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REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES AND THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNESCO'S PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Proposals and comments submitted by Member States in relation to UNESCO's plan of action for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

SUMMARY

This document presents the proposals and comments relating to UNESCO's plan of action to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which were submitted by Member States prior, during and after the consultation meeting with Permanent Delegations, held on 6 February 2008 at UNESCO Headquarters. Member States interested in organizing commemorative activities are invited to submit detailed proposals to the Director-General.

1. Pursuant to 34 C/Resolution 38, the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences invited Member States to submit proposals concerning UNESCO's plan of action and convened a consultation meeting with Permanent Delegations on 6 February 2008 with the participation of representatives of UNESCO's programme sectors. Ninety-two delegations attended the meeting.
2. All comments and proposals made by Member States by the end of March 2008 are regrouped in the table presented herewith for information (Annex). These proposals aim at complementing and reinforcing the activities included in the refined UNESCO plan of action and at contributing to the attainment of its objectives, namely to: (a) promote the implementation of human rights within the Organization's fields of competence, as well as human rights education; (b) encourage reflection and exchange on issues linked to the core mandate of UNESCO in the field of human rights, including on emerging ethical and social challenges; and (c) raise awareness about human rights standards and procedures for their promotion and protection.
3. As indicated in paragraph 8(ii) of document 179 EX/8, all expenses relating to the organization of these events (e.g. cost of interpretation, printing of invitations, security and technical staff, other relevant services, as well as temporary assistance and staff missions) will

have to be covered by the organizers. The UNESCO Secretariat could provide technical assistance, wherever appropriate and feasible. It must be stressed, however, that such technical assistance should not generate additional expenditure under the regular programme and budget.

4. All Member States and other partners interested in organizing commemorative events are invited to submit to the Director-General detailed proposals explaining their content, format and financing.

ANNEX

**PROPOSALS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES IN RELATION
TO UNESCO'S PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE 60th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Country	Proposals and comments
Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called for a greater focus on the implementation of the rights enshrined in international standard-setting instruments.
Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warned that visibility should not be pursued at the expense of the vision of UNESCO and the relevance of its actions. - Welcomed the idea of the translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into various languages.
Azerbaijan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invited UNESCO to foresee and take appropriate measures with a view to contributing to the re-establishment of the exercise of the right to education by Palestinian youth. - Proposed to include in the list of commemorative activities the theme "The right to education of children in danger in the occupied territories".
Cameroon on behalf of the Central African States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommended that the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the UDHR should take place worldwide and not only at Headquarters. - Expressed the interest of the Central African Group in the right to education, children's rights, the problem of child soldiers, the access to new technologies in communication, the reinforcement of the fight against discrimination of women and girls and the protection of their rights. It was also proposed to reinforce education for peace and democracy and to involve other United Nations agencies in the Slave Route project.
Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stressed the important role of National Commissions for UNESCO in promoting the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the UDHR and proposed that they should reserve a special day in the year-long celebration of this anniversary for organizing commemorative events in institutions of basic and higher education.
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to host in Colombia a regional conference on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to seek, receive and impart information and the freedom of the press. Local organizational expenses will be covered by the Government of Colombia. <p>See also 179 EX/PX/FA/DR....</p>
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stressed the importance of the clarification of the role of human rights in a changing world, as well as the role of civil society and young people in consolidating democracy. - Proposed to pay more attention to the protection of journalists, especially in the regions of ongoing conflict, which could become a focus of UNESCO's commemorative activities.

Country	Proposals and comments
Czech Republic (<i>cont'd</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggested to involve Nobel Prize laureates in the international events organized within the commemoration. - Supported the idea to make the work of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) widely known. - Proposed to hold at UNESCO Headquarters a half-day colloquium in order to present the International Human Rights Documentary Festival "One World", organized by the Czech NGO "People in Need", Honourable Mention of the 2006 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education.
Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to include in UNESCO's plan of action a regional or subregional meeting entitled "Public Security, Prevention and Human Rights" (Seguridad Ciudadana, Prevención y Derechos Humanos), to be organized at the end of 2008 under the auspices of the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Inter-American Development Bank.
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggested to focus on the status of education in regions with ongoing armed conflicts or in a post-conflict phase and to render UNESCO's actions in those regions more visible.
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed its country's endorsement of the 61st annual NGO conference organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) in September 2008 in Paris. - Stated that the plan of action should be concrete and practice-oriented and that UNESCO should concentrate its efforts in specific areas and avoid spreading them too widely in different fields. Moreover, for this celebration UNESCO should avoid actions limited to the international arena without visibility and impact at the grass-roots level.
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported the organization of regional activities on the rights within UNESCO's competence. - Supported the convening of an international conference on these issues and stressed that the 60th anniversary should be a transversal priority for all UNESCO's programme sectors.
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emphasized the need to involve civil society and NGOs in UNESCO's activities and to guarantee the widest possible participation. - Expressed the intention to organize a round table of NGOs with the participation of Member States within the NGO Committee of the Executive Board. - Welcomed the close collaboration with other United Nations agencies, especially on the occasion of the 61st DPI/NGO Conference.
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to hold workshops, in addition to those on the rights within UNESCO's competence, on such issues as slavery and slave trade (Article 4 of the UDHR) and the right to freedom of movement (Article 13). - Suggested to organize a public event at UNESCO Headquarters on 10 December 2008.

Country	Proposals and comments
India (<i>cont'd</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggested to popularize the UNESCO human rights procedure set out in 104 EX/Decision 3.3 and the work of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) to increase visibility of UNESCO's role in the field of human rights. - Proposed to make the 48th session of the International Conference on Education on the theme "Inclusive education: The way of the future" in November 2008, the major event within the commemoration. - Suggested to integrate a stronger human rights perspective into the programme of the Conference.
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommended as subjects of an international conference to be held in Paris the following: the contribution of the South to human rights; the importance of the right to benefit from scientific progress; and human rights and peace.
ISESCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to look into the issue of immigration policies in Western countries.
Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggested to focus on mechanisms to implement the right to education, especially concerning children with disabilities.
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed interest in organizing at UNESCO Headquarters a round table discussion or a workshop on the subject "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 60 Years Later: Addressing the Challenges of the Future". The Permanent Delegation of Libya will cover the cost of this event.
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stressed the importance of press freedom and suggested working together with major television channels on the issue of safety of journalists. - Supported the idea of focusing on the Conference on Inclusive Education, to be held in Geneva in November 2008.
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggested to strengthen work on human rights education in the framework of the World Programme for HRE (2005 – ongoing).
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to build synergies between the 60th anniversary commemoration and EFA.
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to organize meeting(s) on emerging human rights. - Proposed to organize a regional conference (eventually in Paris) on the Latin American and Caribbean literature and human rights and on the importance of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (1948) with the participation of well-known lawyers and writers from Latin America and the Caribbean.
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to organize an exhibition on slavery in partnership with the project La Route des Abolitions (this exhibition is managed by the project La Route des Abolitions which unites several regions of the east of France each of which has its own site dedicated to the memory of slavery). - Proposed to organize regional workshops on the subject "National human rights institutions and the protection of human rights in UNESCO's fields of competence".

Country	Proposals and comments
Slovenia on behalf of all Members of the European Union (EU) and countries-candidates for European Union admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called upon UNESCO to play a visible role as regards press freedom and the right to receive and impart information. - Proposed to organize a photo exhibition at Headquarters within a high-level symposium on freedom of expression, in partnership with NGOs, such as the International Federation of Journalists, dedicated to the laureates of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, and to photographers who have suffered because of the exercise of their profession.
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommended to concentrate the commemoration on the right to education as the most important and clearly defined human right. - Suggested to focus on practical activities, such as construction of schools, capacity-building workshops on human rights education. - Underlined the importance of launching a Handbook on EFA for parliamentarians. - Stressed that the translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into various languages would be valuable input into the commemoration.
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to compile data on the actions of Member States in the following: human rights education and capacity-building of institutions to monitor the implementation of the international covenants on human rights. - Proposed to build up data on various aspects of human rights in the form of a global monitoring report.
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called for an emphasis on the right to education, particularly in relation to the Conference on Inclusive Education to be held in Geneva in November 2008.
United States of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to translate the text of the UDHR into a number of indigenous languages and disseminate it in a reader-friendly form over the next 10 years.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed to organize a meeting on emerging human rights. - Proposed to hold a round table on collective rights making reference to the Social Charter of the Americas adopted by the Organization of American States.