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**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN AFRICA (CIEFFA),
IN OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO**

OUTLINE

Source: 21 C/Resolution 40.1 and 172 EX/Decision 7.

Background: In view of the international commitments to make Education for All a priority and the need to ensure gender equality in education, the Government of Burkina Faso has drawn up a plan to establish an International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA). In 1999, the General Conference of UNESCO at its 30th session took note of the Government of Burkina Faso's plan to establish this Centre and included it in document 30 C/5 under Major Programme I. CIEFFA has since expanded with the aid of technical and financial support from the Burkina Faso authorities and UNESCO, and has now become an institution with a regional remit. The authorities of Burkina Faso have expressed their desire to make CIEFFA a category II centre, namely a centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The Director-General reported thereon to the Executive Board at its 172nd session (172 EX/8). At that session, the Board endorsed the proposal and recommended that the General Conference approve the establishment of the said Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category II).

Purpose: This report by the Director-General is supplemented by an annex containing the draft agreement between the Government of Burkina Faso and UNESCO regarding the establishment of CIEFFA under the auspices of UNESCO, as endorsed by the Executive Board, for approval by the General Conference.

Decision required: paragraph 2.

1. At its 172nd session (September 2005), the Executive Board considered item 7 – Proposed establishment of the International Centre for Girls’ and Women’s Education in Africa (CIEFFA) under the auspices of UNESCO, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Having examined document 172 EX/8, the Executive Board endorsed the proposal and recommended that the General Conference at its 33rd session approve the establishment of the Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category II) (172 EX/Decision7).

2. In view of the above, the General Conference may wish to adopt the following draft resolution:

The General Conference,

Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1, 165 EX/Decision 5.4 and 171 EX/Decision 23,

Also recalling 172 EX/Decision 7 on the proposal to establish the International Centre for Girls’ and Women’s Education in Africa (CIEFFA), under the auspices of UNESCO, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,

Having examined document 33 C/60 containing a report by the Director-General on the proposed establishment of the International Centre for Girls’ and Women’s Education in Africa (CIEFFA) under the auspices of UNESCO,

1. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Burkina Faso requesting that the International Centre for Girls’ and Women’s Education in Africa (CIEFFA) be placed under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the existing principles and guidelines (21 C/36) and the proposed strategy for this category of institutes and centres (171 EX/18);
2. Approves the establishment of the said Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category II), as recommended by the Executive Board at its 172nd session (172 EX/Decision 7);
3. Invites the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Burkina Faso annexed to document 172 EX/8.

ANNEX

United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Executive Board

eX

Hundred and seventy-second session

172 EX/8
PARIS, 18 July 2005
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION
IN AFRICA (CIEFFA), UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO,
IN OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO**

SUMMARY

In view of the international commitments to make Education for All a priority and the need to ensure gender equality in education, the Government of Burkina Faso has drawn up a plan to establish an International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA). In 1999, the General Conference of UNESCO at its 30th session took note of the Government of Burkina Faso's plan to establish this Centre and included it in document 30 C/5 under Major Programme I. CIEFFA has since expanded with the aid of technical and financial support from the Burkina Faso authorities and UNESCO, and has now become an institution with a regional remit. The authorities of Burkina Faso have expressed their desire to make CIEFFA a category II centre, in other words, a centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

This report by the Director-General evaluates the proposed establishment of the Centre. It is supplemented by an Annex containing the draft agreement between the Government of Burkina Faso and UNESCO regarding the establishment of CIEFFA.

Decision proposed: paragraph 21.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Government of Burkina Faso has proposed to change the legal status of the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA) in Burkina Faso and to place it under UNESCO's auspices (category II centre). This document outlines the background and nature of the proposal and the foreseeable consequences of the establishment of the Centre, especially with regard to benefits to Member States and the international community and its relevance to UNESCO's programmes. In 1999, the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 30th session, noted the Government's plan to establish the Centre and included it in document 30 C/5 under Major Programme I. A decision of the Executive Board at its 172nd session is now sought concerning the proposed establishment of the Centre under the auspices of UNESCO based on the feasibility study, available in full on the Education Sector's website at the following address: www.unesco.org/education/cieffa.
2. The international community has been considering the issue of girls' and women's education for several decades. As part of the follow-up to the World Conference on Education for All (EFA) (Jomtien, 1990), many initiatives concerning girls' and women's education have been undertaken.
3. One such initiative was the Pan-African Conference on the Education of Girls (Ouagadougou, 1993), which proposed strategies for implementation to attract and keep girls in education systems, in particular by focusing educational planning, administration and management on the needs of girls. The Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) appealed to all governments and other actors to promote an active, high-profile policy for integrating the issue of gender equality into their development programmes. The Regional Forum "Women, Science and Technology", held in Ouagadougou in 1999, focused on girls' and women's access to education, training and the practice of science and technology, the establishment and strengthening of networks of women scientists and the sensitization of various partners to the importance of training women in science and technology.
4. The World Education Forum (Dakar, April 2000), pursuing the objective of Education for All, set itself the goal of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, "with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality" (Objective 5). In addition, the 191 United Nations Member States confirmed, in their "United Nations Millennium Declaration", their commitment to achieving by 2015, eight Millennium Development Goals, in particular two concerning education, namely to "achieve universal primary education and ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling" (MDG 2), and "promote gender equality and empower women and eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015" (MDG 3).
5. More recently, mention must also be made of UNICEF's 25 by 2005 campaign, launched at Dar es Salaam at MINEDAF VIII in December 2002, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in regard to gender parity, and of the joint UNICEF/World Bank Regional Workshop, from 25 to 27 June 2003, on "Investment Options in Education for All: Addressing gender and other disparities".

BACKGROUND

6. In response to various international commitments and to the recommendations of the Pan-African Conference on the Education of Girls held in Ouagadougou, the Government of Burkina Faso initiated contacts with UNESCO in 1995 with a view to the establishment of an International

Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA). The establishment of CIEFFA was therefore a strategic option proposed by Burkina Faso and other African countries in order to harmonize efforts and resources in a united endeavour to accelerate girls' and women's education.

7. Lastly, the Burkina Faso Government decided to establish the Centre as a provisional body. In 1999 the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 30th session, took note of the plan to establish the Centre and included it in document 30 C/5 under Major Programme I.

8. In July 2000, an international meeting of 46 experts specializing in the areas of girls' education and the gender approach was held in Ouagadougou, under the auspices of UNESCO, in order to draw up the Centre's basic texts (preliminary draft statutes, 2001-2002 action programme, and recommendations). The 46 experts had been mandated by 13 African countries, institutions such as UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and NGOs such as FAWE (Forum for African Women Educationalists).

9. In July 2004, the third ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union was held in Addis Ababa. At this meeting a resolution was adopted which "recognizes the need for the African Union to endow itself with structures such as CIEFFA to attain the objectives and keep with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union" and "approves the principle of making CIEFFA an institution for the entire continent under the aegis of the African Union".

10. In September 2004 Burkina Faso hosted a meeting on CIEFFA attended by African ministers of education from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania and Togo. At the end of the meeting, it was recommended that the Government of Burkina Faso transmit to the Chairman of the African Union the draft statutes and rules of procedure adopted by the ministers. Similarly, it was recommended that UNESCO continue to lend its support to the Government in the process to establish CIEFFA as a category II institute of UNESCO.

11. In accordance with the required UNESCO procedures, a feasibility study was carried out in August 2004.

12. Since the formation in 2001 of a team to coordinate the establishment of CIEFFA, this temporary body has been operating mainly on the basis of contributions from UNESCO and material and financial support from the Government of Burkina Faso. The Burkina Faso authorities, who have amply displayed their firm political commitment to giving CIEFFA a new legal status so that it would have international standing, will continue to give material and financial support to the Centre, thus enabling it to meet the challenges it faces.

13. It must also be noted that a number of countries, such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo, have expressed in writing their agreement and support concerning CIEFFA.

FEASIBILITY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE

Overview of the proposal

14. The Government of Burkina Faso has endeavoured in its proposal to address in detail the requirements specified in document 21 C/36, "Principles and guidelines for the establishment and operation of international and regional centres under UNESCO's auspices" as well as the guidelines laid down by the General Conference (21 C/Resolution 40) for international or regional centres set

up by a State with UNESCO's participation. The proposal is also in line with document 171 EX/18 "Report by the Director-General on the revised and completed principles and guidelines regarding the establishment and operation of UNESCO institutes and centres (category I) and institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category II)".

(a) Objectives:

The main objective of CIEFFA is to promote the education of girls and women in Africa with a view to their full participation in the eradication of poverty and in bringing about a peaceful world for sustainable human development.

More particularly, the objectives of CIEFFA are:

- to build regional capacity for modern educational planning for girls and women, by organizing activities targeting officials and technical staff of ministries of education, offices of education for girls and woman at the local level (province, district) and other ministries directly related to the education sector, such as finance and culture ministries;
- to facilitate access to information on educational planning and management of girls and women in other countries and to relevant information published by international organizations and institutions.

(b) Functions:

CIEFFA shall have the following functions:

- (i) Coordinating actions to promote the education of girls and women;
- (ii) Promoting the integration of gender issues in development policies and programmes;
- (iii) Reinforcing the operational capacities of the different countries in the field of girls' and women's education;
- (iv) Setting up an information and exchange network on girls' and women's education;
- (v) Developing advocacy and productive multiple partnerships to promote the education of girls and women.

(c) Structure and legal status:

- (i) In January 2001, in application of the recommendations of the meeting of experts held in July 2000, the Government of Burkina Faso provided the material and human resources needed to facilitate the establishment and the activities of the Centre. It set up a coordination team for the establishment of CIEFFA, with the main task of conducting activities contributing to the installation and functioning of the Centre. The team, part of which is seconded from the Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research, has been working in close cooperation with the National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Office in Bamako.
- (ii) In the event that the General Conference decides to grant UNESCO's auspices to CIEFFA and to approve the draft Agreement annexed hereto, CIEFFA will become an autonomous institution with the legal status of a non-profit educational institution within the legal context of the host country, Burkina Faso. The structure of CIEFFA as

well as the number and qualifications of its professional and support staff will be determined by the Centre's objectives set forth above. CIEFFA will therefore have an administrative and technical and scientific structure. The administrative bodies of CIEFFA will be the Board of Governors; the Executive Committee; and the Director. The technical and scientific bodies of CIEFFA will be the Scientific Board and technical departments.

- (iii) In line with its objectives, the Centre will be structured around three departments and five support units. The three departments are education; culture, science and technology; and gender and development. The five support units are administration and finance; production and popularization of educational materials; documentation, database, network; advocacy, partnerships; and follow-up and evaluation.
- (iv) The Director of the Centre will be appointed, as stipulated in Article VIII of the draft Agreement annexed hereto, by the Chairperson of the Board of Governors in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, for a term of four years, and may be reappointed once.

(d) Financial arrangements:

- (i) The Centre's financial resources will derive from:
 - sums allotted by the Government and by Member States or Associate Members of UNESCO;
 - funding by UNESCO, as provided for under the Organization's programme and budget;
 - funding by technical and financial partners;
 - remuneration that it receives for services rendered.
- (ii) The Centre may, with approval of the Board of Governors, receive subventions, gifts and legacies.
- (iii) Contribution of the Government:
 - The Government will agree to provide all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of CIEFFA;
 - The Government will provide the Centre with the appropriate space, furniture and equipment;
 - The Government will cover the expenses of holding the sessions of the Board of Governors.

(e) Areas of cooperation with UNESCO

- (i) UNESCO will lend mutually agreed support to the establishment and the operation of CIEFFA, as described in paragraph (ii) below;

- (ii) UNESCO will provide technical assistance for the establishment and operation of CIEFFA, including the preparatory phase, the launching phase and the phase of normal operation:
1. During the preparatory phase, UNESCO will provide support to CIEFFA for the identification of suitable experts and professional staff.
 2. During the phase of normal operation of CIEFFA (i.e. once the launching phase is completed), UNESCO will:
 - i. provide CIEFFA with relevant materials published by it;
 - ii. provide advice on research activities of CIEFFA, at the request of its Director;
 - iii. associate the staff of CIEFFA with relevant UNESCO activities in the region and elsewhere;
 - iv. provide evaluative advice on the performance of CIEFFA with a view to assisting it in reaching and/or maintaining high levels of professional performance.
 3. UNESCO will facilitate the Centre's access to the relevant know-how and services of its own institutes and regional offices, in particular the know-how and services of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, the UNESCO Institute for Education, the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA), the UNESCO Office in Dakar and Regional Office for Education in Africa (BREDA) and the UNESCO Office in Bamako.
15. Relationship between the activities of the Centre and UNESCO's objectives and programmes:
- (i) UNESCO's involvement in the field of education and training of girls and women for the benefit of its Member States represents a long-term commitment.
 - (ii) UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 establishes three strategic thrusts. One of them – promoting empowerment and participation in the emerging knowledge society through equitable access, capacity-building and the sharing of knowledge – is particularly pertinent to the proposal of the Government of Burkina Faso. Moreover, as indicated in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for Africa (2002-2007), Africa is one of UNESCO's priorities. The Medium-Term Strategy indicates that UNESCO's efforts to benefit women have a threefold aim: to promote women's empowerment and to reach the goal of gender equality; to develop programmes and activities for girls and woman of different age groups; to promote and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In line with strategic objective 1 of the Medium-Term Regional Strategy "promoting education as a fundamental human right in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", UNESCO, in the field of education, places special emphasis on actions to benefit poor and marginalized populations, girls and women.
 - (iii) To that end, UNESCO is participating in the ten-year United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and intends to implement and promote specific projects in that area:

- (a) access to basic education and vocational training for children in difficult situations;
- (b) inclusive education; (c) literacy and non-formal education for youth and adults, and particularly women in order to increase their participation in the economy.

16. Regional and international impact of the Centre:

(a) Coverage:

CIEFFA will be a regional institution under the administrative stewardship of the Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research of Burkina Faso. While CIEFFA's activities primarily concern the Africa region, the Centre will be required to cooperate with Member States and organizations in other regions, in particular through the strengthening of South-South cooperation. The CIEFFA coordination team has already drawn up its 2003-2007 Programme of Action, following a process in which the opinions of institutions, organizations and NGOs, including FAWE, were taken into account. The Programme's main concern is to support the member countries' national curricula for girls' and women's education in Africa.

The numerous activities under the Programme include:

- (i) the organization of training activities in order to contribute towards building public and private stakeholders' capacities for the gender approach to education and new information and communication technologies (NICTs), including training in the gender approach for educational policy- and decision-makers in at least 10 countries and training in monitoring/evaluation techniques for leaders of associations, NGOs and public and private officials in charge of the implementation of curricula relating to girls' and women's education in at least 10 countries;
- (ii) the organization of activities with a view to contributing to the promotion of innovative curricula for girls' and women's education, including the conduct of case studies on successful reproducible experiments in the field of girls' and women's education in at least five countries, and drafting of a guide to parity recruitment for formal and non-formal education.

The most relevant activities already carried out by the CIEFFA coordination team include:

- the implementation of a national curriculum support programme for girls' and women's education (2002). The CIEFFA coordination team was also invited by BREDA to participate in drawing up the subregional support programme for girls' education in the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in December 2003;
- the organization (through its multimedia info-centre equipped with high performance computers) of a training session in the new information and communication technologies (NICTs) for gender focal points in Education for All (EFA) in the member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (2002);
- the organization of an international symposium attended by more than 60 participants from African countries, institutions, organizations, associations, NGOs and partners, on the theme "gender, education, development and progress in African societies" (2003);

- the conduct of a study on the inventory of innovative experiences in girls' and women's education in West and Central Africa. The study has been disseminated in East and Southern Africa.

(b) Potential impact:

In view of its missions and objectives, CIEFFA as a body will be duty-bound to serve all African countries. Africa needs a centre in which as much information as possible on girls' education and women's training can be sourced, compiled, processed and delivered. On the one hand, it will be a centre for multidisciplinary references and for the strengthening of partnerships and synergies among all those involved in girls' and women's education in Africa. On the other hand, CIEFFA will be a centre of excellence building the capacities of girls and women with a view to their empowerment and autonomy in a poverty reduction context. CIEFFA will be a "clearing house" of sorts, a forum for the exchange of ideas and experience in girls' and women's education. It will play the role of coordinator, facilitator and catalyst of driving forces that are capable of fostering synergy with a view to the conduct of activities in the member countries. Lastly, CIEFFA will fully meet the need to strengthen partnership and cooperation among governments and ministries of education in the Africa region with a view to carrying out relevant and enduring actions to promote girls' and women's education and training for sustainable development.

(c) Technical cooperation:

Through the many contacts initiated by the coordination office of the Centre, CIEFFA will strive to develop multiple partnerships with international organizations, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and associations. In establishing such partnerships, the coordination office will focus on the activities of NGOs and associations and will take part in them whenever possible, and will invite them in turn to participate in its activities. CIEFFA will participate in the activities of the different ministries, in particular those responsible for education, social action and national unity, the promotion of women or human rights.

The mission to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia carried out by the CIEFFA coordination team in connection with the elaboration of the programme of action for 2003-2007 made it possible to initiate cooperation/partnership relations with the Economic Commission for Africa/African Centre for Gender and Development (ECA/CAGED), the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA), and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE).

- (i) CIEFFA will serve Member States of UNESCO that are members of the African Union and possibly other Member States or Associate Members of UNESCO that, by virtue of the nature of their educational planning and development needs for girls and/or women, desire to cooperate with the Centre.
- (ii) Member States of UNESCO or Associate Members wishing to participate in the activities of CIEFFA, as provided for under the agreement concluded between the Government and UNESCO, will send the Director-General of UNESCO notification to that effect.
- (iii) CIEFFA would welcome cooperation with relevant intergovernmental regional organizations and competent non-governmental organizations, such as the Conference of Ministers of Education of French-Speaking Countries (CONFEMEN), the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and the Lilongwe regional centre in Malawi.

17. Results expected from UNESCO's contribution:

(a) Role of the Centre in executing the Organization's programme

As indicated in paragraph 16 of this document, the creation of the Centre fits well within UNESCO's objectives in general, and in particular with regard to the education and training of girls and women. The Centre can provide an effective means of implementing a large number of activities with a view to achieving the Education for All and Millennium Development Goals.

(b) Potential impact of UNESCO's contribution on the activities of CIEFFA

UNESCO's role as a gateway to other countries, international organizations and NGOs which are intent on promoting activities related to the education of girls and women is essential for the successful exposure of the Centre. It is unlikely that another international organization would be able to provide the range of support needed in order to maximize its viability. Indeed, UNESCO can provide technical support in relation to the education of girls and women, drawing on an extensive network and in particular on its experience of exchanging promising and innovative practices. It also has norms and practical experience of establishing regional centres, and the moral authority and convening power necessary to make a difference on the international scene. The creation of the Centre would result in significantly increased visibility for UNESCO, not only regionally but also internationally, with respect to issues relating to the education of girls and women.

18. Summary assessment of the proposal submitted:

- (a) From the previous paragraphs, it is clear that the establishment of the Centre is fully in line with UNESCO's objectives and programmes and that the Centre contributes to the execution of UNESCO's programmes relating to the education of girls and women. Further, UNESCO's support is necessary for the Centre's regional and international development.
- (b) The authorities of Burkina Faso have widely expressed a strong political resolve to confer a legal status on CIEFFA such as to make it international and they will continue to grant financial and material support to the Centre to enable it to meet the challenges it faces.
- (c) There is a close link between the goals of CIEFFA and the activities developed by UNESCO with a view to attaining the Dakar goals of Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals.
- (d) The proposed institutional structure of the Centre is consistent with the guidelines of document 21 C/36. In its capacity as a coordinating body it will be able to act as a Centre with a regional mandate, and thus to build capacity in the countries of the region and to set up an information and exchange network on girls' and women's education. Initiatives will thus be developed involving the African States and partners which are concerned with issues relating to the education of girls and women.
- (e) UNESCO has provided financial and material support since 2002 to the CIEFFA coordination team. It will continue to bring technical support and will assist CIEFFA in searching for partners to undertake concrete activities. The Director-General is also confident that through close collaboration with CIEFFA, the Centre will be able to

contribute to the execution of the Organization's programmes for the education of girls and women.

- (f) The risk that UNESCO would incur in establishing the Centre would be low, owing primarily to strong support from the Burkina Faso authorities, who have already made material and human resources available.

All conditions have been met and the establishment of the Centre is thus considered to be feasible.

19. The draft framework agreement between the Government of Burkina Faso and UNESCO, prepared through a consultation process between the Burkina Faso authorities and the UNESCO Secretariat, appears in the Annex to this document. The text will be signed once it has been approved by the General Conference.

20. The Director-General strongly welcomes the establishment of the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa, in Burkina Faso, under the auspices of UNESCO. He recognizes that the establishment of the Centre could only be of benefit to UNESCO, Burkina Faso, the Africa region and the international community.

PROPOSED DRAFT DECISION

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

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 21 C/Resolution 40.1 and 165 EX/Decision 5.4,
2. Further recalling the Pan-African Conference on the Education of Girls in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in 1993 which put forward strategies to be implemented aimed at attracting and retaining girls in the education systems, the World Education Forum in Dakar (Senegal) in 2000 which notably placed special emphasis on improving access to quality basic education and gender equality (Goal 5), and the United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000) adopted by the Member States of the United Nations, and especially the two Millennium Development Goals relating to education,
3. Having examined document 172 EX/8 and its Annex,
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Burkina Faso requesting that the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA) be placed under the auspices of UNESCO, which is in line with the existing principles and guidelines (21 C/36) and the proposed strategy for this category of institutes and centres (171 EX/18);
5. Recommends to the General Conference at its 33rd session that it approve the establishment, under the auspices of UNESCO, of the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA), and authorize the Director-General to sign the agreement between the Government of Burkina Faso and UNESCO which is annexed to the present document.

ANNEX

**DRAFT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF BURKINA FASO
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S EDUCATION
IN AFRICA (CIEFFA), IN OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO**

Considering that at its 30th session, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) took note of the proposed establishment of the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (hereinafter called CIEFFA) and included it in document 30 C/5 under Major Programme I,

Considering the decision adopted by the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in July 2004 in Addis Ababa, which approved the principle of making CIEFFA an institution for the whole of Africa under the aegis of the African Union,

Considering that the Government of Burkina Faso has contributed and stands ready to contribute further to the establishment of CIEFFA and to ensure the operation of the Centre in its territory,

Bearing in mind that the Government of Burkina Faso has already taken a number of specific measures to encourage all activities that could contribute to the fitting out and operation of CIEFFA, while appointing a coordination team for its establishment,

Desirous of concluding an agreement with a view to ensuring the establishment and operation of the said Centre and to defining the terms and conditions governing the support that it shall be granted, under the guidelines laid down by the General Conference (21 C/Resolution 40) for international or regional centres set up by a State with UNESCO's participation;

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, hereinafter called "UNESCO", and the Government of Burkina Faso, hereinafter called "the Government",

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article I
Establishment**

1. The Government agrees to take any measures that may be required for the setting up and the operation of the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa in Burkina Faso, hereinafter called "CIEFFA", as provided for under this Agreement.
2. The Government agrees to enlist the support of other governments in the Africa region so as to contribute to the setting up and operation of CIEFFA.

Article II Legal status

CIEFFA shall be an autonomous institution with the legal status of a non-profit educational institution within the legal context of the host country, Burkina Faso.

Article III Participation

1. CIEFFA shall be at the service of the Member States of UNESCO; which are members of the African Union and possibly other Member States or Associate Members of UNESCO, which, owing to the nature of their educational development and planning needs for girls and/or women, desire to cooperate with the Centre.

2. Member States of UNESCO or Associate Members wishing to participate in the activities of CIEFFA, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send the Director-General of UNESCO notification to this effect. The Director-General shall inform CIEFFA and the Member States and Associate Members mentioned above of the receipt of such notifications.

3. CIEFFA would welcome cooperation with relevant regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, such as CONFEMEN (Conference of Ministers of Education of French-Speaking Countries), FAWE (Forum for African Women Educationalists) and the Lilongwe regional centre in Malawi.

Article IV Objectives

The objectives of CIEFFA shall be:

- (a) To build regional capacity for modern educational planning for girls and women, by targeting officials and technical staff of ministries of education, local level (province, district) education offices for girls and women and other ministries directly related to the education sector, such as finance and culture ministries, through:
 - (i) training in all aspects of education planning for girls and women;
 - (ii) training in applied education research, by undertaking fact-finding and analysis work focused on specific needs of the countries of Africa;
 - (iii) awareness-raising with regard to specific sector development issues which are of priority for countries of the different regions;
 - (iv) setting up “gender units”, in cooperation with universities, so as to create an environment conducive to the participation of girls and women in development;
 - (v) improving access of girls to secondary and higher education and encouraging their retention and success in these spheres of education;
 - (vi) promoting the genuine participation of women in the decisions of the national, regional and international communities;
 - (vii) listing, documenting, promoting and validating best practices and experience in school enrolment of girls.

- (b) To facilitate access to information on educational planning and management for girls and women of other countries and relevant information published by international organizations and institutions, in particular the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning, by making relevant material available to the trainees of CIEFFA in French and in English, and by disseminating material on educational planning and management for girls to education authorities in the region.

Article V Organization

1. The structure of CIEFFA as well as the number and qualification of its professional and support staff shall be determined by the objectives of CIEFFA set forth in Article IV above. In this connection, CIEFFA shall have an administrative organization and a technical and scientific organization.

(a) The administrative bodies of CIEFFA shall be:

- (i) the Board of Governors;
- (ii) the Executive Committee;
- (iii) the Director.

(b) The technical and scientific bodies of CIEFFA shall be:

- (i) the Scientific Board;
- (ii) the technical departments (Education/Culture, Science and Technology/Gender and Development).

2. The activities of CIEFFA will be conducted in French and, whenever appropriate, in English.

Article VI Board of Governors

1. CIEFFA shall be administered by a Board of Governors renewed by half every two years and composed of:

- (a) a representative of the Government;
- (b) a representative of each of the Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which shall send to the Director-General of UNESCO a notification, in accordance with the stipulations of Article III, paragraph 2, above;
- (c) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;
- (d) a representative of the African Union.

2. The Board of Governors shall elect from among its members a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.

3. The Board of Governors:

- (a) shall decide how the funds available for the operation of CIEFFA are to be used and shall adopt the budget. The budget ceiling shall not exceed the total sum available, including contributions and subventions paid to CIEFFA under formal agreement, for the relevant financial year;
- (b) shall approve the acceptance of voluntary contributions and contractual revenues from the sale of services or fees for special purposes;
- (c) shall approve the work plan and review the execution of the programme of CIEFFA;
- (d) shall examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of CIEFFA;
- (e) shall be consulted on the appointment of the Director and the Heads of the Departments of CIEFFA;
- (f) shall issue the rules and regulations and determine the procedures for the financial, administrative and personnel management of CIEFFA;
- (g) shall decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of CIEFFA.

4. The Board of Governors shall meet in ordinary session once a year; it shall meet in an extraordinary session if summoned by the Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or on that of the Director-General of UNESCO, or at the request of four of its members.

5. The Board of Governors shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

Article VII Executive Committee

In order to ensure the effective running of CIEFFA between sessions, the Board of Governors may delegate to a Standing Executive Committee, whose membership it fixes, such powers as it deems necessary.

Article VIII Secretariat

1. The Secretariat of CIEFFA shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of CIEFFA.

2. The Director shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Governors in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, for a term of four years, and may be reappointed once.

3. The other members of the Secretariat may comprise professional staff, specialists, administrative staff and other support staff. They shall be:

- (i) senior officials of CIEFFA (Heads of Departments) whose recruitment shall be subject to an international call for applications and who shall be appointed by the Director in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Board of Governors;

- (ii) support staff recruited locally by the Director in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Board of Governors;
- (iii) staff made available to CIEFFA, at its request, by the Government;
- (iv) staff made available to CIEFFA, at its request, by various partners.

Article IX Director

The Director of CIEFFA shall discharge the following duties:

- (a) manage CIEFFA and implement its programme of activities in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Board of Governors;
- (b) appoint the Heads of Departments, Chiefs of Units and locally recruited support staff in accordance with the Staff Regulations of CIEFFA;
- (c) prepare the drafts of CIEFFA's programme of activities and budget and submit them for approval to the Board of Governors;
- (d) draw up, subject to the Board of Governors' approval, detailed plans for the activities relating to training, research, advocacy, network formation and document distribution and direct their execution;
- (e) specify, subject to the Board of Governors' approval, the conditions governing admission to CIEFFA's training programmes;
- (f) prepare the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Board of Governors and submit to it any proposals that he/she may deem useful for the administration of CIEFFA;
- (g) prepare reports on the activities of CIEFFA to be submitted to the Board of Governors;
- (h) represent CIEFFA in law and in all civil acts.

Article X Financial arrangements

1. CIEFFA's financial resources shall derive from:
 - (a) sums allotted by the Government and the Member States or Associate Members of UNESCO;
 - (b) UNESCO appropriations, as provided for in the Organization's programme and budget;
 - (c) financial support by technical and financial partners;
 - (d) payments that it receives for services rendered.
2. CIEFFA may, with the approval of the Board of Governors, receive subventions, gifts and legacies.

Article XI
Contribution of the government

1. The Government shall agree to provide all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of CIEFFA.
2. The Government shall provide CIEFFA with appropriate space, furniture and equipment.
3. The Government shall cover the expenses of holding the sessions of the Board of Governors.

Article XII
Contribution of UNESCO

UNESCO shall lend mutually agreed support to the establishment and the operation of CIEFFA, as described below. In particular, UNESCO shall provide technical assistance for the establishment and operation of CIEFFA, including the preparatory phase, the launching phase and the phase of normal operation:

- (a) during the preparatory phase, UNESCO shall provide support to CIEFFA for the identification of suitable specialist and professional staff as necessary;
- (b) during the phase of normal operation of CIEFFA (i.e. once the launching phase is completed), UNESCO shall:
 - (i) provide CIEFFA with relevant materials published by it;
 - (ii) provide advice on CIEFFA's research activities at the request of its Director;
 - (iii) associate CIEFFA's staff with relevant UNESCO activities in the region and elsewhere;
 - (iv) provide evaluative advice on CIEFFA's performance with a view to assisting it in reaching and/or maintaining high levels of professional performance.
- (c) UNESCO shall facilitate CIEFFA's access to the relevant know-how and the services of its own institutes and Regional Offices, in particular the know-how and the services of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, the UNESCO Institute for Education, the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA), the Regional Office for Education in Africa in Dakar (BREDA) and the UNESCO Office in Bamako.

Article XIII
Evaluation

1. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of CIEFFA in order to check:
 - whether CIEFFA makes an important contribution to the strategic goals of UNESCO;
 - whether the activities effectively pursued by CIEFFA are in conformity with those set out in this Agreement.

2. UNESCO shall agree to submit to the Government, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation.
3. UNESCO shall reserve the option to denounce this Agreement or amend its contents, following the results of an evaluation.
4. The designation of CIEFFA as a category II centre should be reviewed by UNESCO every six years in the context of the preparation of a new Medium-Term Strategy for the Organization (C/4) so as to ensure that the focus and coverage of the activities of CIEFFA are in line with the strategic objectives of UNESCO and the agreed criteria for the category. Unless such a complementarity is determined, a renewal should not be recommended to the Executive Board and its designation as a category II centre should lapse.

Article XIV

Entry into force, revision and denunciation

1. This Agreement shall enter into force once Burkina Faso has informed UNESCO that the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of Burkina Faso have been met. It shall remain in force until the end of the year 2011 and may be renewed for similar successive periods as agreed upon between the Government and UNESCO.
2. The present Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and UNESCO.
3. Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by giving six months prior written notice to the other party. Such termination shall mean that CIEFFA shall cease to be officially associated with the Organization as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO.
4. The denunciation shall take effect six months after receipt of the notification sent by one of the contracting parties to the other.

Article XV

Settlement of disputes

Any dispute between UNESCO and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if it is not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the parties, shall be submitted for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of three members; one shall be appointed by a representative of the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and the third, who shall preside over the tribunal, chosen by these two. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of the third, the appointment shall be made by the President of the International Court of Justice.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized, have signed the present Agreement in two copies in French and in English.

For the Government of Burkina Faso:

For the United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization:

(Representative of the Government)

(Representative of UNESCO)