, under the overall coordination of UNESCO”.
- **Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (Res. 69/174)** – Welcoming the leading role of UNESCO in promoting intercultural dialogue, the Assembly “calls for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs”.
- **Information and communications technologies for development (Res. 69/204)** – The Assembly notes the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum and the first 10-year review event of the World Summit on the Information Society, coordinated by UNESCO, and the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, the Assembly. It also notes that “the promotion, affirmation and preservation of diverse cultural identities and languages, as reflected in relevant agreed United Nations documents, including the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of UNESCO, will further enrich the information society” and “encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard”.
- **Follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014): Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (Res. 69/211)** – The Assembly “invites UNESCO, as the

lead agency for education for sustainable development, to continue to provide coordination for the implementation of the Global Action Programme, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders”. It also “requests the Secretary-General to include the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in November 2014 “in the review of the implementation of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session”.

- **Culture and sustainable development (Res. 69/230)** – By recalling the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, in October 2014 at the third UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries, the General Assembly “takes note of the report on culture and sustainable development prepared by UNESCO which identifies options for a consolidated United Nations approach on culture and sustainable development” and “encourages all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to continue to give due consideration to culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda”.

**Oceans and law of the sea (Res. 69/245) (draft)** – With repeated references to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, the Assembly “expresses its appreciation for the contribution of IOC to capacity-building through its Ocean Teacher Academy training system”, “welcomes the progress made by IOC and Member States towards the establishment and operation of regional and national tsunami warning and mitigation systems”, and “stresses the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans-atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems, such as the Global Ocean Observing System, sponsored by IOC, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Science”. It also “encourages States to use the IOC Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, and recalls the important role of the secretariat of that Commission in the implementation and promotion of the Criteria and Guidelines” and “calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention”.

### **Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

7. UNESCO participated in several segments of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held in New York under the presidency of Martin Sajdik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to the United Nations.

8. The first session of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) (which will replace the Annual Ministerial Review as from 2016) was held from 30 June to 9 July 2014 on the theme “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals”, while the 2014 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) focused on the theme “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”. In addition, the integration segment, a new element of the meeting structure of the Council, was held from 27 to 29 May 2014 and focused on the theme “Sustainable urbanization”.

9. Within the context of the high-level segment, the Director-General participated in the meeting of the HLPF as lead discussant in a ministerial session entitled “Charting pathways to the future we want” and in the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum (10-11 July) as a panellist in the session entitled “Towards a new narrative for development cooperation post-2015”. The Director-General also co-chaired two ministerial roundtables: on “Sciences for sustainable development” with Ms Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa, and on

“Education and Gender Equality: Protecting our girls from violence and discrimination in education” with UN Women and the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh and Denmark to the United Nations. Moreover, she joined the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations to launch the UNESCO Report on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development. In addition, the Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning participated as a panellist in the Panel discussion on “Cities as drivers of sustainable development” held during the Integration Segment.

10. The following ECOSOC resolutions are of relevance for the work of UNESCO, and/or assign specific action(s) to the Organization:

- **International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences (Res. 2014/20)** – By recalling the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970) and welcoming “the cooperative network established among the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNESCO, INTERPOL, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, the World Customs Organization and the International Council of Museums”, the Council “invites Member States to use all relevant tools developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNESCO, including the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws against Organized Crime knowledge management portal and the UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws, and also invites Member States to provide to the Secretariat legislation and case law related to trafficking in cultural property, for inclusion in the portal”.
- **Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (Res. 2014/27)** – The Council “notes with satisfaction the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2013 ...” and “further notes the holding of a 10-year review event of the World Summit entitled “Towards knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development”, coordinated by UNESCO in February 2013, and the final statement of the event”. It also “urges United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system ...”.
- **Science, technology and innovation for development (Res. 2014/28)**
- **Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Res. 2014/29)**





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-sixth session

# 196 EX/5 Part I Add.

PARIS, 17 March 2015  
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART I

### PROGRAMME ISSUES

### ADDENDUM

#### SUMMARY

The present document pertains to 196 EX/5 Part I (F) concerning Internet-related issues, within the mandate of UNESCO.

By Resolution 52 adopted at its 37th session, the General Conference requested the preparation of a comprehensive study on Internet-related issues, within the mandate of UNESCO, produced through an inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process, the results of which should inform the Organization's reporting to the General Conference at its 38th session, on the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes.

By way of this report, the Director-General informs the Executive Board about the results of this ongoing process.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



CONNECTING THE DOTS:  
OPTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

## Outcome document

The “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” Conference held at UNESCO Headquarters 3-4 March 2015,

*Noted* the potential of the Internet to advance human progress towards inclusive Knowledge Societies, and the important role of UNESCO in fostering this development within the wider ecosystem of actors,

*Affirmed* the human rights principles that underpin UNESCO’s approach to Internet-related issues, specifically that the same rights that people have offline must be protected online as per Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/26/13;

*Recalled* Resolution 52 of the 37th session of the General Conference, which mandated a consultative multistakeholder study with options for consideration of Member States, to be reported to the 38th session of the General Conference within the framework of UNESCO’s work on the World Summit on the Information Society,

*Further recalled* the establishment of principles in guiding documents that include the article 12 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and article 17 and 19 in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

And, having *reviewed* the draft of the UNESCO consultative study,

*Commend* continued work on the related options below, and look forward to UNESCO Member States deliberations on them:

### 1. Overarching options for UNESCO

1.1 Considering the Final Statement of the first WSIS+10 conference, endorsed by the 37th session of the General Conference, affirm the on-going value of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, including the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), for the post-2015 development agenda, Internet governance issues, and the role and work of UNESCO;

1.2 Affirm that the fundamental human rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and its corollary of press freedom and the right of access to information, and the right to peaceful assembly, and the right to privacy, are enablers of the post-2015 development agenda;

1.3 Also affirm that increasing access to information and knowledge across society, assisted by the availability of information and communication technologies (ICTs), supports sustainable development and improves people’s lives;

1.4 Promote the alignment of Internet-related laws, policies and protocols with international human rights law;

1.5 Support the Internet Universality principles (R.O.A.M) that promote a Human Rights-based, Open Internet is Accessible to all and characterized by multistakeholder participation;

1.6 Strengthen the cross-cutting role of the Internet in all of UNESCO programmatic activities, including Priority Africa, Priority Gender Equality, support to Small Islands Developing States and Least Developed Countries, as well as in UNESCO's leadership of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures.

## **2. Options for UNESCO related to the field of access to information and knowledge:**

2.1 Foster universal, open, affordable and unfettered access to information and knowledge, and narrowing the digital divide, including the gender gap, and encourage open standards, raise awareness and monitor progress;

2.2 Advocate for ICT policies that enhance access guided by governance principles that ensure openness, transparency, accountability, multilingualism, inclusiveness, gender equality, and civil participation including for youth, persons with disabilities, marginalized and vulnerable groups;

2.3 Support innovative approaches to facilitate citizen involvement in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, as agreed at the UN General Assembly;

2.4 Promote universal access to information and knowledge and ICTs by encouraging the creation of public access facilities, and by supporting users of all types to develop their capabilities to use the Internet as creators and users of information and knowledge;

2.5 Reaffirm the important contribution provided by open access to scholarly, scientific and journalistic information, open government data, and free and open source software, towards the building of open knowledge resources;

2.6 Explore the potential of the Internet for cultural diversity.

## **3. Options for UNESCO related to the field of freedom of expression**

3.1 Urge Member States and other actors to protect, promote and implement international human rights law on free expression and the free flow of information and ideas on the Internet;

3.2 Reaffirm that freedom of expression applies, and should be respected, online and offline in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) that any limitation on freedom of information must comply with international human rights law as outlined by Article 19(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

3.3 Support safety for journalists, media workers, and social media producers who generate a significant amount of journalism, and reaffirm the importance of the rule of law to combat impunity in cases of attacks on freedom of expression and journalism on or off the Internet;

3.4 Noting the relevance to the Internet and digital communications of the international Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the work of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, concerning the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (Rabat Plan of Action 2012), promote educational and social mechanisms for combating online hate speech, without using this to restrict freedom of expression;

3.5 Continue dialogue on the important role that Internet intermediaries have in promoting and protecting freedom of expression;

#### **4. Options for UNESCO related to privacy**

4.1 Support research to assess the impacts on privacy of digital interception, collection, storage and use of data, as well as other emerging trends;

4.2 Reaffirm that the right to privacy applies and should be respected online and offline in accordance with Article 12 of the UDHR and Article 17 of the ICCPR and support as relevant within UNESCO's mandate, the efforts related to UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/166 on the Right to Privacy in the Digital Age;

4.3 Support best practices and efforts made by Member States and other stakeholders to address security and privacy concerns on the Internet in accordance with their international human rights obligations and consider in this respect the key role played by actors in the private sector;

4.4 Recognize the role that anonymity and encryption can play as enablers of privacy protection and freedom of expression, and facilitate dialogue on these issues.

4.5 Share best practices in approaches to collecting personal information that is legitimate, necessary and proportionate, and that minimizes personal identifiers in data;

4.6 Support initiatives that promote peoples' awareness of the right to privacy online and the understanding of the evolving ways in which governments and commercial enterprises collect, use, store and share information, as well as the ways in which digital security tools can be used to protect users' privacy rights;

4.7 Support efforts to protect personal data which provide users with security, respect for their rights, and redress mechanisms, and which strengthen trust in new digital services.

#### **5. Options for UNESCO related to the ethical dimensions of the Information Society**

5.1 Promote human rights-based ethical reflection, research and public dialogue on the implications of new and emerging technologies and their potential societal impacts;

5.2 Incorporate, as a core component in educational content and resources, including lifelong learning programmes, that support the understanding and practice of human rights-based ethical reflection and its role in both online and offline life;

5.3 Enable girls and women take full advantage of the potential of the Internet for gender equality through taking proactive measures to remove barriers, both online and offline, and promoting their equal participation;

5.4 Support policy-makers in enhancing their capacity to address the human right-based ethical aspects of inclusive knowledge societies by providing relevant training and resources;

5.5 In recognition of the trans-boundary nature of the Internet, promote global citizenship education, regional and international cooperation, capacity-building, research, the exchange of best practices and development of a broad understanding and capabilities to respond to its ethical challenges.

#### **6. Options for UNESCO related to cross-cutting issues:**

6.1 Promote the integration of UNESCO's expertise on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) into formal and informal education systems, in recognition of the important roles that digital literacy and

facilitating universal access to information on the Internet, play in the promotion of the right to education, as enumerated in Human Rights Council, Resolution 26/13;

6.2 Recognize the need for enhanced protection of the confidentiality of sources of journalism in the digital age;

6.3 Support Member States as requested in the harmonization of relevant domestic laws, policies and practices with international human rights law;

6.4 Support transparency and public participation in the development and implementation of policies and practices amongst all actors in the information society.

6.5 Promote research into law, policy, regulatory frameworks and the use of the Internet, including relevant indicators in the key areas of the study.

6.6 Promote UNESCO's participation in discussions on Network Neutrality as relevant to the fields of access to information and knowledge and freedom of expression.

## **7. Options related to UNESCO's role**

7.1 Reinforce UNESCO's contributions and leadership within the UN system, including continued implementation of the WSIS outcomes, the WSIS+10 review, the IGF and the post-2015 development agenda;

7.2 Engage as relevant with partners outside of the UN system, such as individual governments, civil society, news media, academia, private sector, technical community and individual users; including by providing expert advice, sharing of experience, creating fora for dialogue, and fostering development and empowerment of users to develop their capacities;

7.3 Support Member States in ensuring that Internet policy and regulation involves the participation of all stakeholders, and integrates international human rights and gender equality.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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# Executive Board

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# 196 EX/5

## Part II

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### FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

#### PART II

#### INTERSECTORAL ISSUES

##### SUMMARY

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of the progress achieved in the follow-up to the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions.

Part II of this document contains information on the following intersectoral activities:

#### **A. Possible ways to protect and strengthen brand recognition of biosphere reserves, world heritage properties, and proposed UNESCO global Geoparks**

This document has been prepared in line with 37 C/Resolution 26, by which the General Conference recalling 36 C/Resolution 31 on cooperation between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), called on the Director-General to submit a report on possible ways to protect and strengthen brand recognition of biosphere reserves, world heritage properties, and proposed UNESCO Global Geoparks.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 16.

#### **B. Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)**

This information is presented pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 5 Part II (E) on the follow-up by UNESCO of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine).

Since then, the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine addressed a letter to the Director-General dated 19 February, 2015, providing – (i) information on latest developments in the situation in Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) in UNESCO's fields of competence reproduced hereafter, and (ii) a proposal “to initiate the preparation of the Draft Decision of the 196th session of UNESCO's Executive Board to send the Monitoring Mission in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) under the auspices of UNESCO in order to familiarize on site with the situation on the peninsula in the areas of competence of Organisation within the context of decisions of the 194th and 195th sessions of the Executive Board.”

The Director-General submits to the Executive Board hereafter the information provided by the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine as well as the proposed request to the Executive Board for a “Monitoring Mission in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine) under the auspices of UNESCO” for its consideration and decision.

The Director-General stands ready to take any necessary action as requested by the Executive Board, and update it on this issue in the fields of UNESCO's competence as required.

**A. Possible ways to protect and strengthen brand recognition of biosphere reserves, world heritage properties, and proposed UNESCO Global Geoparks**

(Follow-up to 37 C/Resolution 26, 195 EX/Decision 5 (I) A)

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1. This document has been prepared in line with 37 C/Resolution 26, by which the General Conference recalling 36 C/Resolution 31 on cooperation between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), called on the Director-General to submit a report on possible ways to protect and strengthen brand recognition of biosphere reserves, world heritage properties, and proposed UNESCO Global Geoparks. It is also pursuant to 195 EX/Decision 5 (I) A, by which the Executive board requested the Director-General to submit to it at its 196th session the report requested in paragraph 3 of 37 C/Resolution 26.
2. Essential to ensuring the protection and strengthening of brand recognition is tackling the issue of overlapping brands, that is, when two or more different brands talk to similar audiences and have similar offerings. Do UNESCO brands dealing with conservation compete for resources and steal limelight from one another? What may seem like substantial programme differences internally may be invisible to the outside world.
3. UNESCO must clearly explain the opportunities for synergies between the different programmes through integrated systems and efficient management and in parallel must communicate the added value of each distinct brand. There are several initiatives which have already commenced and which address these two aspects from different points of view.
4. There are currently four globally active intergovernmental/international, site-based conservation and/or sustainable development instruments in operation with separate 'brands'. Three are managed under the auspices of UNESCO and the fourth, Ramsar, is not managed within the United Nations system, although UNESCO does act the legal depository for the Convention.
5. These are designed to encourage national governments and local communities to identify special places, and to work together in ensuring they are conserved and/or used sustainably for current and future generations. As their popularity grows, and as an increasing number of people worldwide are exposed to them in either their personal or professional lives, the potential for confusion arises.
6. In order to avoid such confusion UNESCO has published a quick reference guide which is available online at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002292/229213e.pdf>. It was developed to help people understand how each of these instruments functions, how they differ, and how they complement each other.
7. UNESCO also has a long standing cooperation with Ramsar through the Biodiversity Convention Liaison Group which was set up to enhance coherence and cooperation in implementation. The group was established between the heads of the secretariats of the seven biodiversity-related conventions. The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions meets regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information.
8. The World Heritage Centre has in particular been very active in communicating the opportunities for synergies and No. 70 of the World Heritage review <http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/70> devotes a special issue on synergies to protect sites. Cultural landscapes and their overlap with protected areas are examined in sites such as Iceland's Þingvellir (Thingvellir) National Park; Global Geoparks and their affiliation with World Heritage sites, including Messel Pit Fossil Site (Germany); joint Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites, such as Socotra Archipelago (Yemen); and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List) that are also World Heritage sites, such as Slovenia's Škocjan Caves. The articles

demonstrate how these different instruments contribute in synergistic and complementary ways towards achieving sustainable development.

9. Moreover, World Heritage branding was discussed extensively by the Committee including for the 40th anniversary reflection and triggered a great number of articles.

10. UNESCO has also taken the issue of overlapping designations even further in developing a best practice partnership project with IUCN on sites which are designated as a protected area by UNESCO (World Heritage, Biosphere Reserve and Global Geopark) and as a Ramsar Site and which are also protected by domestic law of the country. With funding from the self-governing province of Jeju in the Republic of Korea, the intention is to pilot ways of developing an integrated management system for such places and to examine the issues of brand recognition, cooperation and possible duplication in order to respond to the World Conservation Congress resolution (WCC-2012-Res-052-EN) and to the UNESCO General Conference resolution (36 C/Resolution 31).

11. The first phase of this project which focusses on scoping and information gathering is well underway. Several sites with multiple designations from all parts of the world have been identified and will be part of the case study. Sites include Cilento e Valle di Diano (Italy) which has the three UNESCO labels plus the Azore Islands (Portugal) and Jeju (Republic of Korea) both of which have all four of the aforementioned designations. After a first meeting at the World Parks Congress in Sydney (Australia) in November 2014, a second meeting involving the Secretariats of all four designations plus managers from the selected sites is scheduled for the end of April 2015 on Jeju. The final publishing of the guidance will be ready at the end of 2016. This will provide a useful reference for management of sites which have several designations and has to deal with distinct brands and objectives.

12. From the point of view of branding and messaging the Man and the Biosphere secretariat, has initiated a Communication and Branding Biosphere project in 2014 that will first be tested at the EuroMAB regional Network level (290 sites in 36 countries).

13. The objective of the project is to determine common values and messages on biosphere reserves that can be used for communicating at both the local and international levels and to support Member States in the implementation of their communication strategy with a tool kit. An international workshop was held in UNESCO Paris on 31 October 2014 to define the objectives, scope and methodology of the project. Representatives from the biosphere reserves of EuroMAB, ERI colleagues and the MAB Secretariat attended. This branding project addresses one of the key weaknesses identified by the IOS evaluation on the Madrid Action Plan.

14. Global Geoparks ensure as part of their application procedure that should the proposed Global Geopark overlap with a World Heritage Site or a Biosphere Reserve, a supporting letter from the authority responsible for the other designation (e.g. site manager or national body) is required along with a clear outline of how the two labels will work together to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that synergies are developed.

15. It would be appropriate at the conclusion of the best practices partnership project with IUCN on overlapping designations and the MAB Communication and Branding Biosphere project to broaden the branding evaluation to look at Geoparks and World Heritage sites. The Executive Board will be informed in a timely way when new progress is made concerning these branding issues.



**Proposed decision**

16. In view of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 36 C/Resolution 31 on cooperation between UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), 190 EX/Decision 5 (I) and 191 EX/Decision 5 (III), 195 EX/Decision 5 (I) A,
2. Having examined document 196 EX/5 Part II (A),
3. Takes note of the current situation of work carried out and on-going on brand recognition of biosphere reserves, world heritage properties, and proposed UNESCO Global Geoparks;
4. Decides that this item be included in the agenda of the 200th session of the Executive Board.

**B. Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)**  
(Follow-up to 194 EX/Decision 32, 195 EX/Decision 5 (II) E)

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The information hereafter is presented as provided by the Permanent Delegation of Ukraine in its letter to the Director-General on 19 February 2015.

**Information on the latest developments in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)**

*According to 195 EX/Decision 5 (II) E of the 195th session of UNESCO Executive Board “Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)”*

**I. Cultural Heritage**

In accordance with Article 15 of the Law of Ukraine “On Museums and Museum Affairs”, the Museum Fund of Ukraine is a national treasure and an integral part of the cultural heritage of Ukraine protected by law.

According to the State Statistics Committee as of 1 January 2014:

- in Crimea there were 35 museums with 928,177 museum exhibits of the State Museum Fund of Ukraine;
- in Sevastopol there were 5 museums with 322,406 museum exhibits of the State Museum Fund of Ukraine.

In accordance with Part 7 of the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of Citizens and Legal Regime on the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine” the responsibility for protection of the cultural heritage rests on the Russian Federation as an occupier state by norms and principles of international law.

Currently the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine has no possibility to contact with cultural institutions, located on the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol.

Ukraine can control traffic from the temporarily occupied territory only on land and unable to control the traffic across the Kerch Strait and the Black Sea, where cultural values can be shipped by the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

In June 2014 the Agreement on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation was signed between the Hermitage Museum and the museum-reserves of Crimea. Taking into account the lack of information on the content of these agreements, the cultural goods could be moved from the Crimean museums to the Hermitage Museum in the likeness of exhibition projects, expertise, restoration or when transferred for stable keeping that anyway threatens the loss by Ukraine of priceless museum collections, which are a part of the national cultural heritage of the people of Ukraine.

As of October 2014, there were no significant changes in the state of conservation or in the storage collections.

Taking into account the latest extraordinary developments, the National Conservation Area pays constant attention to the matter of preservation of cultural values of Sudak Fortress Museum. This unique architectural and historical complex was and will always be an integral part of the state of Ukraine.

On 27 January 2015 the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted the Law “On Special Legal Regulation of Relations in the Culture and Tourism Sectors following the Accession of the

Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation and the Creation of New Constituent Entities within the Russian Federation – the Republic of Crimea and the Federal City of Sevastopol”.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Law, within one year from the date of entry into force of the document, the cultural heritage, located on the temporarily occupied territory on the date of admission of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation (including newly discovered cultural heritage) can be classified as the cultural heritage sites of the federal importance with further registration in accordance with the Federal Law №73-FZ of 25.06.2002 “On sites of cultural heritage (monuments of history and culture) of people of the Russian Federation”.

In accordance with Article 6 of the Law, the museum exhibits and museum collections, information about which is related to key accounting records of the state museums, located in the temporarily occupied territory, are considered as included to the state part of the Museum Fund of the Russian Federation. The museum exhibits and museum collections of other museums on the temporarily occupied territory are integrated in the non-state part of the Museum Fund of the Russian Federation.

On 21 January 2015 the Government of Sevastopol adopted the Decree “On establishment of United Museum of History of Sevastopol” which consists of 12 sites of cultural heritage, including the National Reserve “Ancient city of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora”, the system of highlands on “Heracleian peninsula”, the fortresses “Calamita” and “Chemballo”.

In summer of 2013 the site “Ancient City of Chersonese and its Chora” was included at Ukraine’s suggestion to the UNESCO World Heritage List. According to the Nomination Dossier of the National Reserve “Ancient City of Chersonese” has the status of official local institution to manage the site, needed to ensure protection and usage of monuments of universal importance.

The purpose to create the “United Museum of History of Sevastopol” as a defense, historical, tourism and recreation centre does not meet the purpose to preserve and present the World Heritage site.

Consolidating the complex of the monument with other museums of Sevastopol undermines the independent status of the institution which had before the status of a National institution and also creates problems with ensuring the protection of World Heritage site due to the dependence on the decisions of local authorities and also for the museum exhibits of the state part of the Museum Fund of Ukraine.

In addition, the purpose of “United Museum of History of Sevastopol” to form and meet cultural needs of the population, as well as the priority activities of this institution of the implementation of the Russian (Presidential) program of military-patriotic education, creation and development of military, tourism and recreation cluster does not respond to the purpose of conservation, scientific study and presentation of a World Heritage site declared by Ukraine, replacing them by politicized actions that do not relate to the remains of ancient cities and creates an extraordinary risk to the integrity and authenticity of the site.

On 26 January 2015 the National Preserve “Ancient City of Chersonese and its Chora” made a statement on its official web-site, in which expressed disagreement with the Decision of the “Government in Sevastopol” to establish the “United Museum of History in Sevastopol”. The National Reserve “Ancient City of Chersonese and its Chora” has been included to the list of the sites.

In this context the mass media also informed about the initiation of a criminal investigation of large-scale fraud with the land of the National Reserve “Chersonese and its Chora” near cape “Pischanyi” (Sandy), to say more specifically, the illegal occupation of land with a total area of 1.5 hectares and monetary valuation of 1 million rubles.

## **II. The Right to Education**

Before the annexation of Crimea in 2013-2014 academic year such educational establishments had been functioning in Crimea and Sevastopol:

7 schools with the Ukrainian language of education (2,215 students, 103 classes) and only 1 in Sevastopol;

15 schools with the Crimean Tatar language (2,982 students, 182 classes); in Sevastopol such schools did not function;

142 schools with the bilingual education (Ukrainian and Russian), where the Ukrainian language was studied by 8,536 students (602 classes), in Sevastopol there were 10 schools (994 students) with the Ukrainian and Russian languages;

31 regular schools with three languages of education (Ukrainian, Russian and Crimean Tatar), where the Ukrainian language students enrolled 1,847 (132 classes), the Crimean Tatar language was studied by 1,284 students (111 classes), in Sevastopol such schools did not function;

22 schools with bilingual education (Crimean Tatar and Russian), where the Crimean Tatar language was studied by 638 students (66 classes). According to the Russian authorities, most of the schools and classes with Ukrainian language education has been transferred into Russian language education.

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine considers such policy on the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea as a flagrant violation of children's right to obtain education in their native language.

The Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea officially announced (letter dated 4 October 2014 p. № 01-13/2053) the readiness to receive the Ukrainian certificate of secondary schools and certificates of secondary education graduates.

On 3 June 2014 all Ukrainian certificates were delivered to the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Crimea.

The documents were issued only to a small part of school graduates in Crimea. Almost all students who had been studying for 11 years in "Ukrainian schools", obtained from the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Crimea certificates of education. Such actions violate the rights of children, as long as they studied the Ukrainian educational programs that significantly differ from the Russian ones. The instruments of secondary education of the Russian sample, issued by structures of the Russian Federation and by the self-proclaimed "authority" on the peninsula in 2014 are not recognized by Ukraine and will not be authenticated, nostrificated and certificated.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine is receiving numerous requests and complaints from graduates of 2014 and their parents about refusal of directors of schools and universities located on the territory of temporary occupied Crimea and Sevastopol to issue them certificates of higher education.

In 2014-2015 academic year it was practically impossible to get from the Russian authorities any true information regarding the ensuring of rights of children to education of native language in Crimea schools and institutions. Since 2014-2015 school year, the secondary schools located on the territory of temporarily annexed Crimea and Sevastopol have been transferred into Russian standards of education. Which are significantly differ from Ukrainian.

Thus far, there is a real threat that all schools (or classes) of the Ukrainian language education could be transferred into Russian. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian

Federation made “re-education of Ukrainian language teachers and literature” for teaching Russian.

In 2014-2015 academic year, according to unofficial information, after the annexation of the peninsula there is only one parallel left for teaching Ukrainian (9 Ukrainian classes and 31 Russian classes).

There is a worrying situation with the books published in the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar language of teaching, as far as in Russia these books have never been published. The self-proclaimed authorities in Crimea no longer plan to use textbooks printed in Ukraine. According to the media reports, Ukrainian textbooks being burned or destroyed.

In high schools teaching of the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar language is not conducting (in accordance with the law).

In order to ensure the right to education to the citizens of Ukraine, residing in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine the Ministry of Education issued:

Order 556 of 7 May 2014 “On approval of the interim order of transfer for on education of graduate and post-graduate students from the universities and the research institutions located in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine”, which is registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 2 June 2014, №574/25351;

Order 665 of 28 May 2014 “On approval of the order and delivery of documents on higher education and supplements to graduates of higher education institutions located on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine in 2014”, which is registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine 5 June 2014 №593/25370.

These regulatory acts simplify the system of transferring to the universities of citizens residing in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, and also provide the opportunity to receive the nationally recognized certificate.

At this time, over two thousand pupils from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea were enrolled to the higher educational establishments.

According to the United national electronic database on education of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea nearly eight thousand students were transferred to the higher educational institutions of I-IV accreditation. 4,254 of them are full-time students.

### **III. Freedom of Expression**

Thus far, only near 100 media have been reregistered in Crimea and Sevastopol (with total number 3,000). The accreditation for work at the “Parliament” of Crimea is issued only to journalists with the passport of the Russian Federation.

There have been cases of pressure on media in Crimea.

On 1 August 2014 the broadcasting of independent company “Black Sea” was forcibly stopped. The only opposition broadcasting TV company was decisively removed from the information field of the Crimea by seizure of property of the channel in accordance with decision of Sevastopol Economic Court of Appeal. Transmitters and frequency owned broadcasting company, in violation of all possible laws, on 3 March were transferred to the Russian TV channels. The next step was the displacement of cable networks, from 1 July 2014 the broadcasting company content available to subscribers of cable television.

On 17 September 2014 the Federal Security Service summoned the editor of Tatar newspaper “Avdet” for awarding him an official warning about the inadmissibility of actions that create

conditions for committing crimes, inquiry and preliminary investigation of which belongs to the jurisdiction of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. The newspaper stated that the awarding allowed the publication of text containing “hidden calls not to participate in the elections and intends to prevent the legitimate activities of public authorities, local authorities and election commissions”. Russia’s Federal Security Service believes that these actions create conditions for the crime, public calls for the implementation of extremist activity.

On 19 November 2014 the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted in second reading the Law “On Specificities of Legal Regulation of Relations in the Media following the Accession of the Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation and the Formation of Two New Federal Constituent Entities in the Russian Federation – the Republic of Crimea and the Federal City of Sevastopol”. The law establishes the registration of the local media, as well as giving them TV and radio broadcasting licenses that will be carried out until 1 April 2015 free of charge. The document also contains the provision according to which the spread of media, including television broadcasting in the mentioned territories on the basis of documents issued by state authorities of Ukraine allowed until April next year. On 25 November 2014 the Presidium of the State Council of the Republic of Crimea adopted Decree 222-1/14 which established the rules regulating the accreditation of journalists, media workers, news agencies of the State Council of the Republic of Crimea.

On 26 January 2015 the armed security officials in Simferopol, including the employees of the “OMON” of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation made a search at the office of Crimean Tatar TV channel “ATR”.

The law-enforcement authorities of the Russian Federation are continuing to use the practice of obstruction of journalistic activity in Crimea. In particular, in 2014 the “Crimea Center for Investigative Journalism” recorded more than 100 cases of violations of the rights of journalists, including 38 assaults, 13 detentions. First of all, this refers to the employees of the Crimean Internet channel “CrimeanOpenCh”, the online media of “Center for Investigative Journalism”, edition “Tvoia Gazeta”, the Project “Realnist”, the Ukrainian channel “Gromadske TV”, the Russian TV channel “Dozhd” the Polish “Gazeta Wyborcza” and so on.

Under such circumstances, the spread of Ukrainian information products on the Crimean peninsula is possible only through satellite platforms and public resources in Internet.

#### ***IV. Rights of Minorities***

As of 31 January 2015 due to events related to annexation by Russia of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the actions of armed separatists in Eastern Ukraine, the Ministry of Culture has no possibility to receive from Crimean authorities the information about recorded violations of the rights of national minorities.

In accordance with Art 5 the Law of Ukraine “On Securing the Rights and Freedoms of Citizens and the Legal Regime on the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine” the responsibility for violation of the rights and freedoms of man and citizen on the temporarily occupied territory assigned to the Russian Federation, as occupant-state in accordance with the norms and principles of international law.

This year, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues Rita Hedeghog, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors, experts of the Council of Europe the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the OSCE experts visited Ukraine in order to explore the current situation with respect of minority rights.

As a result, the experts have not confirmed violations by Ukraine of the rights of national minorities. Instead, the human rights violations in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea were committed by the occupation authorities and the appropriate information

was published on 12 May 2014 in a joint report of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights based on the results of their monitoring mission of the situation in human rights field in Ukraine made from 6 March till 17 April 2014.

The situation in Crimea establishes conditions for a potential limitation of the rule of law and human rights. The Mission has recognized the threats on the Crimean peninsula to Ukrainian and Crimean Tatars minorities. An increase of anti-Tatar sentiment in the Crimea which appears in cases of intimidation of Tatar families and sending on their addresses anonymous threats, was also recorded.

The Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine has included to [Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations](#) the information with regard to Part 2, Art. 169 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine on the fact of illegal actions regarding the adoption of orphans by Russian citizens in the city of federal importance Sevastopol and Crimea without any necessary permission of the central executive body which realizes the public policy of Ukraine in the sphere of adoption and protection of children rights.

On 1 October 2014 the Prosecutor-General of Ukraine sent the letter to the Prosecutor-General's Office of the Russian Federation with the report about the illegitimacy of any acts (decisions, documents) issued by the illegal authorities, officials acting on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine.

As of 1 January 2014 there were 2,083 religious organizations on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, 1,409 among of them are registered in accordance with the current legislation and 674 are without an official registration.

The most numerous denomination in the Crimea as of the beginning of 2014 was the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which was represented by three dioceses: Simferopol, Crimea, Dzhankoy and Feodosia, in all 535 religious organizations. Among them 521 are communities, six monasteries, four brotherhoods and the religious school.

The muslim religious organizations were on the second place among the religious denominations of Crimea. The structure of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Crimea consisted of 921 religious organizations with only 346 of them registered. The Spiritual Center of Muslims of Crimea were represented by 37 religious organizations, 15 of them were officially registered. There were also 49 independent Muslim communities.

In Crimea, there are seizures of the temples of the [Ukrainian Orthodox Church \(UOCP\) under the Kyiv Patriarchate](#), including the newly established for transmission of churches to the Moscow Patriarchate. A steady pressure, intimidation and discrimination are taking place on a constant basis. The Moscow Patriarchate in Crimea has a privileged position, while the activity of priests of Kiev Patriarchate, Greek Catholics and Protestants are limited.

In March 2014 in Sevastopol the representatives of Crimean authorities attacked the priest of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) during the conversation with the faithful in the Church of Mother of God. This was accompanied by the destruction of the temple property, an unlawful search and violent actions against the priest. In a few days the priest was forced to leave the territory of Crimea.

Thus, all the priests of the UGCC along with their families were forced to leave the territory of the annexed Crimea. The similar situations arose with superiors of Roman Catholic Church, Roman Catholics and others.

The Crimean authorities decided to raise the rent for the UOC KP for the use of the Cathedral of St. Vladimir and Princess Olga in Simferopol.

On 12 November 2014 unidentified persons attempted to scorch a mosque in the village Sonyachna Dolina, the crime has not been solved.



## **Concerns human rights violations**

### **Committed by the authorities of the occupying authorities of the Russian Federation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea**

(from information provided by international monitoring missions)

According to the eighth report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the human rights situation in Ukraine, published in December 2014, the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea continues to be characterized by systematic human rights violations affecting, for the most part, people who have opposed the holding of the so-called “referendum” and the application of Russian Federation laws, as well as the Crimean Tatar community.

Citizenship issues and human rights concerns deriving from them continue to be a central issue for the United Nations human rights bodies. On 20 November 2014, the Russian Federation Government set a quota for the issuance of temporary residence permits for foreigners and persons without citizenship for 2015 for Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The quota is only 1,900 permits (the smallest one for any of the federal districts, among which the Russian Federation has ‘listed’ the Autonomous Republic of Crimea). This may cause many problems for Crimean residents who refused to previously acquire Russian citizenship and may lead to the expulsion of foreigners and Ukrainian citizens who have not obtained permits.

In the report, the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) gives numerous examples, starting with the infamous unlawful March ‘referendum’, where the representatives of various faiths and religious communities have been forced to leave the peninsula following intimidation and threats.

This situation adversely affects the ability of Crimean residents to practice their religion in accordance with international standards guaranteeing freedom of conscience and religion. Churches belonging to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate have been attacked by armed individuals without any investigation into the incidents and four out of twelve have had to close. Greek-Catholic priests have faced threats and persecution, resulting in four out of six of them leaving Crimea. A Polish citizen and the senior Roman Catholic priest in the Simferopol parish had to leave on 24 October, due to the non-renewal of Ukrainian residence permits. Most of the 23 Turkish Imams and teachers on the peninsula have left for the same reason.

A recent trend in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea has been the increasing violations of property rights. Since 18 September 2014, over 20 properties, including health resorts, guesthouses and hotels have been nationalized. Actions amounting to forcible seizure of private property and equipment from individuals or companies maintaining links to Ukraine have taken place.

The occupation authorities in Crimea are pursuing a policy of intimidation and detention of Crimean Tatars on the basis of groundless accusations.

On 21 November 2014, unidentified masked men raided the Central Market in Simferopol, arresting 15 people of ‘non-Slavic appearance’ who were Crimean Tatars. They were taken to the local police ‘department for countering extremism’, but no charges were brought against them.

One of the latest cases of gross violations of human rights by the occupation authorities in Crimea was the arrest on 29 January 2015 in Simferopol of Mr Akhtem Chiygoz, Vice-President of the Mejlis (representative body) of the Crimean Tatar people. He was charged with organizing mass riots, which is punishable, under Article 212 part 1 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, by imprisonment for a term of up to ten years.

The arrest of Mr Chygoz was preceded by a search, on 26 January 2015, of the premises of the Crimean Tatar television channel “ATR” in Simferopol and the removal of archives containing material on the events of 26 February 2014. The television channel’s only “fault” was to have covered those events.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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# Executive Board

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## FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

### PART III

#### EVALUATION ISSUES

#### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR ENHANCING THE COOPERATION OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

##### SUMMARY

In accordance with 37 C/Resolution 97, the Director-General submits, at this present session, a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan, which contains a summary of the reports submitted by Member States on the implementation of the Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 of the Action Plan, the reviewed and consolidated "Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO" in Annex, as well as the measures taken by the Secretariat to improve its cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO in liaison with Permanent Delegations.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 37.

1. On the implementation of the Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 of the Action Plan, the Secretariat has received, as of 30 January 2015, reports from 37 Member States/National Commissions, namely Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Gabon, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. [The Director-General expresses sincere thanks to these Member States for their active participation in the preparation of this progress report.] The following section highlights the progress achieved as well as challenges faced by the National Commissions concerned.

### **Findings and Recommendations 1 and 3: Legal framework and Review of the status and structure of the National Commissions**

2. Following up to the Action Plan, Member States provided the Secretariat with up-to-date information on the status, organization and resourcing levels of their National Commissions, which are very diverse. According to the reports received and information available, a number of Member States (Canada, Congo, France, Gabon, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Qatar and Uganda) have proceeded with a review of the status and structure of their National Commissions.

3. Canada indicated that *the recommendations made by an internal verification in 2014 related essentially to the governance of its National Commission and following which a new strategic plan for the National Commission was adopted. This strategic plan proposes to examine and update its National Commission's status and rules in the course of 2015-2016.*

4. In Qatar, the Council of Ministers issued a resolution in 2014 regarding the reorganization of its National Commission as well as its roles and responsibilities.

5. Based on the Recommendation 1 of the Action Plan, the Peruvian Government prepared *the founding document of its National Commission for UNESCO, as well as its Rules and Procedures and Organizational Chart*, which are under examination by the responsible Minister. Whenever this process is completed, the information would be transmitted to UNESCO's Secretariat.

6. Another example is Uganda where its National Commission was established in 1963. However, *it is only in 2014 that its establishment was formalized by an Act of Parliament, i.e. the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (2014) Act.*

7. Initiative was also taken by two Secretaries-General, Gabon and Congo, to propose to their respective governments, reform plans in order to obtain more autonomy and better functions of their National Commissions. The Gabonese reform plan includes a recommendation for an open recruitment process for the Secretary-General's position (see para.9). For both countries, the proposals are being examined by the competent national authorities.

8. Regarding the financial resources, the budget of the majority of the National Commissions concerned is financed by their respective governments. While the information on the exact budget level of the concerned National Commissions is not always available, it seems extremely varied from one National Commission to another. Consequently, the levels of human resources as well as of activities undertaken by the National Commissions also vary, while, for most of them, the budget is used essentially as their operational costs. Honduras indicated that *its National Commission does not have its own office, nor its own staff, while its officials appointed by the government belong to other units.* According to the Congo National Commission, *very few Member States in its region give importance to their National Commissions and thus their authorities are limited and their expertise insufficient.*

9. Since the adoption of the Action Plan, two Member States from the Arab region requested UNESCO's support and advice on how to improve the role and functioning of their National Commissions and to more fully present UNESCO's mandate in the fields of education, sciences, culture and communication.

10. Most recently, France reformed completely its National Commission which has now been under an associated form that ensures "flexibility and independence". Such reform was intended to strengthen its links with UNESCO and civil society, as well as to strengthen the intellectual dimension and international cooperation.

### **Finding and Recommendation 4: Appointment of Chair/President and Secretary-General**

11. In conformity with this recommendation, most have internal rules which determine the duration of appointment for the President/Chair and the Secretary-General. But again, the duration

of appointment varies from a National Commission to another, due to their diversity in the structures, functions and recruitment systems. In many Member States, the President of the National Commission is *ex officio* the Minister of the responsible Ministry and his/her nomination as President of National Commission corresponds to his/her governmental tenure. However, in some Member States (Cuba, Congo, Gabon, Hungary, Oman, Tajikistan), the terms of office of the Secretary-General are not clearly and explicitly defined by legal texts, thus such situation may lead to instability and discontinuity of their National Commissions.

#### **Finding and Recommendation 5: Networking of partners and external funding**

12. A few National Commissions do not or cannot secure external funding to carry out their programmes and activities (Cuba, Belgium (Flanders), Hungary and Kazakhstan), due to their internal budgeting systems. However, following up to the Action Plan, the majority of the National Commissions have been establishing and/or expanding the network of various partners in their countries, and/or with other National Commissions and/or intergovernmental organizations, such as ALECSO and ISESCO including UNESCO, to seek sponsorships or partnerships. The following paragraphs show some good examples.

13. The Korean National Commission for UNESCO has been seeking dynamic collaborations with both the public and the private sectors particularly through this Partnership Development programme, which was launched on 1 January 2014. *The Commission began the venture, in order to assist in funding its flagship Bridge Programme, which provides educational assistance to developing countries in Africa and Asia, in cooperation with partnering UNESCO National Commissions in other regions. So far, the Commission has fostered partnerships with and received funds from local corporations such as Hyundai Green Food Co., KB Kookmin Card Co., KB Financial Group Inc., and Kia Motors Corp. The Commission has also been stepping up its efforts to draw more individual donors through television and radio campaigns.*

14. The Salvadoran Commission has established partnerships with the private sector and other partners in the field of finance, through a project with the Association of Programmes and participative radios El Salvador, ARPAS and another project with the Association Movement of young Encuentristas, MOJE.

15. *The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO has introduced a new arrangement whereby it calls for application for two discretionary funding rounds per year, for activities which demonstrably contribute to its identified strategic priorities. Funding of between \$NZ5, 000 and 20,000 is provided up to 50% of the total project costs, other costs being met from other funding sources. Successful applicants, normally non-governmental organizations or not for profit trusts enter into partnership arrangements with the National Commission for the implementation of their programmes which are identified as an integral part of the National Commission's work.*

16. *The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO contributes to UNESCO-related activities conducted by private enterprises and others. Moreover, its "Proposal Regarding Invigoration of UNESCO Activities in an Era of Diversity: Building a Sustainable Society" issued in March 2014 calls for the promotion of businesses' involvement in UNESCO activities, and, in accordance with that, the Commission is considering ways to cooperate with business enterprises.*

17. The National Commission of Gabon reported on the partnership recently established with the Omar Bongo Ondimba Foundation for Peace, Science, Culture and Environment, which funded the Pan-African Forum "African youth and the challenge of promoting a culture of peace in Africa" held in December 2014, as a fruitful result of its efforts to establish partnerships, following up to the Action Plan.

### **Finding and Recommendation 6: Synergies with national institutions, including associations, centres and clubs**

18. The reports of the National Commissions demonstrate that, based on the recommendation of the Action Plan, they have recently started to work more closely with the various UNESCO networks and civil society partners in their respective countries. These networks include UNESCO Chairs, National Committees of Intergovernmental Programmes, networks such as ASPnet, UNESCO Clubs and Associations, category 2 centres and non-governmental organizations. But the ways and modalities of promoting such synergies with these institutions and networks, vary greatly from a National Commission to another.

19. Regarding the relationship of the National Commissions with UNESCO Associations, Centres and Clubs, it greatly varies from a country to another. For some countries such as Republic of Korea and Japan, UNESCO clubs and associations played an important role historically. The Korean National Commission created a National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations in its country, which implements, together with local UNESCO Associations, a variety of programmes that are aligned with UNESCO's goals. As for Japan, the first non-governmental UNESCO movements were launched from this country, thus its National Commission attaches great importance to cooperate with NGOs, such as the National Federation of UNESCO Associations of Japan. UNESCO Associations, Centres and Clubs in Gabon have been recently revitalized. Bulgaria supported UNESCO Clubs in its country with logistics and technical assistance for their activities.

20. On the other hand, following up to the recommendation of the Action Plan on the responsibility of the National Commission with regard to the accreditation of and monitoring of activities undertaken by UNESCO Clubs, Association and Centres, Greece has elaborated a draft law for submission to the Parliament, which clearly outlines the Clubs' and Centres' legal and action framework. Tajikistan has also undertaken monitoring and evaluation of the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO in its country. The Italian National Commission has also taken necessary measures to implement the recommendation of the Action Plan regarding its relations with the clubs.

21. It should also be noted that three National Commissions (Canada, New Zealand and Uganda) indicated non-existence of or no engagement with such bodies in their respective countries.

22. As for the National Commissions' role in the use of UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and internet domain names, several National Commissions (Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Mauritius, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe) indicated that they were effectively assuming this responsibility.

### **Finding and Recommendation 9: Networking of National Commissions**

23. The majority of the National Commissions highlight, in line with the Plan of Action, the importance of establishing cooperative networks among National Commissions, in the form of training, knowledge and experience sharing and occasional secondments or funding grants. The reports contain a number of examples of such arrangements which have been successful, or are being established. These include various regional or subregional networks such as the network with Baltic States, South Caucasus countries, the informal group of Central Europe National Commissions, the Central African network, and the East African group (Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania), and East African National Commissions' network. In some cases, the coordinating role played by some UNESCO field offices was also appreciated.

24. It should also be noted that on 4 and 5 February 2015, 30 National Commissions of EU-Member States, Candidate-EU-Countries, and EFTA-Countries held a meeting in Bonn, Germany, to establish the informal subregional European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO.

The Network aims at strengthening the cooperation among National Commissions of the subregion. By pooling expertise, by exchanging know-how and best practices as well as by preparing and facilitating operative cooperation projects among National Commissions and their partner organizations, the Network intends to create an added value that will help National Commissions to better fulfil their tasks. ADG/ERI who was present at that meeting strongly welcomed the initiative of intensified cooperation in this subregional network.

25. Within the framework of regional cooperation and in the context of resource constraints, the New Zealand National Commission provides support to the network of Pacific National Commissions, *notably in the run-up to the General Conference where New Zealand takes a leadership role in coordinating Pacific participation and in supporting Pacific delegations during the General Conference*. Since 1965, the Japanese National Commission has been inviting up to five staff members from other UNESCO National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region every year to Japan, for exchanges views with the Commission's staff, training and visits to other educational, scientific, and cultural institutions,

26. Other good examples of interregional cooperation should also be mentioned. To quote only some of them, *the Korean National Commission for UNESCO has been operating five UNESCO Bridge projects, a "Staff Exchange Programme (STEP)" and a "UNESCO Heritage Training Workshop for Developing Countries". The beneficiaries of these projects are not only Asian and Pacific National Commissions, but also those in Africa and in the Caribbean region. The Uganda National Commission refers, in its report, to joint programmes which have been developed with the German and Korean National Commissions, including exchange visits and sharing of personnel. The Portuguese National Commission supports the National Commissions of Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe), by translating UNESCO's reference documents into Portuguese and disseminating them to the Portuguese-speaking African countries.*

27. The Canadian Commission suggests that an online platform on UNESCO's website accessible to National Commissions be created so that they could enroll their support needs as well as the areas in which the others would be willing to offer support. This platform would allow National Commissions to twin with other Commissions and to consider multi-partner projects according to their size. In a similar way, the Egyptian National Commission suggests that the Secretariat develops a survey to distribute among National Commissions to understand what is needed for certain National Commissions and what could be provided by others.

#### **Finding and Recommendation 8: Gathering for exchanging information, sharing knowledge and good practices**

28. Since its adoption, the Secretariat has continued its efforts to reinforce cooperation with National Commissions in line with the Action Plan for Enhancing the Cooperation between UNESCO Secretariat and National Commissions. One of the highlights of activities undertaken was the First Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held from 22 to 24 July 2014 in Astana, Kazakhstan. This new form of annual meetings was adopted to replace various and fragmented subregional meetings and training seminars for National Commissions, which had been organized in the past. Thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Kazakhstan and its National Commission for UNESCO and ISESCO, the meeting was successfully organized with some 110 National Commission representatives from all five regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean).

29. The selected topics of this meeting were "Interface and Cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions", "Raising UNESCO's visibility at country level", "Methodologies for portraying the wider value of UNESCO in Member States" and "Contribution of the Participation Programme to the National Commissions' activities". These points were broadly discussed at interregional plenary sessions as well as in each regional group. In addition, the "Guidelines for

interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO” (174 EX/34 Annex) were reviewed and updated.

30. The Secretariat proposes to organize a second Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO on 2 November 2015, at the UNESCO Headquarters, in the margins of the 38th session of the General Conference. As requested at the First Interregional Meeting, the Heads of representatives of the UNESCO field offices will also be invited to attend the meeting.

31. UNESCO also continued to organize traditional informal meetings of National Commissions in the margins of the 194th and 195th sessions of the Executive Board, both of which counted more than 80 participants representing National Commissions and Permanent Delegations. At the meeting during the 195th session of the Executive Board, one of the three main discussion subjects was the “Guidelines for Interface and Cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO”. The document consolidated after consultation with field offices and distributed on that occasion, is attached to this report.

32. In the course of 2014, at their respective requests, the Secretariat organized a video conference for the Egyptian National Commission in September last, as well as a working session for the representatives of the National Commission of Saudi Arabia during their mission to UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

#### **Finding and Recommendation 11: Increased visibility and strengthened communication with National Commissions**

33. The first Annual Report of National Commissions for UNESCO – 2013 in English and French versions, was published in April 2014. Some 120 National Commissions from all regions took part in the exercise, thus contributing to that publication. This new information tool offered a solid basis for sharing experiences and promoting best practices among National Commissions. The same exercise was conducted at the end of 2014 and the second edition of the Annual Report of National Commissions will be issued in March 2015.

34. The Secretariat sent regularly by e-mail the Monthly Letter (in English and French versions) to the National Commissions to provide them with updated information about the activities/events being organized by UNESCO Secretariat as well as those jointly organized with National Commissions. The Monthly Letter also includes information about major UNESCO’s publications and appointments of Chairpersons and Secretaries-General of National Commissions. This is another tool of communication, which keeps National Commissions informed of UNESCO’s activities which will interest them. The Monthly Letters are also posted online at UNESCO.INT.

35. The third tool of communication is the “National Commissions News” posted on the UNESCO website UNESCO.INT. The National Commissions are encouraged to post as much as possible, information about their activities on the UNESCO website, for the purposes of sharing experiences and promoting best practices among National Commissions.

#### **Conclusion**

36. All things considered, even though the rate of reports by Member States/National Commissions is rather low at this stage (about one fifth of the total), it is fair to say that the Action Plan has clearly generated widespread and positive adjustments in the cooperative relationship between the Secretariat and the National Commissions for UNESCO, with improved communication and information sharing, and reinforced networking of National commissions at regional, sub-regional and inter-regional levels.



**Proposed decision**

37. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 189 EX/Decision 16, 190 EX/Decision 37, 191 EX/Decision 33 and 37 C/Resolution 97,
2. Having examined the Director-General's progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for enhancing the cooperation of the UNESCO Secretariat with National Commissions for UNESCO, contained in document 196 EX/5 Part III,
3. Appreciates the effort and progress made by both the National Commissions and the UNESCO Secretariat towards enhancing UNESCO's cooperation with National Commissions,
4. Invites Member States to continue to implement the Action Plan, notably by assuming their obligations and responsibilities to support their National Commissions as laid down in the UNESCO Constitution (Article VII) and in the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO,
5. Approves the "Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO" as reviewed and updated;
6. Requests the Director-General to continue to implement the Action Plan, by taking necessary measures to improve cooperation with National Commissions in liaison with the Permanent Delegations, and to report to the Executive Board on the progress of its implementation as appropriate in her general activity reports (at the Spring Session of the Executive Board in 2017).



## ANNEX

# GUIDELINES FOR INTERFACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO FIELD OFFICES AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

## UNESCO

### FOREWORD

**The [Member States and their] National Commissions for UNESCO and the UNESCO Secretariat pursue the same purpose** under the Constitution of UNESCO, namely “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations”.

**These constituent elements of the common purpose**, all unifying by nature, primarily require *intellectual and moral solidarity* on the part of all those who work to achieve it.

**UNESCO’s strategy for the reform of the field network** is aimed at optimizing UNESCO’s operations and improving the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, quality and visibility of the field network, thus providing more effective support for the efforts that Member States have undertaken by ratifying the Constitution of UNESCO “to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purposes of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other’s lives”.

**The Organization’s unity of action must** remain a key concern of the National Commissions for UNESCO and the Secretariat, at Headquarters and in the field. All work together to accomplish UNESCO’s mandate. Such unity is all the more important in the light of the concerted pursuit of post-2015 development agenda through ever closer cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system and, even more broadly, with the international community.

## **GUIDELINES FOR INTERFACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO FIELD OFFICES AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO**

### **Mission statement**

National Commissions and field offices together promote UNESCO's ideals and principles.

### **Introduction**

The following guidelines have been developed in response to a need expressed repeatedly by National Commissions for UNESCO and were discussed by an informal Working Group of Secretaries-General and Directors/Heads of UNESCO field offices from all regions who met at UNESCO Headquarters on 28 and 29 January 2004. They were reviewed and amended at the first interregional meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 22 to 24 July 2014, in accordance with UNESCO's recent field reform and in the light of the Action Plan for enhancing UNESCO's cooperation with the worldwide National Commissions network, adopted by the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 97).

These Guidelines outline the main areas of interface and cooperation between the UNESCO field network and the National Commissions for UNESCO: definition of each entity, their respective responsibilities and roles, and the modalities for planning and implementing UNESCO's programme within the framework of the field network reform. They are based on legal texts of the Organization and decisions of its governing bodies in this respect. Furthermore, they were widely circulated for comments and suggestions and agreed upon by all concerned.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

National Commissions and field offices have differentiated but sometimes joint and/or common activities. National Commissions report first and foremost to their Governments. Field offices report first and foremost to the Director-General of UNESCO.

### **National Commissions**

- **Advisory function**

- Advise representatives of their government on the Executive Board and their alternates as well as their delegations to the General Conference and other meetings convened by UNESCO;
- Advise the respective governmental bodies/line Ministries to ensure that UNESCO mandates are represented/positioned in the development of new National Development Plans, and in the roll out of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), in particular ahead of the UNDAF consultations with Government;
- Advise national institutions and partners on UNESCO-related matters;
- At the request of the UNESCO Secretariat, provide advice on possible linkages with national partners;

- Advise UNESCO’s Secretariat on other relevant issues, either on request or on their own initiative, including through international and interregional consultations among National Commissions.
- **Contribution to UNESCO’s planning/programming processes**
  - Conduct timely national consultations with relevant governmental bodies and other stakeholders in order to identify and develop national priorities and strategies for cooperation with UNESCO, taking into account UNESCO’s mandates and priorities;
  - Contribute where appropriate to the development of the UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD);
  - Participate and contribute to consultations meetings as appropriate with field offices and other National Commissions at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.
- **Liaison and outreach function**
  - Foster the linkage with and involvement in UNESCO’s activities of relevant governmental bodies, national institutions and other civil society stakeholders and individuals in order to obtain intellectual and professional inputs useful to the Organization, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation in the process;
  - Forge with the support of the field offices new partnerships with national civil society organizations – grass-roots and volunteer groups, NGOs, the academic and professional communities, parliamentarians, local authorities, trade unions and the private sector – and promote UNESCO’s various networks and programmes;
  - Accredite, monitor and assess as appropriate the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO in their respective countries so as to ensure that activities implemented by Clubs and Centres for UNESCO are in line with the mission and objectives of UNESCO, and the name and logo of UNESCO are properly used by them. The National Commissions may withdraw the accreditation of Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO which are not meeting the required standards, including the “Directives concerning the use of the name, acronym, logo and internet domain names of UNESCO”;
  - Play a proactive role in encouraging national entities to propose candidates for UNESCO prizes, participating in searching for candidates for vacant posts at UNESCO and placing UNESCO fellowship holders;
  - Reach out to other National Commissions in the region and beyond and strengthen cooperation, in particular South-South and North-South-South cooperation.
- **Implementation function**
  - In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Conference, submit to UNESCO every biennium, after consulting with the relevant constituents, including with the field offices, Participation Programme requests in alignment with UNESCO’s programme priorities ;
  - Monitor, evaluate and report to the Organization on the implementation of the approved Participation Programme Requests;

- May contribute on a contractual basis to activities funded under UNESCO's regular programme budget and through extrabudgetary resources, ensuring that requirements for efficiency, effectiveness and accountability are observed;
  - Provide, upon request, relevant information for facilitating programme execution, including on the most appropriate national contractors, experts and partners;
  - Coordinate national responses to UNESCO-conducted surveys and reports on national implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments;
  - Seek support from potential donors at the national level for their own activities and where appropriate for supporting field office initiatives in this respect;
  - Assume responsibility for the proper use of the Organization's name and emblem in their respective country and consult the field office as appropriate.
- **Information and advocacy function**
    - Promote UNESCO's ideals and disseminate information on the Organization's activities and achievements, in order to strengthen UNESCO's impact at the national level;
    - Contribute to the visibility of UNESCO;
    - Work actively with the national media in order to bring the above to the attention of the public at large;
    - Organize national and awareness-raising events which come within UNESCO's fields of competence.

#### **Field offices**

- **Planning function**
  - Analyse in close cooperation with National Commissions and relevant line Ministries trends in the Organization's fields of competence in the countries they cover in order to inform policy-making and action at national, subregional, regional and global level;
  - Develop and coordinate in close cooperation with National Commissions national/cluster/regional strategic frameworks, UCPD and operational plans, for both regular programme and extrabudgetary activities, as a major input to UNESCO's overall planning process;
  - Ensure that national priorities in UNESCO's fields of competence are duly reflected in the United Nations Country Team's Common Country Assessment (CCA), in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and in joint activities for the advancement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as in the World Bank's Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP);
  - Draw up work plans for regular programme activities in close cooperation with National Commissions and ensure coherence and complementarities with Participation Programme requests.

- **Implementation function**

- Provide, upon request, policy advice and technical support to Member States in the formulation and review of policies and strategies in UNESCO's areas of competence;
- Act as broker for good practice and expert services;
- Support cooperation among National Commissions in subregions and beyond;
- Develop, implement and monitor UNESCO's regular programme and extrabudgetary activities in the country/ies under their coverage, including by consulting the National Commissions concerned and keeping them informed of progress;
- Document successes, failures and lessons learned in the execution of activities.
- Within the framework of the approved programme and budget, respond to unforeseen challenges and opportunities arising in the field.

- **Fundraising function**

- Cooperate with Member States in identifying and formulating development projects and mobilize funds for UNESCO activities;
- Ensure, with the help of National Commissions, that extrabudgetary activities and projects have received full endorsement by the respective Member State.
- Involve National Commissions in seeking opportunities for alignment and co-financing modalities via Government funded programmes.

- **Advocacy function**

- Promote and advocate UNESCO's ideals and objectives and disseminate them to governments, civil society, professional communities and the public at large with the support of National Commissions;
- Support governments, at their request, in the implementation of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments.

- **Contribute to the visibility of UNESCO**

- Promote international events which come within UNESCO's fields of competence including in cooperation with National Commissions;
- Maintain close relations with the media to ensure wide visibility, consulting National Commissions as appropriate to ensure complementarities;
- Develop communication strategies and reinforce on-line presence of the field offices with a view to enhance UNESCO's visibility within the national and international communities.

- **Clearing-house function**

- Gather, transfer, disseminate and share available information, knowledge and good practices on innovative solutions in UNESCO's fields of competence.

## EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

- Directors/Heads of field offices regularly inform Secretaries-General of National Commissions of:
  - Visiting missions of UNESCO staff and consultants;
  - Activities and projects to be carried out at the national level or which involve national participation and the results thereof;
  - Significant developments at UNESCO.
- Secretaries-General of National Commissions regularly inform Heads/Directors of national/cluster offices of:
  - National issues, statements, events, developments, policies that may affect UNESCO's activities within its fields of competence;
  - Their interactions with other parts of UNESCO;
  - Their cooperation with regional IGOs and with NGOs active in UNESCO's domains.

### Bilateral consultations

**Directors/Heads of Multisectoral Regional Offices in Africa/Cluster/National Offices regularly consult the Secretaries-General of National Commissions on:**

- The conceptualization of activities to be carried out at national level, within the cluster/national strategic frameworks agreed on at the sub-regional/cluster consultation;
- The identification of national partners.

### Secretaries-General of National Commissions:

Consult as appropriate with Directors/Heads of field offices to ensure consistency with UNESCO's programmes.

## PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

National Commissions and field offices reciprocate invitations to events they organize at the national level.

## CONSULTATION MECHANISM

### Consultation for the C/4 and C/5 documents

The modality of consultation for the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents emphasizes building regional inputs to the process from a base in country-level consultations. Country-level consultations are within the purview of Member States, through their National Commissions. Management of the linkage between country, subregional/cluster and regional consultation falls under responsibility of the Secretariat.

The modalities of regional consultations are presently under review. Please refer to document 192 EX/5 Part IIIC and related decision 192 EX/decision 5 IIIC.



### Country-level consultations

- *Who is in charge?*
  - The National Commission.
- *Who participates?*
  - All governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at country level and UNESCO field office covering the country in question.
- *When do they take place?*
  - Ideally, one meeting before the subregional/cluster and regional consultations.
- *What are the outcomes?*
  - The countries' input to the consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents.

### Subregional/Cluster-level consultations

- *Who is in charge?*
  - UNESCO cluster and regional offices, and in Africa, the Multisectoral Regional Offices.
- *Who participates?*
  - National Commissions and within budget available, other stakeholders and experts as appropriate, representatives of Regional Bureaux and UNESCO Institutes. UNESCO programme sectors and central services as well as other United Nations agencies and other partners may be invited to participate in these meetings, as relevant.
- *When do they take place?*
  - Ideally, at regular intervals and depending on budget availability during the four-year cycle. The meetings on the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents should be held, ideally in the spring/summer of the third year of the quadrennium, as per 192 EX/Decision 5.III.C and subsequent follow-up. In between meetings, collective consultations may be conducted by email.
- *What are the possible outcomes? Depending on the purpose of the consultation these could include, at the appropriate times:*
  - Regional/subregional/cluster/national strategic frameworks and operational plans to guide the implementation of the decentralized regular programme by field offices, the identification of projects for submission to extrabudgetary funding sources and advocacy and communication strategies;
  - Assessment of results achieved and follow-up of the implementation of activities and projects;
  - Review of management and coordination issues arising between the field offices and National Commissions;
  - Agreement on joint activities and increased synergy among National Commissions.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Role of National Commissions in encouraging partnerships

- **With the private sector**

UNESCO's National Commissions have a particular role to play in the engagement with a private partner. In addition to the mapping and identification of new partners at national and regional levels, and/or in the screening phase, the National Commissions are major stakeholders and UNESCO's natural interlocutors at the country level. It is of critical importance that any action be consulted, coordinated and sustained within the national development agenda. Partnering with the private sector in a given country should not be seen as purely opportunistic but rather embedded in a more long-term development perspective for the benefit of the country and the region at large.

- **With non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**

Relevant National Commissions for UNESCO are consulted during the admission process of NGOs into partnership with UNESCO, particularly when the request concerns a national or local NGO. Cooperation at country level is conducted in consultation and/or in partnership with the National Commission for UNESCO concerned.

National Commissions should identify NGOs that are relevant to the current work of UNESCO and support the admission of the Organization's non-governmental partners, both internationally and nationally, in order to increase the number of official NGO partners from all regions that actively cooperate with UNESCO.

## USE OF UNESCO NAME AND LOGO

### National Commissions and the use and authorization of the UNESCO name and logo

In addition to using the UNESCO name and logo themselves to promote UNESCO's visibility and outreach, National Commissions play an important role in the authorization of UNESCO's logo too.

National Commissions can authorize its own patronage, i.e. moral support, to civil society organizations' events at national level and grant the use of the UNESCO National Commission logo in this context. National Commissions can also authorize the use of their own logo when they organize joint events together with other national organizations in the framework of a partnership.

In addition, National Commissions are called to support the Secretariat by providing advice on logo use to members of UNESCO's vast networks, such as to managers of World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves, to UNESCO Associated Schools, as well as to the Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO, and UNESCO Chairs etc.

National Commissions are also called to support the Secretariat by providing recommendations when the Director-General's patronage is requested by civil society organizations in the relevant Member States.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-sixth session

# 196 EX/5

## Part III Corr.

PARIS, 26 March 2015  
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

### FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

#### PART III

#### EVALUATION ISSUES

#### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR ENHANCING THE COOPERATION OF THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WITH NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

#### CORRIGENDUM

Paragraphs 1, 22 and 26 should read as follows:

1. On the implementation of the Recommendations 1, 3,4,5,6 and 9 of the Action Plan, the Secretariat has received, as of 30 January 2015, reports from 38 Member States/National Commissions, namely Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Gabon, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Latvia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. [The Director-General expresses sincere thanks to these Member States for their active participation in the preparation of this progress report.] The following section highlights the progress achieved as well as challenges faced by the National Commissions concerned.

22. As for the National Commissions' role in the use of UNESCO's name, acronym, logo and Internet domain names, several National Commissions (Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Germany, Mauritius, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe) indicated that they were effectively assuming this responsibility.

26. Other good examples of inter-regional cooperation should also be mentioned. To quote only some of them, *the Korean National Commission for UNESCO has been operating five UNESCO Bridge projects, a "Staff Exchange Programme (STEP)" and a*

*“UNESCO Heritage Training Workshop for Developing Countries”. The beneficiaries of these projects are not only Asian and Pacific National Commissions, but also those in Africa and in the Caribbean region. The record of cooperation of the German Commission for UNESCO with other National Commissions is also exceptional. A unique example is the partnership programme with African National Commissions for UNESCO, focusing on capacity building measures and bilateral cooperation projects. The Uganda National Commission refers, in its report, to joint programmes which have been developed with the German and Korean National Commissions, including exchange visits and sharing of personnel. The Portuguese National Commission supports the National Commissions of Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe) by translating UNESCO’s reference documents into Portuguese and disseminating them to the Portuguese-speaking African countries.*



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-sixth session

# 196 EX/5 Part IV

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### FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

#### PART IV

#### MANAGEMENT ISSUES

##### SUMMARY

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of the progress achieved in the follow-up to the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions.

Part IV of this document contains information on the following Management issues:

#### **A. Management of the education-related category 1 institutes**

Pursuant to 37 C/Resolution 14 and 194 EX/Decision 7 the Director-General provides an update on the management of the education-related category 1 institutes.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 13.

#### **B. Sustainability of the current field network under the \$507 million expenditure plan**

Pursuant to 194 EX/Decision 4 (IV) and to 195 EX/Decision 5 (IV.D) the Director-General presents herein on the sustainability of the current field network under the \$507 million expenditure plan, and on the programme delivery capacities of the field offices within their respective available financial and human resources, as well as on the decentralization of programme resources from the programme sectors.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 30.

#### **C. Schedule and workload of Executive Board sessions**

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 9.

#### **D. Knowledge management and information technologies for enhanced programme delivery**

In line with 37 C/Resolution 63, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board a progress report on the implementation of the *Knowledge Management and ICT Strategy* as well as proposals for ensuring enhanced programme delivery using KM and ICT systems. The full text of the *Knowledge Management and ICT Strategy* is presented in document 196 EX/5.INF.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 29.

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**A. Management of the education-related category 1 institutes**

(Follow-up to 37 C/Resolution 14, 191 EX/Decision 17 (I), 194 EX/Decision 7)

**Introduction**

1. Pursuant to 37 C/Resolution 14 and 194 EX/Decision 7, this document presents updated information to the Executive Board on the management of the education-related category 1 institutes.

**Background**

2. In 2012, a comprehensive review of the network of six education-related category 1 institutes<sup>1</sup> was jointly undertaken by the Education Sector and UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) to obtain a full understanding of the issues which undermine their performance. From the review, 12 challenges were identified, relating to programme coordination and focus; organizational arrangements; and financial sustainability. The Executive Board, at its 191st session, examined these challenges and the solutions proposed to address them, and encouraged the Director-General to implement measures to improve the management and effective performance of these institutes (191 EX/Decision 17).

3. Furthermore, in his report on the governance and financial reporting of UNESCO's category 1 institutes (195 EX/23 Part 1), the External Auditor also referred to several issues related to the institutes' governance mechanisms, operational and budgetary problems, and the concept of autonomy. The Secretariat and the education-related institutes have made steady progress in implementing several of the proposed solutions, as well as the recommendations of IOS (191 EX/22.INF) and of the External Auditor. Work is still ongoing to fully address all of the identified challenges.

**Measures taken to improve management and performance of the institutes***Necessary amendments to the statutes of education-related category 1 institutes*

4. As one of the measures to improve the management of the institutes, all institutes' statutes were revised to reflect the introduction of term limits for institutes' Directors and adjustments to the appointment and membership process of their governing bodies. The revised statutes were approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 14).<sup>2</sup> Consequently, all institutes' Directors are now appointed for one-term of office of a maximum six years and in line with the staff rules and regulations of the Organization. Applying term limits to institutes' Directors ensures the continued dynamism of new leadership for institutes to remain at the cutting-edge of relevant know-how and progress in their areas of expertise. Adjustments have also been made to the size and composition of the institutes' Governing Boards/Councils, which have resulted in more efficient and effective consultation and decision-making processes.

5. In the case of IBE's statutes, there remains one revision to be made concerning the appointment process of the institute's Director so as to fully comply with the General Conference Resolution (37 C/Resolution 14). Amendments to Article V (f) of IBE's statutes are therefore proposed in the Annex to this document.

<sup>1</sup> The six institutes are the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE), UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE), UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA), and UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC). The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) was not operational at the time of the review and therefore not included in the evaluation.

<sup>2</sup> As authorized by the General Conference (37 C/Res.14), the Executive Board approved the amendments to IESALC's statutes at its 194th session in April 2014 (194 EX/Decision 7).

*Core issues of functional autonomy defined*

6. The Secretariat has started the process of clarifying three core issues of institutes' functional autonomy specifically, (a) programme management and coordination; (b) human resources management; and (c) finance and budget administration and management. Preliminary discussions have taken place between the Education Sector, the Bureaux of Human Resources, and of Financial Management, as well as with IOS and the education-related category 1 institutes, to define a table of authority and accountability for institutes which complies with UNESCO's rules and regulations for human resources, and administrative and financial matters. Clarification will be made to outline the specific responsibilities and accountabilities of all concerned stakeholders namely, the Education Sector, relevant Corporate Services at Headquarters and the institutes themselves. Efforts are still ongoing to reach consensus.

**UNESCO's financial contribution**

7. With the current biennium's financial constraints, UNESCO's financial allocation to IITE (based in Moscow, the Russian Federation) and IESALC (based in Caracas, Venezuela) will not be sufficient to fund the respective institute director's post after taking into account the cost of programme activities and other staff costs. These two institutes are functioning almost entirely on UNESCO's regular programme (RP) allocations and with limited in-kind contribution from the host countries.

8. Looking ahead to the financial situation foreseen for the 38 C/5 (ZNG budget scenario) and the likelihood of the severe budgetary constraints under its \$507 million expenditure plan, UNESCO will not be in a position to raise the level of its RP contributions towards the core funding of institutes. If the financial situation does not improve and unless alternative solutions are found, it is highly probable that UNESCO would have no other choice than to further downsize the institutes and abolish a number of occupied RP institute posts.

**Future sustainability of the education-related category 1 institutes**

9. The Secretariat remains committed to supporting all seven of its education-related category 1 institutes, but it is faced with a genuine concern over the future of the network of these institutes. As indicated in the IOS review, the financial sustainability of all institutes, and in particular of the IITE and IESALC, is a serious concern for UNESCO and its Member States. The model arrangement which should be considered as a future solution is one currently in place for the UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), based in New Delhi. MGIEP is supported by the Indian authorities with core funding of US \$2.2 million provided annually to UNESCO for the institute's activities, while the Organization provides financing for the post of its Director. Aside from funding MGIEP's activities and programmes, the Indian financial contribution covers the staff costs for five international and seven national posts, thus enabling MGIEP to operate with a core professional team of staff to perform the institute's regional and global function.

10. The education-related category 1 institutes need, at the very least, host countries' core contributions which would cover the cost towards the establishment of a central staffing structure (which includes a minimum of one international and four to five national Professional posts), funding for activities and maintenance of institute's premises. Without such a core team of professional staff and the minimum host country's core contributions towards activities and maintenance of premises, these institutes will not be able to carry out their mandates as UNESCO category 1 institutes.

11. As regards IITE and IESALC, the Secretariat has proposed this idea to the Russian authorities in relation to IITE and the Venezuelan authorities concerning IESALC, so as to allow these institutes to operate with the requisite core professional team and perform their mandated functions.



## Conclusion/summary

12. Given this situation and the potential imminent risk related to the financial sustainability of several of the education-related category 1 institutes, guidance is sought from the Executive Board to help the Secretariat devise solutions as regards the institutes' future.

## Proposed decision

13. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Resolution 14, 191 EX/Decision 17 (I), 192 EX/Decision 14 (II), and 194 EX/Decision 7,
2. Having examined document 196 EX/5 Part IV (A) on the update of the management of the education-related category 1 institutes,
3. Noting the efforts made by the Secretariat to improve the effective performance and management of these institutes,
4. Mindful of the severe financial constraints under which the Organization is functioning,
5. Encourages the Director-General to continue implementing measures to improve the management of the education-related category 1 institutes;
6. Supports the proposed amendments to the statutes of the International Bureau of Education contained in the Annex to document 196 EX/5 Part IV, and invites the Director-General to transmit them to the General Conference at its 38th session for its consideration;
7. Takes into consideration the comments of the Director-General on the situation of the financial sustainability of the education-related institutes and the related debate/discussions at its 196th session on this subject;
8. Strongly appeals to host countries to provide the core budget needed for the education-related category 1 institutes to maintain a core team and programme to perform their mandated function;
9. Decides to transmit the Secretariat's report and the Executive Board's comments on the management of the education-related category 1 institutes to the General Conference at its 38th session.

## ANNEX

### STATUTES OF INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION (IBE)

PRESENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT	RATIONALE FOR AMENDMENTS
Article V	Article V	
<p>The tasks of the Council shall be:</p> <p>(a) ...</p> <p>(b) ...</p> <p>(c) ...</p> <p>(d) ...</p> <p>(e) ...</p> <p>(f) to submit to the Director-General a list of at least three names with a view to the appointment of a director in accordance with the provisions of Article VI below;</p> <p>(g) to submit to the General Conference at each of its ordinary sessions a report on the activities of the Bureau.</p>	<p>The tasks of the Council shall be:</p> <p>(a) ...</p> <p>(b) ...</p> <p>(c) ...</p> <p>(d) ...</p> <p>(e) ...</p> <p><del>(f) to submit to the Director-General a list of at least three names with a view to the appointment of a director in accordance with the provisions of Article VI below;</del></p> <p>(f) to submit to the General Conference at each of its ordinary sessions a report on the activities of the Bureau.</p>	<p>This revision is made necessary by changes to Article VI. 1, as approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 14).</p>
Article VI	Article VI	
<p>1. The Director of the Bureau shall be appointed by the Director-General in consultation with the Council, for a term of office of maximum six (6) years, in accordance with Article V(f).</p>	<p>1. The Director of the Bureau shall be appointed by the Director-General in consultation with the Council, for a term of office of maximum six (6) years, <del>in accordance with Article V(f).</del></p>	<p>Changes required to reflect changes made to Article V(f).</p>

**B. Sustainability of the current field network under the \$507 million expenditure plan**  
(Follow-up to 194 EX/Decision 4 (IV), 195 EX/Decision 5 (IV, D))

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**Introduction**

1. The General Conference, at its 36th session, approved a comprehensive reform of the UNESCO's field network in order to enhance the quality and the efficiency of service delivery to Member States, ensure a more flexible and visible presence at the regional and country levels and to improve alignment with the United Nations system-wide coherence. Flexibility, quality improvement and efficiency were the keys targets of the reform, which is the integral part of the Director-General's overall reform of the organization. While approving this comprehensive field network reform, the General Conference also endorsed the revised implementation plan proposed by the Director-General aimed at optimization of the financial resources and agreed to her proposal to concentrate the implementation of the first phase of the field network reform on Africa. Progress reports on the state of progress of the reform of the field network were submitted on a regular basis to the Executive Board, at its 190th, 191st, 192nd and 194th sessions.

2. At the time of approval by the 36th General Conference of the reform of the field network, the implementation of the next phase of the field reform, concerning Arab States, was deferred until the 2014-2015 biennium. However, given the Organization's financial environment, the Director-General, when submitting her progress report of implementation of the field network to the Executive Board at its 192nd session, recommended that the roll-out of the field reform to other regions be suspended pending full clarity about the budget for 2014-2015. The financial constraints of \$507 million expenditure plan did not permit provision of funding to carry out implementation of the field network reform in other regions

3. After having examined the progress report provided in 194 EX/4 Part IV the Executive Board adopted decision 194 EX/Decision 4 (IV) and requested the Director-General to report to it at its 196th session on the sustainability of the current field network under the \$507 million expenditure plan, and on the programme delivery capacities of the field offices within their respective available financial and human resources, as well as on the decentralization of programme resources from the programme sectors. It also requested the Director-General to ensure, ideally by its 195th session, but no later than the end of 2014, that all Directors of field offices have signed performance agreements with clear objectives and targets, with consistent associated indicators. It also requested the Director-General to ensure appropriate alternative mechanism that would carry out the functions initially foreseen for the regional support platform.

4. 195 EX/Decision 5 (IV.D) further requested the Director-General to continue her efforts to fully implement 194 EX/Decision 4 (IV) to make field operations more effective and efficient.

**Evolution of the field network**

5. At present, the reformed field network in Africa coexists with a field structure in other regions, resulting from the decentralization strategy and implementation action plan approved by the Executive Board in 2000-2001 based on a three-tier approach. This approach consists of cluster offices, each serving a manageable number of Member States in all UNESCO fields of competence backed by specialized thematic regional bureaux, and supported by a number of national offices established on the basis of specific efficiency criteria approved by the General Conference (E-9 countries, countries in transition or countries experiencing conflict or post conflict situations). Cluster offices were conceived as main programme delivery platforms supporting subregional approaches as well country-level action. Directors of Cluster Offices perform representational functions in each Member State under the cluster coverage. In the event of existence of national office within the cluster, country level actions and representational functions in the Member State are transferred to the Head of the national office. Regional Bureaux were devised as sources of sectoral expertise and support, developing regional strategies and policies.

6. During the reorganization of the network of field offices which took place essentially between 2001 and 2004 the number of field offices was reduced from 74 field entities (including 4 Liaison Offices) to 53 entities (including 2 Liaison Offices). The 2014-2015 field structure is composed of 54 offices (including 4 Liaison Offices). The list of field offices with their geographical coverage is included in Annex 4.

7. Structural weaknesses of this structure, namely (a) need for clarification of mandates of cluster offices also functioning as regional bureaux and (b) need for clarification of reporting lines given multiple direct linkages between all types of field offices and Headquarters, led to the concept of two-tier architecture for improved effectiveness and efficiency approved by the 36<sup>th</sup> General Conference. Multisectoral regional offices (MSR) and national offices are anchors of this new structure which was hoped to be steadily introduced in all regions. The key roles, responsibilities and functions across the reformed field network in Africa are outlined in DG/Note/14/2 of 3 January 2014.

### **Overall progress report**

8. The implementation of phase 1 of the field reform, focused on Africa, has been completed by the end of 2013 (as announced by the Director-General in her DG/Note/14/2 of 3 January 2014) and the new UNESCO field network is largely in place. It consists of five multisectoral regional offices (Abuja, Dakar, Harare, Nairobi and Yaoundé) and 11 national offices, with support of antennas/project antennas/desks. The reform led to improved, though not ideal, deployment of additional expertise and human resources in the multisectoral regional offices, both from Headquarters and from national offices. The structure of the field network in Africa is represented in Annex 5.

9. Further increases in programme staff levels would undoubtedly improve multisectoral responses to Member States and provide opportunities for multisectoral programming and project formulation. Large projects, currently managed by programme sectors at Headquarters (in particular Education) should be delegated to the multisectoral regional offices in the course of 2015. The regional support functions of multisectoral regional offices will need to be further strengthened to ensure effective and pro-active backstopping and support to the national offices.

10. In follow-up to the decision to suspend the establishment of the regional support platform in Addis Ababa, given the austerity conditions of the \$507 million expenditure plan, standard administrative structures have been established for field offices in Africa and are being extended to other regions. These structures are configured on the basis of role/nature/size of the field office and take into account the volume of financial and human resources managed by the office as well as the level of complexity related to the increase harmonisation principle of the United Nations system. In duty stations hosting more than one UNESCO entity (either two field offices, i.e. Amman, or field office and category 1 institute, i.e. New Delhi and Addis Ababa) single administrative structures are being put in place with a view to optimization of resources and functions.

11. UNESCO Internal Oversight Service will review lessons learnt from the field reform in Africa and a report thereon will be presented by the Director-General at the 197th session of the Executive Board.

12. The enhanced delegation of authority and streamlined reporting lines (DG/Note/14/3 of 3 January 2014 refers) which support the reform of the field network, should lead to better coordination and accountability for programme actions and equip Directors/Heads of field offices with adequate tools to better meet expectations of the Member States, mobilize partnerships, and affirm UNESCO's position within the United Nations system. Indicative chart illustrating current reporting and accountability lines is provided in Annex 3.

13. Performance agreements for all Directors/Heads of field offices, with clear performance objectives and targets, and accompanied by consistent performance indicators (concentrated around their main responsibility axes i.e. leadership and management in the programme areas, human resources management, management of financial resources and assets, mobilization of extrabudgetary resources, integration of UNESCO's action in United Nations system initiatives and management of external relations and building of partnerships), have been developed under the coordination of BSP, in collaboration with programme sectors, central services and field offices. These have been integrated into the UNESCO house-wide performance assessment tool MyTalent and have been validated by Directors/Heads of field offices by the end of 2014. Coordinated performance assessments will be carried out vis-à-vis these common objectives by the end of 2015, in close coordination with all relevant Sectors and Services.

14. The UNESCO Office in Moscow will close in September 2015 with full agreement of Russian authorities. UNESCO's presence and activities in the Russian Federation will nevertheless be continued through activities of the Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE).

### **Sustainability of the field network**

15. Information regarding decentralized financial resources and human resources under the \$507 million expenditure plan, as well as extrabudgetary funds and respective implementation rates, is provided in Annexes 1 and 2 to this document. Detailed information regarding government in kind contributions to field offices is contained in document 196 EX/4 Part II. These contributions concern, to large extent, provision of rent-free premises and, in a number of offices, contribution toward maintenance and utility costs of the office.

16. Regular programme funds are decentralized by programme sectors according to their respective strategies. The Education Sector's decentralization policy is to decentralize funds to the five Multisectoral Regional Offices in Africa as well as to the three Regional Bureaux in other regions (Beirut, Bangkok and Santiago). Directors of these offices have full autonomy to decentralize the funds to the cluster and/or national offices within their respective regions or subregions.

17. Similarly, the decentralization strategy of the Natural Sciences Sector consists of attributing programme funds as a priority to Africa and its five multisectoral regional offices and to offices with presence of SC international professional staff. With respect to the other regions, funds are decentralized in priority to the Regional Bureaux for Sciences (Montevideo, Jakarta, Venice and Cairo) and then to the offices where there are SC international professional staff. This decentralization rate for programme funds for the 2014-2015 biennium (38.3%) reflects the requirements of the International Science Programmes and the need for centralized funds to organize statutory meetings and obligations. Overall the implementation rate of SC decentralized funds is below the expected level at the end of 2014 as a result of the restructuring of the Organization, reduced human resources and number of vacant posts under recruitment.

18. With a view to achieving greater regional coordination and coherence, the decentralized SHS funds are concentrated in the multisectoral regional offices in Africa or regional bureaux in the other regions. Further decentralization is made to the other cluster offices, in line with the work plans, through these regional bureaux/offices.

19. The Culture Sector also allocates regular programme funds to the five multisectoral regional offices in Africa which in turn distribute them depending on activities carried out by national offices under their responsibility, whereas in other regions a Culture Sector programme specialist is assigned with responsibility of consulting and preparing consolidated regional work plans based on which funds are decentralized by the Sector to the respective field offices.

20. The CI Sector has traditionally decentralized the majority of funds identified for programme delivery to UNESCO field offices where programmatic intervention is most desired and where the needs are high. Accordingly, CI allocates 56% of its direct programme budget to field offices with priority given to the African continent. The Sector's staffing strategy also focuses on ensuring expertise in communication and information in all of UNESCO's multisectoral regional offices in Africa and cluster offices globally, thereby ensuring that funds decentralized are well utilized to meet the expected results.

21. Given the limited resources under UNESCO's regular programme, regular programme funds decentralized to field offices remain modest and insufficient for achievement of the C/5 expected results and thereby jeopardize the sustainability of the field network. Inevitably, they need to be complemented by extrabudgetary funds in order to provide significant contributions in support of national, subregional and regional priorities and to be able to position UNESCO with joint United Nations initiatives at the country and regional levels.

22. Tangible field presence enhances partnership building and resource mobilization opportunities from national, regional partner organizations, universities, academic institutions, private sectors partners and foundations. Strengthening of technical national capacities and enhanced visibility of UNESCO's action also figure among advantages of country presence.

23. UNESCO's field offices are in a unique position to forge long-lasting strategic and innovative partnerships and to support the policy development and programmatic efforts of governments. Field presence allows for more effective and customized programming for technical advice and capacity development support to Member States due to a better understanding of the local contexts and policy environments which may be necessary for customizing global instruments to fit local needs.

24. By establishing itself as a trusted and respected partner vis-à-vis national counterparts, field offices can effectively advocate for and support the implementation of the United Nations normative framework, bring in expertise in their areas of competence and improve cooperation with other agencies and thereby can avoid mission creep from other agencies. The physical presence of UNESCO in the United Nations Country Teams, and in particular in elaboration of UNDAFs ensures that organization's mandates priorities and programme areas are adequately incorporated in the critical instruments of joint United Nations system actions. The technical and normative strength of UNESCO adds value to the joint United Nations programmes and projects, and that despite its limited resources.

25. UNESCO's field presence increases the Organization's visibility through national and local media, in particular in national local languages, and enables efficient and timely communications with partners on the ground through formal and informal means.

26. In the current constrained financial climate all the support from host governments and Member States in general comes as valuable aid to the UNESCO field operations and activities. In many field offices UNESCO benefits from secondments of national experts and of other personnel support such as interns and volunteers. In addition to the contributions and assistance foreseen in the host country agreements, other contributions in kind have been made by host countries such as funding of conferences and events organized by UNESCO and contributions to the running costs and maintenance of the premises (including significant renovations of premises i.e. Bangkok Office). However, it is also noted that in some countries these host-country agreements may not be as favourable for UNESCO in terms of rental, running costs, secondments and other staff support, support to activities, and other forms of support. These may need to be reviewed as appropriate in cooperation with the concerned Member State.

27. Existence of cluster field offices in specific geo-political and socio-economic environments, particularly those covering island states, represents specific capacity-building advantages due to the proximity and common development challenges.

28. Over the past years, UNESCO has been increasingly involved in rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in countries emerging from political conflicts and in countries affected by natural disasters. As a result of its presence on the ground (i.e. Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire) UNESCO is also more engaged with United Nations partners. This presence is also a vector for mobilization of extrabudgetary funds through participation in development of common United Nations humanitarian and capacity-building initiatives.

29. In conclusion, limitations of the financial resources, and more specifically the constraints of the \$507 million expenditure plan, have disadvantaged the streamlining of the field network by halting the extension of reform of the network to other regions and thereby preventing achievement of homogeneity of the structure, programme implementation, reporting and accountability lines. Nevertheless, and despite obvious constraints resulting from reduced core regular programme resources, UNESCO's presence at the field level remains highly desired by Member States and partners on the ground. Effective mobilization of extrabudgetary funds, innovative ways of programme implementation and capitalization of UNESCO's added value, combined with concrete engagement and commitment of Member States towards maintenance of the organization's presence in their respective countries represent a way forward for a sustainable field network. Recognizing that a number of initiatives are under way to improve UNESCO's field network sustainability, the Director-General proposes that the effectiveness and efficiency of field network in discharge of UNESCO's mandate and delivery of its programmes be assessed by the 200th session of the Executive Board.

### **Proposed decision**

30. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 194 EX/Decision 4 (IV) and 195 EX/Decision 5 (IV.D),
2. Having examined document 196 EX/5 Part IV (B) on the sustainability of the field network under the \$507 million expenditure plan,
3. Notes the progress achieved in the phase 1 of the field reform in Africa,
4. Notes that performance agreements have been developed and validated by all Directors/Heads of field offices, with clear objectives and targets, accompanied by relevant performance indicators;
5. Notes that alternative administrative and financial arrangements have been put in place in Africa as a result of suspension of the establishment of the administrative platform, and are being implemented in all field offices;
6. Recognizes that while the \$507 million expenditure plan does not allow the desired efficiency and effectiveness of programme implementation, efforts are being made to optimize the limited available resources and that innovative alternative ways for programme delivery have been deployed;
7. Invites Member States to fully comply with provisions in the respective existing host country agreements concerning backstopping and support to the field offices located in their countries, and further invites Member States to review as appropriate their current level of support to UNESCO's Field Offices, in terms of rental, running costs, secondments and other staff support, support to activities, and other forms of support;
8. Further invites Member States to explore ways and means of assisting UNESCO field offices operations and programme delivery through financial and in-kind contributions and logistic facilities;

9. Requests the Director-General to pursue efforts in ensuring the deployment of adequate human resources to the field offices, as possible;
10. Further requests the Director-General to report to it at its 200th session on the progress achieved including analysis of the sustainability of the field network, status of implementation of the regular programme resources and level of mobilization of extrabudgetary resources.



## ANNEX I

2014-1015 DECENTRALIZED FUNDS BY MULTISECTORAL REGIONAL OFFICE,  
CLUSTER OFFICE AND/OR REGIONAL BUREAU

Regular Programme - Status as at 31 December 2014																				EXB		
Decentralized programme funds including donations (in thousands of US Dollars)																						
Office Grouping	Staff Costs	Total Posts and Contracts	Management of Field Offices	Exp. Rate	Joint UN (Field Security)	ED	Exp. Rate	SC	Exp. Rate	SHS	Exp. Rate	CLT	Exp. Rate	CI	Exp. Rate	Sub-total 5 MPs	Exp. Rate	Total RP	Exp. Rate	Extra-budgetary	Exp. Rate	Total Posts and Contracts
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>41,312</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>7,560</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>7,339</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>16,028</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>25,851</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>162</b>
Abuja (+ Abidjan, Accra+ Monrovia)	6,728	55	1,284	49%	138	521	27%	172	24%	-	-	160	15%	242	30%	1,095	25%	2,517	41%	3,514	83%	13
Dakar (+ Bamako)	7,211	45	1,185	57%	288	557	33%	205	60%	295	56%	152	40%	154	39%	1,363	43%	2,834	52%	7,216	72%	21
Harare (+ Maputo, Windhoek)	7,380	45	1,481	55%	315	595	30%	360	29%	40	48%	152	36%	133	47%	1,270	33%	3,086	50%	3,692	79%	38
Nairobi (+ Addis Ababa, Dar-es-Salaam, Juba)	11,437	69	2,185	50%	136	544	40%	629	52%	671	24%	195	54%	387	58%	2,425	42%	4,747	48%	5,658	69%	40
Yaounde (Brazzaville, Bujumbura, Kinshasa, Libreville)	8,577	75	1,425	46%	253	508	44%	185	39%	80	75%	167	59%	248	35%	1,188	46%	2,864	50%	5,771	66%	50
<b>Asia &amp; Pacific</b>	<b>33,927</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>6,120</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>2,782</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>6,690</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>13,920</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>37,345</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>192</b>
Almaty (+ Tasikent)	2,626	31	461	38%	118	198	33%	70	9%	-	-	62	49%	170	50%	500	37%	1,079	41%	508	88%	3
Apo	2,632	18	373	45%	14	198	50%	100	49%	75	43%	60	65%	63	61%	498	52%	884	50%	723	46%	5
Bangkok (+Hanoi, Phnom Penh)	12,933	88	1,168	45%	236	1,707	50%	105	36%	264	40%	393	52%	184	44%	2,854	48%	4,058	49%	9,592	62%	90
Beijing	3,448	20	796	44%	7	198	30%	68	57%	137	53%	138	89%	102	55%	640	54%	1,443	49%	1,590	57%	7
Jakarta	3,448	25	700	48%	103	198	19%	572	41%	135	54%	40	71%	50	27%	995	39%	1,797	45%	5,558	58%	28
New Delhi (+ Dhaka, Kathmandu)	5,058	45	1,074	47%	188	233	22%	362	6%	35	51%	147	55%	287	59%	1,063	32%	2,305	43%	1,340	71%	20
Tehran (+ Islamabad, Kabul)	3,782	53	1,548	52%	465	50	55%	70	30%	-	-	77	56%	145	19%	342	35%	2,354	57%	18,034	57%	39
<b>Arab States</b>	<b>20,943</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>6,532</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>27,007</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>110</b>
Beirut (+ Amman, Baghdad, Ramallah)	10,500	55	1,520	46%	332	705	63%	105	5%	221	43%	232	19%	179	45%	1,442	46%	3,294	51%	23,175	65%	79
Cairo (+Khartoum)	4,831	35	562	52%	82	64	29%	564	34%	194	6%	68	70%	65	17%	945	29%	1,589	40%	2,735	35%	13
Doha	2,781	12	196	33%	48	194	49%	121	61%	27	45%	60	11%	69	39%	471	46%	715	46%	466	61%	7
Rabat	2,852	22	278	43%	121	90	58%	30	88%	234	45%	63	7%	138	43%	558	45%	954	49%	641	82%	11
<b>Eur &amp; N.A.</b>	<b>8,883</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>23</b>
Brussels	1,096	4	310	49%	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	321	50%	145	84%	3
Geneva	1,664	2	93	49%	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	49%	-	-	0
Moscow	1,135	7	168	44%	81	-	-	-	35	72%	50	80%	-	-	-	85	76%	334	65%	505	94%	1
New York	2,893	11	744	47%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	35%	28	36%	772	46%	1	58%	1
Venice	2,098	9	320	39%	10	-	-	214	29%	24	0%	99	40%	-	-	337	30%	667	35%	4,111	58%	18
<b>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</b>	<b>23,945</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>3,583</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>2,950</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>6,943</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>11,105</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>77,286</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>86</b>
Havana (+Port-au-Prince+Santo Domingo)	3,629	38	684	39%	56	78	58%	30	34%	-	-	147	60%	83	28%	337	49%	1,088	45%	3,620	45%	12
Kinshasa	2,731	15	264	50%	12	87	56%	112	38%	58	33%	75	59%	141	54%	474	49%	749	50%	111	41%	2
Montevideo (+ Brasilia)	5,824	27	570	48%	218	-	-	677	41%	527	45%	169	74%	181	55%	1,553	48%	2,341	50%	81,250	78%	38
Quito (+ Lima)	3,257	28	544	46%	60	21	99%	49	10%	-	-	101	81%	76	45%	247	57%	851	52%	8,782	94%	9
San Jose (+Guatemala, Mexico)	4,739	34	941	49%	98	66	27%	75	84%	80	41%	984	41%	407	32%	1,592	40%	2,631	45%	1,247	87%	12
Santiago	3,786	18	570	45%	135	2,898	82%	-	-	-	-	25	60%	17	99%	2,740	82%	3,445	75%	2,275	93%	13
<b>Total decentralized funds</b>	<b>129,010</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>21,453</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>3,482</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>4,852</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>3,549</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>24,836</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>49,772</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>172,252</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>573</b>

**ANNEX II**  
**STAFFING BY CATEGORY AND BY REGION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014 ((SITUATION AS REFLECTED IN STEPS))**

		RP ESTABLISHED POSTS as at 31 Dec. 2014 <i>(including local field posts NO/G funded by Emergency funds until end Dec. 2015 to be considered for inclusion in 38 C/5)</i>				Vacancy Rate as of Feb. 2015*	POSTS AND CONTRACTS as at 31 Dec. 2014**		
		Filled [a]	Vacant [b]	Total Posts [c]	Vacancy Rate [b/c]		Regular Programme	Extrabudgetary Funds	TOTAL
AFRICA	Programmes	66	23	89	26%	19%	99	124	223
	Administration	34	22	56	39%	27%	87	19	106
	Management	55	18	73	25%	16%	103	19	122
	<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>451</b>
ARAB STATES	Programmes	29	8	37	22%	11%	47	76	123
	Administration	18	7	25	28%	20%	32	18	50
	Management	27	7	34	21%	9%	45	16	61
	<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>234</b>
ASIA & THE PACIFIC	Programmes	65	13	78	17%	11%	98	156	254
	Administration	33	14	47	30%	22%	75	11	86
	Management	57	5	62	8%	8%	107	25	132
	<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>472</b>
EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA	Programmes	12	1	13	8%	7%	15	10	25
	Administration	4		4	0%	0%	7	5	12
	Management	8	2	10	20%	20%	11	8	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>56</b>
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN	Programmes	35	10	45	22%	20%	56	52	108
	Administration	25	7	32	22%	16%	43	18	61
	Management	38	8	46	17%	13%	59	16	75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>1457</b>	

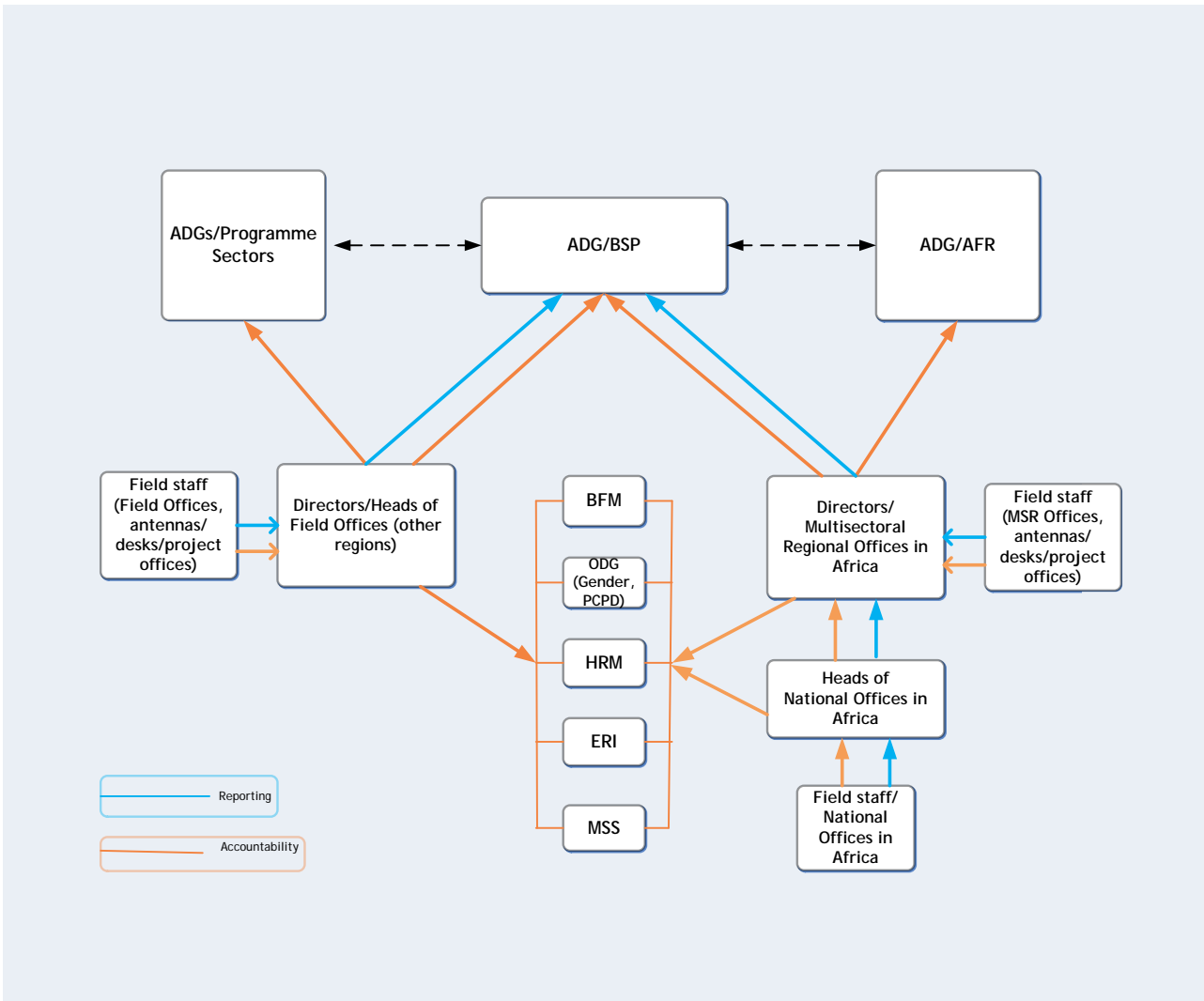
**Programmes** : ED, CLT, SC, IOC, CI, SHS, AFR and ERI; **Administration**: administrative finance support posts; **Management** : Directors/Heads and their direct support

(\*) Including decisions on appointments, transfers, abolitions being registered in the personal database (STEPS)

(\*\*) Including RP/EXB Established Posts, local field posts NO/G funded by Emergency funds until end Dec. 2015 and considered temporary for administrative purposes, temporary functions (f-t/PA, Temporary Appointments, Junior Professional Officers (JPO) and secondments) and temporary contracts (Services Contracts (SC) and Loans).

**ANNEX III**

**FIELD OFFICES REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY LINES**  
 (DG/Note/14/03 of 3 January 2014 refers)



## ANNEX IV

## LIST OF FIELD OFFICES BY REGION

Region/Office	Office Type	Country Coverage
<b>Africa</b>		
UNESCO Liaison Office in Addis Ababa	Liaison & National Office	Liaison Office to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; and National Office for Ethiopia
UNESCO Office in Abidjan	National Office	Côte d'Ivoire
UNESCO Office in Abuja	Multisectoral Regional Office	West Africa: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo
UNESCO Office in Accra	National Office	Ghana
UNESCO Office in Bamako	National Office	Mali
UNESCO Office in Brazzaville	National Office	Congo
UNESCO Office in Dakar	Multisectoral Regional Office	West Africa (Sahel): Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal
UNESCO Office in Dar-es-Salaam	National Office	United Republic of Tanzania
UNESCO Office in Harare	Multisectoral Regional Office	Southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe
UNESCO Office in Juba	National Office	The Republic of South Sudan
UNESCO Office in Kinshasa	National Office	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
UNESCO Office in Libreville	National Office	Gabon
UNESCO Office in Maputo	National Office	Mozambique
UNESCO Office in Nairobi	Multisectoral Regional Office	East Africa: Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania
UNESCO Office in Windhoek	National Office	Namibia
UNESCO Office in Yaoundé	Multisectoral Regional Office	Central Africa: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe
	House for a Culture of Peace (Bujumbura)	
	Project Antenna/Desks	Antananarivo, Bangui, Comoros, Cotonou, Djibouti, Gaborone, Johannesburg, Kampala, Kigali, Lilongwe, Luanda, Lusaka, Monrovia, N'djamena
<b>Arab States</b>		
UNESCO Office in Amman	National Office	Jordan
UNESCO Office in Beirut	Regional & Cluster	Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States; and Cluster Office to Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Iraq, the Palestinian Territories.
UNESCO Office in Cairo	Regional & Cluster	Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States; and Cluster Office for Egypt, Libya, Sudan.

Region/Office	Office Type	Country Coverage
UNESCO Office in Doha	Cluster Office	Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
UNESCO Office for Iraq	National Office	Iraq
UNESCO Office in Khartoum	National Office	Sudan
UNESCO Office in Rabat	Cluster Office	Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia
UNESCO Office in Ramallah	National Office	The Palestinian Territories

Asia and Pacific		
UNESCO Office in Almaty	Cluster Office	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
UNESCO Office in Apia	Cluster Office	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Tokelau (Associate Member)
UNESCO Office in Bangkok	Regional & Cluster	Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific; and  Cluster Office to Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Singapore, Viet Nam, Cambodia.
UNESCO Office in Beijing	Cluster Office	The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea (ROK)
UNESCO Office in Dhaka	National Office	Bangladesh
UNESCO Office in Hanoi	National Office	Viet Nam
UNESCO Office in Islamabad	National Office	Pakistan
UNESCO Office in Jakarta	Regional & Cluster	Regional Bureau for Sciences in Asia and the Pacific; and  Cluster Office to Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste.
UNESCO Office in Kabul	National Office	Afghanistan
UNESCO Office in Kathmandu	National Office	Nepal
UNESCO Office in New Delhi	Cluster Office	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka
UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh	National Office	Cambodia
UNESCO Office in Tashkent	National Office	Uzbekistan
UNESCO Office in Tehran	Cluster Office	Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan
	Project Antenna/Desks	Dili, Yangon, Ulaanbaatar
Europe and North America		
UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels	Liaison Office	The European Union and its subsidiaries bodies in Brussels
UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva	Liaison Office	The United Nations in Geneva
UNESCO Liaison Office in New York	Liaison Office	The United Nations in New York
UNESCO Office in Moscow	Cluster Office	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation

UNESCO Office in Venice	Regional Bureau	Regional Bureau for Sciences and Culture in Europe and North America
	Project Antenna/Desks	Sarajevo
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>		
UNESCO Office in Brasilia	National Office	Brazil
UNESCO Office in Guatemala	National Office	Guatemala
UNESCO Office in Havana	Regional & Cluster	Regional Bureau for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean; and  Cluster Office to Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Aruba.
UNESCO Office in Kingston	Cluster Office	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago as well as the associate member states of British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Anguilla
UNESCO Office in Lima	National Office	Peru
UNESCO Office in Mexico	National Office	Mexico
UNESCO Office in Montevideo	Regional & Cluster	Regional Bureau for Sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean; and  Cluster Office to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay.
UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince	National Office	Haiti
UNESCO Office in Quito	Cluster Office	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
UNESCO Office in San José	Cluster Office	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
UNESCO Office in Santiago de Chile	Regional & National	Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean; and  National Office to Chile.
	Project Antenna/Desks	Santo Domingo, Buenos Aires (Villa Ocampo)

## ANNEX V

**OVERVIEW TABLE OF THE REFORMED UNESCO FIELD NETWORK IN AFRICA**  
(as per DG/Note/14/2 of 3 January 2014)

Regions	Multisectoral Regional Office	Country Coverage	National Office <sup>1</sup>	Project Antenna/Desk
<b>West Africa (Sahel)</b>	Dakar	Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal	Bamako	
<b>West Africa</b>	Abuja	Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo	Abidjan, Accra	Monrovia
<b>East Africa</b>	Nairobi	Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania	Addis Ababa <sup>2</sup> , Dar-es-Salaam, Juba	Antananarivo, Comoros, Djibouti, Kampala, Kigali,
<b>Southern Africa</b>	Harare	Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Maputo, Windhoek	Gaborone, Johannesburg, Lilongwe, Lusaka
<b>Central Africa</b>	Yaoundé	Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe	Brazzaville, Kinshasa, Libreville	Luanda, N'Djamena, Bangui
	<b>5 Regional Offices</b>	<b>47 Countries</b>	<b>11 National Offices</b>	<b>13 Project Antennas/Desks</b>

1 Excluding the former national office in Bujumbura, this was transformed and consolidated as the "House for a Culture of Peace" in Burundi.

2 The Addis Ababa Liaison office has a dual function as liaison office to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and as a national office for Ethiopia.

**C. Schedule and workload of Executive Board sessions**

(Follow-up to 192 EX/Decision 16 (VII), 195 EX/Decision 5 (IV, E))

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**Background**

1. The Special Committee of the Executive Board at its last session considered document 195 EX/5 Part IV (E) and reviewed the conclusions of the progress report on the implementation of 192 EX/Decision 16 (VII) of the Executive Board on the enhancement of efficiency and effectiveness of Executive Board sessions in the light of the move to a four-year programme cycle and to an eight-year Medium-Term Strategy cycle. By 195 EX/Decision 5 (IV, E), the Executive Board took note of the report by the Director-General on the progress made in the implementation of the proposals adopted at its 192nd session aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of Executive Board sessions.

**Schedule of Executive Board sessions for the 2016-2017 biennium**

2. Pursuant to this decision, the Board is invited to examine at this session, proposals concerning the schedule of the Executive Board sessions for the 2016-2017 biennium taking into account the debates and decisions at its 195th session.

3. In this regard it should be recalled that UNESCO's Constitution (Article V.B.9) and the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board set a minimum frequency for its sessions ("at least four" ordinary sessions per biennium). In addition, since the 1950s, the frequency has settled at about five per biennium, including one "short" session, normally lasting one day, which takes place just after the General Conference, for the election of the Bureau of the Executive Board.

4. As is customary for the short session of the Board, the 197th session will consider the tentative list of matters to be considered by Executive Board for 2016-2017. The draft preliminary agenda will include all questions and items referred to the Board by the General Conference at its 38th session as well as past decisions of the Board, as applicable.

5. Concerning the length of the sessions, pursuant to 192 EX/Decision 16 (VII), the Executive Board decided to hold shorter sessions at the first and fourth session in each biennium, and longer sessions for the second and third. The tentative schedule of Executive Board sessions during the next biennium will also need to take into account the Board's recommendations in this same decision, concerning the frequency of the Special Committee (SP) and the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) to meet only once a year, as appropriate. In the case of the last session of the Board, the timetable was managed and planned in advance including extended sessions which were kept at a minimum and weekend sessions were not required, thus allowing the Board to conclude one day ahead of schedule.

6. The work schedule of the Board will also need to consider the proposed new format for UNESCO statutory results reporting (EX/4) on the implementation of the C/5 approved by the General Conference following 195 EX/Decision 4 (V) on the new format for the EX/4 document. Once the General Conference endorses the new proposed approach to reporting, the Executive Board will be able to submit a proposed reporting time-frame for its consideration.

7. It should also be noted that pre-session mechanisms for the preparation of the Executive Board sessions have been introduced with the aim of enhancing their efficiency, such as meetings of the Preparatory Group to inform the debates in the relevant Committees and Commissions.

8. Lastly, the Executive Board will consider at its 197th session the External Auditor's final report pursuant to 37 C/Resolution 96 on the strategic performance review of all governing bodies. For this 196th session, the External auditor presents an interim status report (document 196 EX/23 Part V).



**Proposed decision**

9. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 184 EX/Decision 17, 192 EX/Decision 16 Part VII and 195 EX/Decision 5 Part IV (E),
2. Having examined document 196 EX/5 Part IV (C),
3. Decides to pursue at its 197th session, the examination of proposals for the schedule of the Executive Board sessions for the 2016-2017 biennium, taking into account the debates and decisions at its 196th session.

## **D. Knowledge management and information technologies for enhanced programme delivery**

(Follow-up to 37 C/Resolution 63)

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### **Introduction**

1. As part of the Organization-wide reforms, in October 2011, the Director-General created a new function of *Chief Information Officer (CIO)* with a mandate to elaborate and implement a comprehensive strategy in the domain of knowledge management and information systems. The Strategy, drafted in 2012 and updated in 2013, brings together in the same strategic framework knowledge management (KM), on the one hand, and information and communication technologies (ICTs), on the other. It covers the initial period from 2012-2017 and aims at transforming UNESCO into a *learning organization*, capable of adapting to the challenges of the modern world and making full use of information and communication technologies for enhanced programme delivery and impact (see the full text in 196 EX/5.INF).

2. More specifically, it pursues three main objectives:

- (a) Optimize ICT systems, networks and tools across the Organization based on latest technologies and best practices;
- (b) Enhance organizational learning, evidence-based decision-making and performance through knowledge management and knowledge sharing supported by efficient and effective KM and ICT tools;
- (c) Contribute to innovation and change through the KM- and ICT-based optimization of business processes.

3. In line with 37 C/Resolution 63, the present report provides information on the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the KM & ICT Strategy, summarizes the existing and emerging challenges facing the Organization in this domain, and presents proposals on tackling these challenges.

### **KM and ICT strategy and governance**

4. The KM & ICT Strategy includes six strategic directions:

- I. Enable UNESCO programme delivery: through integrating the different programme support applications and data structures, and thus significantly improving the consistency of data and of the programme lifecycle management, and the subsequent effectiveness and visibility of programme implementation, with particular attention being paid to KM and ICT support for enhanced programme coordination with the United Nations system.*
- II. Ensure reliable and efficient ICT infrastructure and services: by putting in place and optimizing appropriate architecture and standards, covering the entire ICT environment end-to-end and including all aspects, such as business processes, communication, access, applications, data, integration, infrastructure, security and operations.*
- III. Improve the integration of field units: by providing a single seamless information and communication infrastructure linking Headquarters and field units, improving access to all information resources, tools and services throughout the Organization through networking and knowledge sharing, and ensuring greater visibility, reduced costs and increased availability and efficiency.*

- IV. *Rationalize working processes and tools: by optimizing the integration of core corporate systems, complementing them with a comprehensive workflow layer and offering to users a single point of entry, based on individual functional roles.*
- V. *Embed knowledge management in programme execution: by creating an enabling environment, with a variety of collaborative tools and techniques, facilitating sharing of available knowledge and expertise, based inter alia on the preservation and reuse of UNESCO's institutional memory.*
- VI. *Modernize the KM and ICT function: through an invigorated KMI<sup>3</sup> and a coordinated house-wide network of KM and ICT practitioners, at and away from Headquarters, increased involvement of the user community, project portfolio management and business process improvement.*

5. It also sets out the KM and ICT governance structure, whose key element is the *KM & ICT Advisory Board* composed of heads or representatives of all main units of the Secretariat, including representatives from field offices and institutes. Headed by the Deputy Director-General, it oversees the implementation of the Strategy and ensures its alignment with the Organization's overall objectives and priorities.

6. The roadmap of the KM & ICT Strategy is implemented through yearly *KM & ICT Action Plans* which are prioritized and approved by the KM & ICT Advisory Board. These Action Plans are ranked based on the following criteria: direct support to the programme, volume of transactions and/or users, urgency and criticality with regard to the current process design and ICT support, as well as contribution to the reform and expected added business value.

7. The Strategy ensures alignment with the United Nations system-wide orientations in KM and ICT areas, including: a shift from back-office operations to direct programme support; increasing usage of cloud solutions; consideration of options to outsource infrastructure services and to reduce data centres; engagement in common United Nations projects, such as the ERP interoperability study, cybersecurity, information disclosure policies and data visualization; and enhanced system-wide coordination, in particular through the United Nations ICT Network, ICT Reference Group, ERP Special Interest Group (SIG), Information Security SIG and Inter-Agency Telecommunications Advisory Group (ITAG).

### **Progress in the implementation of the KM & ICT Strategy**

8. Over the past three years, three KM & ICT Actions Plans (for 2012, 2013 and 2014) have been prepared and implemented. The overall business benefits are measured each year in terms of monetary gains, reduction in staff time spent on a business process through automation in hours and in money equivalent, reduction in process time and qualitative benefits. The reduction in process time and qualitative benefits are not translated into money equivalent, but contribute substantially to rationalizing the functioning of the Secretariat through improved access to information and, therefore, better informed decision-making, reduction of risks and errors, and increased reliability and ease of use. The financial benefits have been weighed against the cost of the implementation, including both external and internal (business and KMI staff) costs. The estimated benefits (monetary and time savings) for 2012 were \$3.6M with a payback period of seven months and for 2013 – \$2.9M with a payback period of five months. These are ongoing benefits and therefore should be added up. In 2012, more monetary gains were achieved, in particular through contract negotiations, whereas the 2013 benefits related more to staff time gains. Benefits for 2014 will be calculated in the spring of 2015.

9. The chart below gives an idea of the implemented KM & ICT projects and activities and their contribution to UNESCO's reform priorities. What follows is a summary of main achievements by IEE recommendation.

<sup>3</sup> Division of Knowledge Management and Information Systems (KMI).

Selected KM & ICT projects vs reform priorities (IEE)				
Projects & activities	Reform priorities			
	Focus, integration, transparency	Positioning closer to Field	Participation in UN	Building partnerships
KM & ICT Strategy (incl. Policies)	★	★	★	★
KM – collaboration tools	★	★	★	★
Field connectivity & integration	★	★	★	★
Integrated reporting dashboards	★	★		
Contract & Travel Mgt systems	★	★	★	★
HR Workflows, e-Recruitment	★			
Integrated web/apps portal	★	★		
Staff Cost integration in SAP	★	★		
Web conferencing tools	★	★	★	★

10. Enable UNESCO programme delivery. A major step in this direction was the integration of all key corporate applications in a single portal, thus allowing easy access to increasingly user-friendly tools interlinked with UNESCO's backbone ERP<sup>4</sup> system – SAP<sup>5</sup> (covering finance, budget, human resources and procurement). The corporate applications developed or significantly enhanced include contract and travel management, reporting tool for programme specialists, budgeting system for extrabudgetary projects and programme implementation dashboards (using Business Intelligence – BI<sup>6</sup>) that allow (programme) managers to have an integrated overview of their human resources, budget and expenditure. This new system and a significant improvement of SISTER<sup>7</sup> have enabled the development of the first IATI-compliant<sup>8</sup> transparency portal for UNESCO.

11. Ensure reliable and efficient ICT infrastructure and services. Both cost and risk reductions have been achieved through contract renegotiation and implementation of standards and policies (e.g. mobile phones, PCs, printing, and IT and information security policy). The ICT infrastructure has been reinforced with investments made possible by the Emergency Fund with regard to e-mail and storage. The Internet connection speed has doubled and the wireless network expanded. However, despite the progress made, it has not been possible to address some audit points identified by IOS, as those require more investment or outsourcing solutions. Different options for outsourcing, including cloud services for email and collaboration, have been examined. Whereas the costs of most outsourcing solutions are prohibitive – due to a budget based on UNESCO's lower than average internal costs – discussions are ongoing with regard to cloud services. Some critical infrastructure presents high risk of failure, most notably telephone and sound systems. These systems require urgent investment because the current installations are obsolete, as reported to the Headquarters Committee and the General Conference (see document 37 C/39, para. 24).

12. Improve the integration of field units. For many years, the field offices suffered from an expensive global network with low bandwidth limiting them in day-to-day operations. In the past three years, the network has been redesigned, allowing significant increases in bandwidth (400% on average), while reducing costs (by more than 25%). In addition, field offices have been progressively integrated into the central network and received robust and standard hardware sets, managed by KMI in close collaboration with ICT colleagues in the field. Furthermore, web, video- and audio-conferencing solutions and collaborative tools have been standardized and made available to all units of the Secretariat regardless of their geographical location.

<sup>4</sup> Enterprise Resource Planning.

<sup>5</sup> SAP (Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing) – a world leader in ERP systems.

<sup>6</sup> Business Intelligence (BI) – is a set of techniques and tools for the transformation of raw data into meaningful and useful information for business analysis purposes.

<sup>7</sup> System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and Evaluation of Results (SISTER) – UNESCO's programming and budgeting system.

<sup>8</sup> IATI – International Aid Transparency Initiative.

13. Rationalize working processes and tools. KMI has worked closely with central services, in cooperation from programme sectors, to simplify business processes and optimize the integration of core corporate systems, complementing them with a comprehensive workflow layer and offering to users a single point of entry, based on individual functional roles. It includes, particularly, better management of staff costs, integration of service contracts, full rollout of the corporate applications to all field offices and most institutes, HRM workflows, e-recruitment, e-learning, performance management and talent management, in line with the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) and the Director-General's Roadmap.

14. Embed knowledge management in programme execution. As a knowledge organization, UNESCO coordinates a significant number of expert networks, requiring collaborative tools and techniques to facilitate knowledge sharing within UNESCO and with external partners. A number of such tools and techniques, including UNESCO's new collaborative platform, have been made available and are increasingly used in the programme sectors to facilitate their cooperation with external partners and enhance their programmes' outreach. In addition, considerable work has been done with field offices, most notably in Africa, to train and motivate staff to change their working procedures in favor of more sustainable knowledge management practices. This work has relied on steady progress in the preservation and reuse of UNESCO's institutional memory, in particular in the area of electronic archiving and multimedia archives.

15. Modernize the KM and ICT function. The KM & ICT function extends well beyond KMI and therefore efforts have been made to create a coordinated house-wide network of KM and ICT practitioners, at and away from Headquarters, with an increased involvement of the user community. In addition, project (portfolio) management has been introduced, including the KMI staff certification in the United Nations project management methodology (Prince2) and greater emphasis on business process improvement. Furthermore, a modern user support and ticketing system has been put in place, ensuring the transparency, responsiveness and quality of the support services.

16. An overall progressive improvement in the management of IT has been noted in the past IOS annual reports. The 2013 IOS Annual Report (194 EX/22) notes that *“Notwithstanding the budget shortfall, the management and use of information technology has steadily improved in recent years. Long-outstanding audit recommendations have been implemented improving IT priority setting, project management methodology and access to information. Associated plans and procedures have also been introduced to institutionalize these advances.”*

### **Key challenges ahead**

17. Although real progress has been made in all the strategic directions presented above, UNESCO is facing both persisting and emerging new challenges in the area of knowledge management and ICTs, which it must tackle in order to maximize the outreach and impact of its programmes and to be a reliable partner in the United Nations system-wide efforts in this area.

18. The United Nations has launched a Fit-for-Purpose agenda that includes *“adopting a strategic, cross-cutting, United Nations system-wide approach to utilizing the power of technology to revolutionize United Nations data capacity including an immediate system-wide action to develop and launch a “UN System Digital Agenda, incorporating a vision and approach for collectively integrating technology into programme delivery and accountability”*<sup>9</sup>. There is also a need to increase the coherence of administrative processes across agencies, optimize efficiency and minimize support costs. This requires a business transformation for which further alignment of business processes (i.e. human resources, financial management, procurement) is required to arrive at common approaches and shared services. UNESCO recognizes the importance of the data revolution and the need for more coherence across the United Nations system, in particular through its participation in different United Nations working groups and the United Nations ICT

<sup>9</sup> Towards Transformation: Making the UN System Fit-for-Purpose – Summary of the Chairs of HLCM and HLCP, 11 November 2014.

Network (as well as the HRM, Finance and Budget and Procurement Networks) to address the challenges defined by HLCM/HLCP. In addition, UNESCO has launched a fit-for-purpose initiative to continue its reform aligned to the United Nations initiatives. This will include the full implementation of results-based budgeting (RBB) and improvement of project planning, monitoring and reporting. In order to fully implement the Fit-for-Purpose in UNESCO, KM and ICT investments are anticipated.

19. Cybersecurity has recently acquired new urgency worldwide, including within the United Nations system. UNESCO must take all the necessary measures to protect its data from fraudulent access and use, while making every effort to ensure and enhance Internet universality. As the cybersecurity risks themselves, the preventive and protective measures are permanent in nature, although it is difficult to cost them in advance.

20. Another key challenge is the continuation of the transparency initiative, aligned with the recently developed information disclosure policy. The transparency project aims to increase the visibility of UNESCO operations, improve the transparency, completeness and quality of information about UNESCO's programmes and projects across its fields of competence, through the publication of programme and financial information in accordance with the IATI Standard. This project addresses the Executive Board decisions 190 EX/46 and 190 EX/53 as well as decision 194 EX/Decision 4 (Part I.B, para. 7). The first version of the transparency portal will be launched in March 2015 after the closure of the financial year 2014. It is the Organization's intention to keep improving the portal as expressed in the decision above. The enhancement of the portal depends on being able to hire external expertise on the one hand, and on improving internal systems, on the other, most notably the financial system and SISTER.

21. In the past two years, SISTER has been significantly improved and further enhancements will be introduced. However the financial system based on SAP (FABS) requires a full redesign. FABS was implemented in 2002 and the Organization's business processes have since evolved. The detailed analytical reporting requirements, be it for programme monitoring and evaluation, extrabudgetary projects, or the move to results-based budgeting and the future format of EX/4, call for structural changes in the core corporate systems, notably FABS. Currently these reporting needs require KMI to develop complex and expensive workarounds. It should be noted that ERP re-implementations are required periodically, especially after a first implementation, as can be seen from other United Nations agencies' experience (see the JIU report on a review of ERP systems in the United Nations – JIU/REP/2012/8):

- UNICEF – originally implemented SAP in 1999; re-implementation in 2012
- WFP – originally implemented SAP in 1999; re-implementation in 2009
- ITU – originally implemented SAP in 1986; re-implementation in 2009
- UNHCR – currently planning a re-implementation of ORACLE

External expertise is required for this redesign to, firstly, ensure that UNESCO's current way of working is challenged and that the redesign is based on the optimal use of SAP. And, secondly, to provide expertise on new functionalities for which no experience is available internally. Such an initiative is timely as, the UNESCO Transparency initiative is being finalized thereby providing further impetus for review of internal systems and processes.

22. The challenges the Organization faces with regard to incorporating knowledge management best practices into programme delivery can be summarized around two key aspects. The first is the challenge of providing the programmes with a collaborative platform and other tools that effectively enable programme delivery given the significant differences between programme sectors and their requirements. This includes a modern and integrated document management system that would support the entire document life cycle from drafting, through production to publication, storage and reuse. The current systems will therefore need to be reviewed and redesigned. The second challenge is the change of working culture and methods, including the introduction and fostering of a systematic practice of drawing lessons from past experience across the Organization, at

Headquarters and in the field. This requires significant capacity-building through training of staff, at Headquarters and in the field.

23. A clearly identified related task is the digitization and preservation of UNESCO's multi-media archives. Over the years, UNESCO has accumulated vast quantities of films, video and audio recordings that represent a considerable asset to the Organization's institutional memory that needs not only to be adequately preserved but also to be more accessible for reuse through digitization. It is planned to invite the Member States to consider sponsoring fully or partly the digitization of multimedia archives, for example, materials concerning their respective countries.

24. UNESCO's ICT infrastructure has proper controls and redundancy that allows operations to be resumed with minimum delay in the event of a minor failure. However, the Organization operates without a Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery facility that would guarantee continuation of its normal operations in a reasonable amount of time should the ICT infrastructure suffer a physical damage or a core business system failed to respond and could not be reestablished within a reasonable time.

25. The available budget does not permit investments in infrastructure, but only allows for support and maintenance of the existing infrastructure. However, as indicated in paragraph 11, significant investment in the telephone system and sound systems in the conference rooms is required. In addition, investments in cabling and other infrastructure are necessary to enable renting out of conference rooms and Building VI. These investments are to be discussed at the 188th session of the Headquarters Committee.

#### IV. Conclusion and proposed way forward

26. In order for UNESCO to meet the challenges described above, a significant investment over several years is needed. It is clear that this kind of investment cannot be accommodated within the Regular Programme budget. The Secretariat is therefore continuously looking for alternative funding solutions to finance the implementation of the KM & ICT Strategy, as this investment would have a solid return for the Organization. So far, funding has been received under extrabudgetary projects and funds, contributions in kind and the Headquarters Fund.

27. However, additional targeted support from the Member States is needed if the KM & ICT Strategy were to be fully implemented in particular through dedicated voluntary contributions.

28. The estimated investment requirements can be summarized as follows:

Projects/works	Urgency	Timeline	Estimated cost (EUR)	Possible funding source
1. Fit-for-purpose implementation	High	2015-2017	tbd	KM & ICT fund
2. FABS redesign, including RBB	High	2015-2016	2-3M	KM & ICT fund
3. Transparency portal	High	2015	150-200K	KM & ICT fund
4. Integrated document management system	Medium	2015-2016	1M	KM & ICT fund
5. Knowledge management culture/training	High	2015-2017	500K	KM & ICT fund
6. Multimedia archives digitization	Medium	2015-2017	2.5-3M	MS sponsorship
7. Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery	High	2015-2016	350K	KM & ICT fund
8. Headquarters cabling: conference rooms & WiFi	High	2015	466K	HQ Committee
9. Headquarters cabling: Building V and VI	High	2015	3.3M	HQ Committee
10. Headquarters telephone system replacement	High	2015	2M	HQ Committee
11. Headquarters sound system replacement	Medium	2016	3M	HQ Committee
<b>Total estimation</b>			<b>15.3 – 16.8M</b>	

**Proposed decision**

29. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 37 C/Res.63;
2. Having examined documents 196 EX/5 (D) and 196 EX/5.INF,
3. Recognizes the efforts undertaken by the Director-General and the Secretariat with regard to the elaboration and implementation of a KM and ICT strategy for UNESCO;
4. Expresses its satisfaction with the progress made so far, including monetary and staff time savings, streamlining of business processes and modernization of working tools and techniques;
5. Takes note of the persisting and emerging new challenges in the area of Knowledge Management and Information and Communication Technologies;
6. Recognizes the need for a considerable targeted investment to fully implement the KM and ICT Strategy;
7. Invites Member States to contribute to the implementation of the KM & ICT strategy especially through voluntary contributions;
8. Requests the Director-General to ensure full implementation of the KM and ICT Strategy and to report to it on the progress achieved at its 199th session.





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-sixth session

# 196 EX/5 Part V

PARIS, 2 March 2015  
Original: English

## Item 5 of the provisional agenda

### **FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

#### **PART V**

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES**

##### **SUMMARY**

This report is intended to inform the Members of the Executive Board of the progress achieved in the follow-up to the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions.

Part V of this document contains information on the following Human Resources Issues:

#### **A. Annual report (2014) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**

Article 17 of ICSC's Statute provides that "(ICSC) shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly including information on the implementation of its decisions and recommendations. The report shall be transmitted to Governing Organs of the other Organizations through their Executive Heads".

In 114 EX/Dec.8.5, the Executive Board approved a proposal by the Director-General to submit all future ICSC annual reports to the Executive Board at the spring session following publication of the report, and subsequently endorsed by the General Conference in 22 C/Res.37.

Furthermore, the General Conference invited the Director-General, in 37 C/Res.83, to inform the Executive Board about measures adopted, either by the General Assembly or ICSC, before its 38th session.

The document submits ICSC's 2014 report to the Executive Board for information and describes measures affecting UNESCO staff members which were implemented following ICSC recommendations and the decision taken by the General Assembly A/Res/69/251.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 19.

#### **B. Feasibility study on introducing a new health insurance scheme**

At its 191st session, the Executive Board requested the Director-General to undertake a study with a view to introducing a new health insurance scheme, and to report back at its 194th session. This study was put on hold as it was considered better both financially and strategically to undertake the study within the framework of the major study being carried out on health insurance across the United Nations common system and to report on progress and/or conclusions at the 2015 Spring session of the Executive Board.

The document also provides a summary update on the management of health insurance schemes within the United Nations system.

**Action expected of the Executive Board:** Proposed decision in paragraph 7.

**A. Annual report (2014) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**

(Follow-up to 114 EX/Decision 8.5, 22 C/Resolution 37, 37 C/Resolution 83, 194 EX/Decision 5 (III))

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**Introduction**

1. ICSC's 40th annual report for 2014 contains measures which affect the conditions of service of United Nations common system staff, including UNESCO staff. The General Assembly examined this report and its recommendations at its 69th session and took a decision later adopted as Resolution A/Res/69/251 (**Annex I**).

**Mandatory age of separation**

2. Following the General Assembly decision at its 68th session, the mandatory age of separation was raised from 62 to 65 for **new** staff recruited on or after 1 January 2014.

3. At its 69th session, the General Assembly decided to raise the mandatory age of separation to 65 for staff recruited before 1 January 2014, taking into account the acquired rights of staff, and requested the ICSC to revert to the General Assembly with an implementation date at its earliest opportunity but no later than its 2016 session, after consultations with all the organizations of the common system.

4. Once the implementation date has been established, this change will require an amendment to UNESCO's Staff Regulations, to be approved by the General Conference. If the General Assembly takes a decision at its 2016 session, a proposal to change UNESCO's Staff Regulations will be submitted to the General Conference in 2017.

**Base/floor salary scale**

5. The comparator civil service's (US federal civil service) pay rose by 1% in 2014. In addition, minor changes were introduced in the US tax schedule at federal level. The Commission, therefore, decided to recommend a 1.01% increase in the net base salary scale of United Nations Professional and higher-category staff, effective 1 January 2015. This was introduced on the standard *no loss, no gain* basis, whereby increases in the net salary scale are offset by a reduction in post adjustment, leaving the net salaries of staff members unchanged. This recommendation was approved by the General Assembly.

**Follow-up action**

6. The new salary scale (**Annex II**) was implemented in UNESCO on 1 January 2015. The changes will increase slightly the level of the repatriation grant and termination indemnities.

**Evolution of the UN/US net remuneration margin**

7. In resolution A/Res/68/253, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil service should continue to apply; and that the net-remuneration margin should be maintained around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time. The Commission reported that the margin for the period 1 January 2014-31 December 2014 was 117.4, with a corresponding five-year (2010-2014) average of 116.4.

8. Further to a previous request from the General Assembly, and having reviewed the range of actions and time schedules that would permit the margin to be brought back to its desirable midpoint, ICSC recommended to the General Assembly that the freeze in net remuneration for

United Nations Professional staff in New York introduced in 2014 would continue until the margin had been brought back to its desirable midpoint.

9. The continued freeze in the net remuneration of staff in New York will have the effect of scaling back commensurately the post adjustment indices in every other duty station. It also means that there is unlikely to be a change in the pensionable remuneration scale of Professional and higher category staff in 2015, as this scale is linked to the level of net remuneration of staff in New York. The General Assembly also requested the Commission to further examine issues relating to margin management in the context of its ongoing comprehensive review of compensation.

### **Follow-up action**

10. The calculation of the margin has no implications for UNESCO staff. However, the decision to freeze the net remuneration of staff in New York in 2015 (which required the cancellation of a 1.08% increase in post adjustment in New York due in February 2015) means that post adjustment indices for all other duty stations will be proportionately scaled back by 1.08% in 2015.

### **Financial and administrative implications**

11. The measures described above were implemented using existing finance/payroll systems. They fall under the staff costs budget.

### **Progress on the review of the common system compensation package**

12. The Commission started a review of the common system compensation package in 2013, with the aim of submitting its final conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly by the end of 2015. It established three working groups to take this work forward, comprising representatives of the Commission, Organizations and staff federations: UNESCO has participated actively to the work of the groups. To date, the Commission has examined the report of the working groups concerning:

- (a) Best practices in expatriate compensation;
- (b) Common system salary structure, allowances and benefits
- (c) Performance rewards and recognition; and
- (d) The sustainability and competitiveness of the existing package.

### **Best practices in expatriate compensation**

13. The Commission has considered various approaches to expatriate compensation and concluded that the approach currently applied within the United Nations common system offers advantages that are appropriate for international civil servants: for example, staff members from different nationalities at the same grade level earn the same amounts; the post adjustment mechanism ensures that salaries have equivalent purchasing power regardless of the duty station; provisions for social benefits in accordance with prevailing rates in relevant comparator countries; incentives to encourage specific organizational outcomes such as mobility.

14. The concept of total rewards has been an important consideration in the review of the compensation package, that is, the five elements used to attract, motivate and retain staff: compensation and benefits; work-life balance; performance and recognition; and development and career opportunities.

### **Common system salary structure, allowances and benefits**

15. In order to achieve a more structured compensation package based on work performed rather than personal situation, the Commission has favoured the introduction of a single salary scale, irrespective of the dependency status of the staff member, with a dependant spouse recognized through payment of an individual allowance. This proposal will be further developed by the ICSC Secretariat.

16. The Commission will appraise its revised compensation package in a holistic manner during 2015, to ensure that it fully corresponds to the parameters established for the review, and as agreed by the General Assembly, prior to its submission to the General Assembly for consideration at the end of 2015.

### **Health insurance**

17. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/253, the Commission reviewed the apportionment of health premiums between the United Nations Organization and participants both to United States and non-United States plans, and decided to recommend that the apportionment be maintained at their existing rates. The General Assembly approved this recommendation.

### **Gender balance in the United Nations common system**

18. The General Assembly noted with disappointment the insufficient progress made to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations common system, especially at Professional and higher categories and requested the Commission to encourage organizations to fully implement existing gender balance policies and measures, and to continue to monitor progress in achieving gender balance.

### **Proposed decision**

19. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 114 EX/Decision 8.5 and 22 C/Resolution 37, and 37 C/Resolution 83,
2. Having examined document 196 EX/5 part V (A),
3. Takes note of its content;
4. Invites the Director-General to continue to ensure UNESCO's participation in the work of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and to take into account its report.

## ANNEX I

### ADD UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/RES/69/251

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee following informal consultations**

**United Nations common system**

**The General Assembly,**

*Recalling* its resolutions 44/198 of 21 December 1989, 51/216 of 18 December 1996, 52/216 of 22 December 1997, 53/209 of 18 December 1998, 55/223 of 23 December 2000, 56/244 of 24 December 2001, 57/285 of 20 December 2002, 58/251 of 23 December 2003, 59/268 of 23 December 2004, 60/248 of 23 December 2005, 61/239 of 22 December 2006, 62/227 of 22 December 2007, 63/251 of 24 December 2008, 64/231 of 22 December 2009, 65/248 of 24 December 2010, 66/235 A of 24 December 2011, 66/235 B of 21 June 2012, 67/257 of 12 April 2013 and 68/253 of 27 December 2013, and its decisions 67/551 and 67/552A of 24 December 2012,

*Having considered* the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2014<sup>1</sup>,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the work of the International Civil Service Commission;
2. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission for 2014;
3. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in approving conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission<sup>2</sup>;
4. *Recalls* articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission, and reaffirms the central role of the Commission in regulating and coordinating conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system;

#### **I. Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff**

##### **A. Comprehensive review of the common system compensation package**

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the Commission's report on the status of the comprehensive review of the compensation package;
2. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Commission on the comprehensive review of compensation and looks forward to considering the results of this exercise in its seventieth session;
3. *Request* the Commission to provide, at the first part of its resumed sixty-ninth session, an informal briefing on the progress of the comprehensive review of compensation;

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<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/69/30).

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 3357 (XXIX), annex.

**B. Health insurance**

Approves the Commission's recommendation to maintain at their existing ratios the current apportionment of health insurance premiums between the organization and both active and retired staff in United States and non-United States health insurance plans;

**C. Mandatory age of separation**

1. *Takes note* of the analysis undertaken by the Commission, as requested in its resolution 68/253, on the impact of the suggested change in mandatory age of separation on workforce and successional planning frameworks and all relevant human resources management policies;
2. *Decides* to raise the mandatory age of separation to 65 for staff recruited before 1 January 2014 taking into account the acquired rights of staff, and requests the ICSC to revert to the General Assembly with an implementation date at its earliest opportunity but no later than its seventy-first session after consultations with all the organizations of the Common System;

**II. Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories****A. Gender balance in the United Nations common system**

*Notes* with disappointment the insufficient progress made with regards to achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance, in the United Nations common system, especially at professional and higher categories and requests the Commission to encourage the organizations of the common system to fully implement existing gender balance policies and measures, and further encourages the Commission to continue to monitor progress in achieving gender balance and to report thereon in compliance with the decision contained in paragraph 137 of the ICSC report;

**B. Diversity in the United Nations common system**

*Welcomes* the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 149 of its annual report, requests the Commission to continue recommending measures that would be more favourable to diversity, and encourages the Commission to continue its periodic reviews and reports of all diversity-related issues in the common system;

**C. Base/floor salary scale**

*Recalling* its resolution 44/198, by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

1. *Approves*, with effect from 1 January 2015, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 157 of its report,<sup>1</sup> the revised base/floor scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as contained in annex III to the report;

**D. Evolution of the margin and margin management around the desirable midpoint**

*Recalling* section 1.B of its resolution 51/216 and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of the United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service) employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as "the margin"),

1. *Reaffirms* that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and

officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time;

2. *Notes* that the estimated margin between net remuneration of the United Nations staff in grades P-1 to D-2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 is 117.4 and that its five-year average (2010 to 2014) stands at 116.4, which is above the desirable midpoint of 115;
3. *Recalls* section IIB, paragraph 5, in its resolution 68/253, and requests the Commission to continue action to bring the calendar year margin around the desirable midpoint, without prejudice to any future decision of the Assembly;
4. *Requests* the Commission to further examine issues relating to margin management in the context of its ongoing comprehensive review of compensation;

#### **E. Post adjustment matters**

*Recalling* its request contained in resolution 68/253 that the Commission submit proposals on synchronizing the post adjustment cycles at headquarters duty stations,

1. *Takes note* of the Commission's decision to review the post adjustment classifications of all headquarters and other group I duty stations once a year, on the anniversary date of the post adjustment classification review for New York;
2. *Takes note* of the Commission's decision to refer the question of the continued use of the 5 per cent rule for group I duty stations for consideration by the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions, in the context of its review of the operational rules governing the post adjustment system;

#### **III. Conditions of service of the General Service and other locally recruited categories**

*Notes* the intention of the Commission to review the compensation package for the General Service and National Professional Officer categories of staff once the review of the Professional and higher categories is completed.

## ANNEX II

## Salary scale for the Professional and higher categories showing annual gross salaries and net equivalent after application of staff assessment, effective 1 January 2015

Level		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV
USG	Gross	191 856														
	Net D	147 799														
	Net S	133 012														
ASG	Gross	174 371														
	Net D	135 560														
	Net S	122 754														
D-2	Gross	143 073	146 104	149 138	152 264	155 427	158 589									
	Net D	113 443	115 656	117 871	120 085	122 299	124 512									
	Net S	104 219	106 087	107 948	109 804	111 655	113 495									
D-1	Gross	130 745	133 410	136 066	138 730	141 395	144 053	146 719	149 379	152 129						
	Net D	104 444	106 389	108 328	110 273	112 218	114 159	116 105	118 047	119 990						
	Net S	96 540	98 228	99 915	101 595	103 274	104 948	106 615	108 282	109 943						
P-5	Gross	108 148	110 412	112 678	114 941	117 210	119 471	121 740	124 003	126 268	128 533	130 799	133 062	135 329		
	Net D	87 948	89 601	91 255	92 907	94 563	96 214	97 870	99 522	101 176	102 829	104 483	106 135	107 790		
	Net S	81 704	83 174	84 638	86 102	87 564	89 020	90 477	91 930	93 381	94 829	96 276	97 716	99 158		
P-4	Gross	89 035	91 056	93 075	95 094	97 115	99 133	101 249	103 434	105 621	107 804	109 993	112 175	114 362	116 549	118 736
	Net D	73 338	74 934	76 529	78 124	79 721	81 315	82 912	84 507	86 103	87 697	89 295	90 888	92 484	94 081	95 677
	Net S	68 294	69 746	71 200	72 646	74 095	75 542	76 989	78 431	79 873	81 315	82 752	84 191	85 629	87 064	88 498
P-3	Gross	73 181	75 051	76 922	78 787	80 659	82 528	84 396	86 268	88 137	90 006	91 878	93 746	95 616	97 485	99 353
	Net D	60 813	62 290	63 768	65 242	66 721	68 197	69 673	71 152	72 628	74 105	75 584	77 059	78 537	80 013	81 489
	Net S	56 766	58 123	59 484	60 840	62 201	63 558	64 914	66 275	67 631	68 990	70 343	71 699	73 049	74 405	75 759
P-2	Gross	60 025	61 697	63 370	65 043	66 715	68 385	70 059	71 729	73 401	75 076	76 746	78 419			
	Net D	50 420	51 741	53 062	54 384	55 705	57 024	58 347	59 666	60 987	62 310	63 629	64 951			
	Net S	47 292	48 491	49 686	50 884	52 080	53 278	54 494	55 708	56 927	58 142	59 354	60 574			
P-1	Gross	46 956	48 453	49 941	51 548	53 152	54 759	56 367	57 977	59 580	61 186					
	Net D	39 913	41 185	42 450	43 723	44 990	46 260	47 530	48 802	50 068	51 337					
	Net S	37 649	38 820	39 991	41 160	42 329	43 499	44 669	45 824	46 974	48 124					



**B. Feasibility study on introducing a new health insurance scheme**

Follow-up to 190 EX/Decision 32, 191 EX/Decision 29 ()

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1. UNESCO's Medical Benefits Fund (MBF), established by the General Conference in 1948, is a medical insurance plan that the Director-General is required to operate for staff in accordance with the provisions of Staff Regulation 6.2.

2. The Fund has faced financial problems for many years with the expenditure on claims regularly exceeding income (i.e. contributions from participants), a situation exacerbated by the increasing proportion of voluntary participants (retired staff) in the plan in relation to the active staff. Given UNESCO's unfunded liability for the provision of after-service health insurance (ASHI) for staff and considering the need for any health insurance system to be fully funded to avoid incurring such liabilities in future, the Executive Board requested the Director-General at its 191st session to carry out a study with a view to introducing a new health insurance plan as soon as possible, and to report back at its 194th session, to include a proposed date for a new scheme for newly recruited staff.

3. Preliminary enquiries indicated that a study of this magnitude, in terms of its scope and depth, would necessitate a much lengthier tender process than originally foreseen under UNESCO's rules on procurement. Furthermore, the General Assembly had, at its 68th session, also made a request concerning ASHI (resolution 68/244), namely:

- requested the Secretary-General to examine the option of broadening the mandate of the United Nations Pension Fund, to include the cost-effective, efficient and sustainable administration of ASHI benefits, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of this option, including its financial and legal implications, and to report thereon at the seventieth session of the General Assembly (fall 2015); and
- requested the Secretary-General to undertake a survey of current health care plans for active and retired staff within the United Nations system, to explore all options to increase efficiency and contain costs and to report thereon at its seventieth session.

4. To take forward the General Assembly requests, the Finance and Budget Network (FBN) of the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) has established a Working Group, chaired by the United Nations Secretariat. As health insurance issues come under the responsibility of the HR Network of the Chief Executives' Board for Coordination (CEB), a subsidiary body of HLCM, the latter is also participating closely in the study. A note about the FBN project, and the Terms of Reference of the Working Group, are set out in Annex I.

5. UNESCO's Human Resources Management (HRM) and Financial Management Bureau (BFM) are members of this Working Group; which has already started its work. It is anticipated that its analysis, outcomes and recommendations will be presented to the General Assembly before the end of 2015. This will also be made available to the MBF's Advisory Board as it considers ways to continue to improve the management and operation of the MBF.

6. In light of the above, and given the considerable overlap between the study requested by the Executive Board and the work of the FBN Working Group, it is considered both financially and strategically prudent not to proceed with the Executive Board study at the present time, in order that the Secretariat can await the outcome of this comprehensive United Nations system-wide initiative. Its findings, with appropriate recommendations from the Director-General, will be presented to the Executive Board during 2016.

**Proposed decision**

7. The Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 191 EX/Decision 29,
2. Having examined document 196 EX/5 Part V (B),
3. Considering that the Working Group established by the United Nations High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) has now started its comprehensive study of cost-effective, efficient and the sustainable administration of after-service health insurance benefits and will report thereon at the seventieth session of the General Assembly (fall 2015),
4. Invites the Director-General to report back to the Executive Board during 2016 on the outcome of the study carried out by HLCM, together with appropriate recommendations.

## ANNEX I

### HLCM Finance and Budget Network: ASHI Study

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#### **Project purpose and objectives**

In its resolution 68/244 on “Managing After-Service Health Insurance liabilities”, having considered the report of the Secretary-General A/68/353 on the same topic and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions A/68/550, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General *inter alia*:

- to examine the option of broadening the mandate of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), based on input from the UNJSPF Board, to include the cost-effective, efficient and sustainable administration of after-service health insurance benefits, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of this option, including its financial and legal implications, without prejudice to the outcome of the examination, and to report thereon at the seventieth session of the General Assembly (fall 2015);
- not to exclude considering other options to achieve the same goals;
- to undertake a survey of current health care plans for active and retired staff within the United Nations system, to explore all options to increase efficiency and contain costs and to report thereon at its seventieth session.

To look into this matter globally, and considering that each Organization faces similar challenges in relation to ASHI management, the Finance and Budget Network created a Working Group, chaired by the United Nations Secretariat, to facilitate the preparation of a report of the Secretary-General and to identify System-wide opportunities to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the management of ASHI operations as well as of the growing ASHI liability. The Terms of Reference of the Working Group are attached in Attachment 1.

The Working Group felt that in order to conduct a value-adding study and to identify actionable items, the support of a specialized consultancy firm would be required for the analysis of a number of complex items described under its own Terms of Reference. As a result, the Working Group prepared terms of reference for a consultancy project, as described below.

#### **Terms of reference for the consultancy in support of the work of the Working Group:**

##### **Goal of the consultancy**

Analyze commonalities and differences in the United Nations system approach to the definition, funding and management of the ASHI (After-Service Health Insurance) from a comprehensive perspective to inform on-going discussions and identify actions which could engender more efficient and effective common approaches, noting the different business models, funding sources and demographics within the United Nations system.

##### **Deliverables related to GA’s resolution 68/244**

##### **Pillar A: Cost analysis and administrative arrangements**

###### **A.1. Elements**

- A.1.1. Analysis of cost drivers (including but not limited to service provider fees, method of administration).

- A.1.2. Comparison of the different insurance plans (including, inter alia, coverage designs, premium cost sharing ratios, geographical coverage.) within institutions and across institutions.
- A.1.3. Review of different arrangements (e.g. such as national health schemes) in countries that complement/substitute the institution's benefits.
- A.1.4. Comparison of terms and conditions with different service providers (external insurers and administrators and/or self-insured and self-administered).

## A.2. Deliverables

- A.2.1. A comprehensive understanding of the main cost drivers of the ASHI and of the landscape of different service providers and the potential for alternative arrangements and for greater harmonization and greater efficiency.

## **Pillar B: United Nations system ASHI Framework**

### B.1. Elements

- B.1.1. United Nations system ASHI Framework review.

### B.2. Deliverables

- B.2.1. An analysis of the pros and cons of a centrally managed United Nations common system entity to manage ASHI, including the option of a direct UNJSPF role, as well as other possible options. The analysis will include, inter alia, the design of the medical insurance schemes, procurement of the insurance-related services, administration of the schemes, including the relationship with the participants, and the human resources, financial and legal implications of such options.

## **Expected outcomes**

The final deliverables are expected to contribute significantly to the end vision of ASHI management in the United Nations system, and to identify key proposals and initiatives to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The total ASHI liability for members of the Finance and Budget Network exceeds US \$10 billion. Improvements in the management of ASHI operations and ASHI liability, efficiency gains and possible economies of scale could therefore generate significant resource savings.

## **Proposed timeline**

A first draft of the consultancy report on pillars A and B will be submitted to the Working Group for review by 31 March 2015, with the final report to be submitted for review and approval by HLCM by 15 August 2015, with a view to submitting to the general Assembly at its 70th session.

## **Attachment 1**

### **Terms of Reference for the ASHI Working Group of the Finance and Budget Network**

#### **Current membership:**

Working Group Lead: United Nations Secretariat

Members: ILO, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNDP, ITU, WIPO, UNICEF, UNHCR, IAEA, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNIDO, HR Network, FAFICS and UNJSPF.

## **Goal**

Analyze commonalities and differences in the United Nations system approach to the definition, funding and management of the ASHI (After-Service Health Insurance) from a comprehensive perspective to inform ongoing discussions and identify actions which could engender more efficient and effective common approaches, noting the different business models, funding sources and demographics within the United Nations system.

## **Pillars to analyse and expected deliverables**

There are four pillars (A, B, C, D) that should be analysed by the Working Group in order to reflect a comprehensive perspective on the ASHI topic, including the implications of the system wide adoption of IPSAS accounting standards.

The Working Group decided that support for deliverables of Pillar A and B should be requested from a consultancy contract. The chair of the Working Group will liaise with the CEB Secretariat to apply for CEB funding of the consultancy.

The Working Group will deliver a comprehensive and descriptive analysis of the commonalities and differences in the United Nations system in the approaches in the definition, funding and management of the ASHI and of the ASHI liability, including an assessment of potential alternative arrangements.

## **Deliverables directly related to the GA's resolution 68/244**

### **A. Pillar A: Cost analysis and administrative arrangements**

#### A.1. Elements

- A.1.1. Analysis of cost drivers (including but not limited to service provider fees, method of administration).
- A.1.2. Comparison of the different insurance plans (including, inter alia, coverage designs, premium cost sharing ratios, geographical coverage.) within institutions and across institutions.
- A.1.3. Review of different arrangements (e.g. such as national health schemes or others) in countries that complement/substitute the institution's benefits.
- A.1.4. Comparison of terms and conditions with different service providers (external insurers and administrators and/or self-insured and self-administered).

#### A.2. Deliverables

- A.2.1. A comprehensive understanding of the main cost drivers of the ASHI and of the landscape of different service providers and the potential for alternative arrangements and for greater harmonization and greater efficiency.

### **B. Pillar B: United Nations system ASHI Framework**

#### B.1. Elements

- B.1.1. United Nations system ASHI Framework review.

## B.2. Deliverables

- B.2.1. An analysis of the pros and cons of a centrally managed United Nations common system entity to manage ASHI, including the option of a direct UNJSPF role, as well as other possible options. The analysis will include, inter alia, the design of the medical insurance schemes, procurement of the insurance-related services, administration of the schemes, including the relationship with the participants, and the human resources, financial and legal implications of such options.

### **Deliverables related to the management of the ASHI liability**

#### **C. Pillar C: Determination and disclosure of the liability**

##### C.1. Elements

- C.1.1. Comparison of the main assumptions used to determine the liability under IPSAS: currencies, discount rates, inflation, health care costs trend rates, mortality rates, percentages of usage, demographic assumptions, per capita claims costs, etc.
- C.1.2. List in order those main assumptions that impact heavily on the liability valuation (sensitivity analysis).
- C.1.3. Frequency to update the main variables: census, discount rates, inflation, health care costs trend rates, etc.
- C.1.4. Comparison of terms and conditions with different actuaries.
- C.1.5. Comparison of different recognition methods and levels of disclosure in Financial Statements.

##### C.2. Deliverables

- C.2.1. A sound technical analysis of the financial assumptions and components of the amount of the liability.
- C.2.2. A comparative and reasoned understanding of existing differences in financial variables and levels of disclosure to increase credibility of results and raise awareness of auditors, and of variations in the terms and conditions with different actuaries, in view of identifying proposals to increase standardization and the overall efficiency of determining and disclosing the ASHI liability.

#### **D. Pillar D: Funding alternatives of the liability**

##### D.1. Elements

- D.1.1. Comparison of the different approaches considering the different business models.
- D.1.2. Review of the different Asset and Liabilities Management (ALM) analysis conducted by early adopters (this task will not be included in the scope of the consultancy).
- D.1.3. Comparison of the terms and conditions with different ALM analysts (this task will not be included in the scope of the consultancy).
- D.1.4. Experiences of presenting the alternatives to the Governing Bodies.

D.2. Deliverables

- D.2.1. A guideline of existing best practices taken by early adopters in the system that could be used by the rest of the institutions (this deliverable will not be included in the scope of the consultancy).
- D.2.2. Noting the different business models, funding sources (assessed versus voluntary) and demographics, a set of proposals to take more effective and efficient approaches for the definition, funding and management of the ASHI liability at the entity level and/or United Nations system level, including the implications on transfers of active staff between Organizations.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Executive Board

Hundred and ninety-sixth session

# 196 EX/5 Part V Add.

PARIS, 15 April 2015  
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## Item 5 of the agenda

### FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT THEIR PREVIOUS SESSIONS

#### PART V

#### HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES

#### ADDENDUM

#### COMMENTS BY THE UNESCO STAFF UNION (STU)

Pursuant to Item 9.2.E of the UNESCO Administrative Manual, the UNESCO Staff Union (STU) submits its comments on the reports by the Director-General.

As a general introductory comment, STU would like to express its concern about the **increasing deterioration of working conditions and benefits**, in particular of long-acquired rights, that staff at UNESCO and, indeed, in the entire United Nations system are enduring at an ever-increasing rate.

While STU understands that this reduction of rights is justified by the International Civil Service Commission and United Nations management in general as a result of the financial limitations the entire United Nations system is faced with in recent years, this justification is somewhat in contradiction with United Nations (and UNESCO) management's concern and statements that it is becoming increasingly hard to attract and retain top talent and well experienced professionals to its workforce.

How can these much sought-after professionals be attracted and/or retained if the working conditions which, in addition to vocation and dedication, made working for the United Nations and UNESCO attractive are either no longer available or being significantly reduced?

**Under such circumstances, it should not come as any surprise that an important "brain drain" has been observed in the United Nations and UNESCO staff in recent years and that many individuals have taken the decision or are increasingly thinking about leaving the international civil service for other employment where their talents, experience and expertise are being better recognized and rewarded. This is clearly not in the "best interests" of any Organization, especially an intellectual United Nations agency like UNESCO.**



**A. Annual report (2014) by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC): Report by the Director-General**

(Follow-up to 114 EX/Decision 8.5, 22 C/Resolution 37, 37 C/Resolution 83, 194 EX/Decision 5 (III))

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**Mandatory age of separation**

STU is fully in favor of going ahead with the General Assembly decision at its 68th session to implement 65 as the mandatory age of separation for existing staff.

United Nations common system organizations use 60 as the age of separation for staff recruited before 1990, age 62 for staff recruited after 1990, and age 65 for staff recruited after 1 January 2014. A unified age of separation at 65 effective 1 January 2016 needs to be adopted, while respecting staff's right to retire at 60 (if recruited before 1990) and 62 (if recruited after 1990).

STU wishes to highlight that any measure taken in respect of the mandatory age of separation or the normal age of retirement should be implemented without prejudice to the acquired rights of the staff already on board. An extension beyond age 60 or 62 should not affect entitlement to the full pension at age 60 or 62 respectively.

**Gender balance in the United Nations common system**

STU is concerned by the poor situation of gender balance at UNESCO.

Gender equality and women's empowerment is one of UNESCO's ongoing global priorities. It is also an all-UN development goal. However, women at UNESCO still have a harder time than men attaining managerial positions. In spite of the Executive Board's recommendations, they struggle to enjoy equal treatment.

STU wishes to raise your attention on the following measures taken by the Administration which have not helped the Organization create an affable environment for women.

- During the redeployment process, **68%** of staff affected by abolition of posts were women.
- This surely had an impact on the fact that **65%** of staff who opted for the voluntary mutual separation programme were women.
- More recently, women have lost 20% of maternity leave since the release of the Administrative Circular AC/HR/42 published on 1 October 2014.

STU asks the Director-General to ensure good working conditions for women and that any new measures implemented should not prejudice acquired rights of women staff already on board. STU asks for the withdrawal of Administrative Circular AC/HR/42.

STU asks the Director-General to improve gender parity in particular at senior and director grades, while recalling that appointments are first and foremost made on the basis of competence and merit.

**B. Feasibility study on introducing a new health insurance scheme**

Follow-up to 190 EX/Decision 32, 191 EX/Decision 29

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1. STU notes that the Administration has already reported on this issue in 194 EX/5 Part III, when it promised to report on the progress or conclusions of the United Nations study at the 2015 spring session of the Executive Board. At that time, in 194 EX/5 Part III Add., STU already expressed its relief that funds would not be wasted to finance a study for a new health insurance scheme that is inimical to the resolution of the real problems of the MBF and the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI). STU reiterates that such a scheme would create more problems than it would solve, and it would certainly not reduce the current ASHI liability. The only solution to that is to start funding it.
2. STU regrets the continuing emphasis put by the Administration on the “financial problems” which the MBF faced “for many years” and which is misleading. The Fund had a deficit for six years, from 2006 to 2011, due to the fact that for 16 years (!), from 1996 to 2012, contributions had not increased. This happened despite the General Assembly of Participants repeatedly drawing the attention of the Director-General to the problem. The generally accepted medical costs inflation rate is 5%, while salaries and pensions increase at only 2%. Therefore increases in contributions should be anticipated every 4-6 years. Consequently, since the increase in contributions in 2012 there has no longer been a deficit. STU is further concerned that the Administration continues to stress the increasing proportion of voluntary participants (retired staff) in the Fund in relation to the active staff, as though UNESCO were unique in facing this situation; yet it affects all the international and intergovernmental organizations, as well as most national health systems.
3. STU is pleased to note that the Administration expects to be able to report to the new MBF's Advisory Board by the end of 2015. However STU finds it unacceptable that since the last meeting of the former MBF's Board of Management in October 2013 no meetings of any kind to exercise staff's rights in the management of the Fund have been convened, and requests for meetings by elected representatives to that Board have been ignored. Elections for the new Advisory Board were announced for 2 February 2015. They have not taken place. And there has been no information about when they may take place. The Administration's neglect of – nay, disrespect for – the participants who are co-owners of the Fund, which has been autonomous since its creation in 1948, is surely not acceptable.